

Start 2021 with
a meaningful
donation



Let's raise roofs! Here's how
you can give:

1) **Cars for Homes**

habitatspringfield.org/support

and click on "Cars for Homes"

(Donate your car, regardless of
condition, and request the funds
be given to Greater Springfield
Habitat for Humanity)

2) **Humblebundle**

humblebundle.com/charities

(For the gamers out there,
GSHFH is registered to receive
a donation for Humble Bumble
purchases)

3) **Planet Green Ink
Recycling Program**

[planetgreenrecycle.com/
pages/join](https://planetgreenrecycle.com/pages/join)

(Donate a minimum of 4 used
ink cartridges through Planet
Green and Planet Green will
send Greater Springfield Habitat
for Humanity a donation check)

4) **To make a monetary
donation, go to**

habitatspringfield.org/donate

give. volunteer.
donate. shop today.



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Westfield, MA 01085
(413) 642-8990

Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity® NEWS January 2021



TupaTupa Toto (left) and his family are one of the newest partner families accepted into Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity's (GSHFH) homeownership program.

Welcome: GSHFH accepts 2 families into homeownership program

Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) has welcomed two new partner families. As the title suggests, partner families work in collaboration with Habitat to build their new homes. Partner families participate in construction and in exchange, they are offered no-interest mortgages when they purchase their new homes. The two new families will reside in Springfield.

In order to qualify, potential partner families must pass a lengthy application process, which includes meeting financial requirements, having a need for better housing, a willingness to work with GSHFH, and they must live or work in one of Hampden County's towns. Applicants

must also either be citizens or permanent legal residents.

"This will be two more families we elevate out of substandard housing and into homes of their own," said Debbie O'Mara, GSHFH Family Services manager. "We should all feel good about that. It is why we do the work we do, each and every day."

TupaTupa Toto and Faida Tausi

TupaTupa Toto, his wife Faida Tausi, and their children are a refugee family from Africa who immigrated to the United States in 2015. Under the guidance and support of Jewish Family Services of Western Massachusetts, they settled in Springfield and enrolled the

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children in school. In the five years since they arrived, they've integrated themselves in the community and expanded their family and welcomed their fourth child. At church, another refugee told TupaTupa and Faida about Habitat and how their family benefitted from the GSHFH homeownership program. Realizing owning a "personal house" is a dream of theirs, they applied to our homeownership program in spring of 2020.

"We are so thankful to have been approved and our prayer is for Habitat for Humanity to continue assisting other low-income families," said TupaTupa. "May God bless all the Habitat staff members and partners for this great work they are doing."

Natasha Emery

In 2016, 2018, and summer

of 2020, Natasha applied to our homeownership program. Their current home, a rented apartment, has several issues, including insufficient heating, poor plumbing, mold, bugs, and a lack of security. Natasha is a "fixer" and often finds solutions to the family's challenges, but wants more for her two sons. Since learning of her acceptance into the program, Natasha said she and her boys have driven past the lot of their future home and often imagine what it'll be like to live there.

"Being able to give my boys a home of our own has been a dream of mine for a long time," Natasha said. "To be able to have a backyard for them to play around in means so much."

To see the videos in which the families receive surprise congratulatory visits, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tJYbhcX2FPs&t=12s> and fast forward to the 00:01:38 mark.



Natasha Emery (left) and her family were also recently accepted into Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity's (GSHFH) homeownership program.

"Raise the Roof" Online Auction proves successful

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity's (GSHFH) Raise the Roof Online Auction brought in nearly \$12,500.

Fifty-six participants signed up and bid on 49 items. The most popular piece was a quilted snowman wall hanging/table runner, which received seven bids and sold for \$305. The Dessert of the Month club, which offered a dessert that served eight to 12 people once a month throughout 2021, sold for \$300. Eighteen people claimed prizes. Other auction items included toys and games, furniture, and gift baskets.

"We greatly appreciate the generous support of our sponsors, auction item contributors, and auction winners that made this year's event possible," said John O'Farrell, Fundraising & Volunteer Coordinator. "Events like these are so important in keeping our projects and programs moving forward, despite the challenges of COVID-19. Although our 'Raise



A picture of the quilted snowman wall hanging/table runner, a top seller at the "Raise the Roof" online auction, which sold on Dec. 13, 2020, for \$305.

the Roof' event looked quite different from our traditional Fall Feastival event, we discovered new ways to share our story and

the important work that we do, while being able to include more people from outside our local community and broadening our outreach and public awareness in building bright and promising futures for our partner families in the process."

The Raise the Roof Online Auction replaced GSHFH's traditional Fall Feastival's silent auction. Fall Feastival is an in-person fundraiser that offers samplings from local restaurants. In the past, the event attracted hundreds of guests, which wasn't possible for GSHFH to host during these uncertain times.

Thank you again to our supporters and event sponsors: PeoplesBank; ABSAK LLC; Country Bank; Ernst Financial Group; Monson Savings Bank; Florence Bank; Reminder Publications; H.L. Dempsey Co, Inc; Associated Building Wreckers; Collins Pipe and Supply Co; USA Waste and Recycling; Cooley, Shrair, P.C.; and Ray Catuogno.

Congratulations to our holiday gingerbread house contest winners



"A farmhouse Christmas" by Grace McCarthy, of Ludlow, won first place and a \$50 gift card to ReStore in Westfield.



"Our dream house" by Peyton Reyes, of Westfield, won second place and a \$25 gift card to ReStore.

The December 2020 contest invited participants to create edible houses and post pictures of their structures to the Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) Facebook page. The post that received the most "likes" by 8pm on Dec. 22 was deemed the winner. Thank you to all who participated and voted. This contest would not have been possible without you!

SPOTLIGHT ON Donna Tatlock-Calkins ReStore Volunteer of Westfield, MA



How long have you been a ReStore volunteer? 3.5 years

What attracted you to this position and what do you hope to accomplish? As a Rotatrian, I like to help out in my community and hopefully make a difference.

Are you related or distantly-related to anyone famous? If so, who? I claim relationship to the young Polish Colonel Thaddeus Kosciuszko who served in the Revolutionary War.

If you were the ruler of your own country, what would be the first rule you'd introduce? Equal justice under the law.

If you could join any past or current musical group, which would you join? What position would you be interested in? Backup singer for the Shirrells or Temptations.

Are you a clean or messy person? Messy at home, clean at work

What was the last thing you recorded on TV? "Nurses"

Habitat happenings

Get involved today

As we step into a brand-new year, we find it's not that much different from the uncertainty brought on by 2020. Which means, we still need your help. Your generosity makes our mission possible. As trying times persist, we need your support. Get involved. Help make a difference in the lives of our partner families. Here's where we need help:

Donations needed at ReStore



When you donate to ReStore, you are part of a movement dedicated to ensuring everyone has a decent place to live. Donations are easy. Donate today! For more information, email ReStore@habitat.org

Advocate for Cost of Home campaign



Cost of Home is a five-year advocacy campaign through which local Habitat organizations, partners, volunteers, and community members across the country are working together so that 10 million people have access to an affordable home. For more information, go to habitat.org/costofhome

Every can counts



Join us in turning cans to cash! Drop off your clean aluminum cans (no plastic or glass bottles, please) at Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity at 268 Cold Spring Ave in West Springfield or ReStore Westfield at 301 E. Main St in Westfield, and help us receive a grant from Novelis.

Check our website

For more ideas, go to habitat.org/springfield/support

Follow us on social media

