

Who do we love?

"The uncertainty so many of us feel today, many families have felt for a lifetime -- if not generations."

-- Jonathan Reckford,
Habitat for Humanity CEO

We love you!
Support. Give.
Eliminate uncertainty.
Donate today.
habitatspringfield.org/donate



ReStore

ReStore Rivalry
2 spots left!



ReStore Rivalry is an opportunity to repurpose a piece of furniture from the shop, showing off your mad skillz for bragging rights and a prize of a \$50 ReStore gift card, and to support a phenomenal cause!

For more info, go to
habitatspringfield.org/restore

Greater Springfield **Habitat** for Humanity® **NEWS** February 2021



Community Works Lead Instructor Greg Garfield (left), talks on Jan. 15 with students Tylisha "Ty" Starks (center) and Destiny Barnette about the staircase they are building for the back deck of the Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) house in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Community Works volunteers gain life lessons, work experience at Habitat site

On a brisk and damp Friday morning, Community Works Lead Instructor Greg Garfield and two of his students work together to build a staircase for the back deck of a new Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) house in Springfield.

The students were part of a group of 15 who intermittently worked Fridays and Saturdays from December 2020 through early February 2021 at GSHFH build sites. A Community Works crew previously worked with GSHFH in March 2020 for our Women's Build event at another Springfield build site.

Community Works is a pre-apprenticeship program that offers

Springfield/Holyoke area residents the opportunity to learn and work in the building and transportation industries. The six-week program includes classroom and hands-on learning experiences. Upon completion of the schooling, students may apply for a state-registered apprenticeship program or transportation-industry employment.

"Our collaborative efforts throughout the community are so important in allowing us to move our projects and programs forward," said John O'Farrell, GSHFH Fundraising and Volunteer coordinator. "Partnering with Community Works is a great example of how we can

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

support one another in providing critical programs that deliver positive outcomes for those we serve, while benefiting the local community at the same time. We are so grateful to have them back on the site with us."

Greg, a retired carpenter who's been teaching in the Community Works program for the past two years, said a career in the trades offers longevity, particularly in the era of the COVID-19 pandemic. As long as there are roads, buildings, and houses, there is a need for people in the construction industry. Working with GSHFH gives his students an opportunity to work and practice the trade as well as give back to the community.

"Habitat has afforded us the opportunity to teach these skills," Greg said, just before answering a question from his student Destiny Barnette about how he would perform the same task if it were just one person working on the project instead of three. "And volunteering makes for better communities. If you work together, you make life better. If you give,

you'll receive in return."

Greg said what he wants for his students is to find something they enjoy. "If you don't like construction work, it's tortuous work and it's just making a living. If you like it, it becomes an art."

Tylisha "Ty" Starks, a 30-year-old mother of two from Indian Orchard, said she was desperate for a career change away from the mental health field and enjoys seeing the tangible achievements after a day's work. Though she's not sure what trade she'd like to pursue, she's interested in laborers' work and carpentry.

Destiny, a 30-year-old former mental health worker from East Longmeadow, said she signed up for the program after seeing a flyer.

"I wanted a different career and I like that the teachers are knowledgeable and relatable. I'm just thankful to have a program like this," she said. "One of the challenges is just having the courage to try something different."

Like Ty, she's unsure which trade she'd like to pursue, but right now she's leaning toward electrical



Destiny Barnette (left), Tylisha "Ty" Starks (center) playfully pose by the Community Works banner. Lead Instructor Greg Garfield stands to the right of the sign at a Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) build site in Springfield.

work or carpentry.

Their work is paying off for Habitat. Since the Community Works crew started their work, they've built the front deck and stairs, in addition to the back deck and its stairs. In a couple of weeks, a new family will move into the house.

It's Simple.
We love 'Raising the Roof' for Habitat.

PeoplesBank
Real. Simple. Banking.
bankatpeoples.com/simple

Member FDIC/Member DIF

RELIABLE
FOR GENERATIONS

A lot has changed over the decades we've been in business, but one thing never will: our commitment to serving our customers and our communities. From curbside trash and recycling pick up to dumpster rentals and service for your business, you can count on us to be there for you.

Give us a call or visit our website to get the job done right.

USA
WASTE & RECYCLING

www.usarecycle.com | 800.998.2984 | services@usarecycle.com

Homes, Community, Hope + You opportunity in Greater Springfield



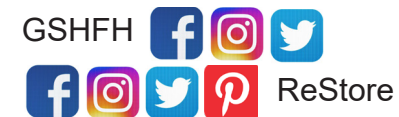
Now through April 30, Habitat for Humanity and Circle K have teamed up for a unique opportunity. At checkout, you can make a donation to support a nonprofit of their choice AND Habitat for Humanity is one of the options!!

Be sure to stop by your local Circle K today! Choose and support Habitat for Humanity!

Area Circle Ks:

1112 Bay St, Springfield
625 Homestead Ave, Holyoke
337 Appleton St, Holyoke
1400 Russell Road, Westfield

Follow us on social media



**Lenten
season**
begins Feb. 17

Stay tuned
for upcoming
events.

**give. volunteer.
donate. shop today.**



**301 E. Main St,
Westfield, MA 01085
(413) 642-8990**

Every can counts



Join us in turning cans to cash! Help us receive a grant from Novelis. If you would like to participate and help us collect clean aluminum cans (no plastic or glass bottles, please), call (413) 739-5503.

Thank you, Lock & Key Realty for housing a collection stand in your office!

SPOTLIGHT ON Cynthia "Cindy" Wszolek Board member of Sturbridge, MA



How long have you been a board member? I have been on the board since December 2018.

What attracted you to this position and what do you hope to accomplish? I want to help the community and people that work hard but just need a little extra help. Helping to build or repair a home, sometimes along with the homeowner, and seeing their faces when it is all done is so rewarding. I also want to give others hope that they can do it, too.

What's the most daring thing you've done? I am not a daring person. I would have to say going on a rollercoaster. I do not like heights.

What's your favorite fast food chain? Wendy's

What celebrity would you like to meet at Starbucks for a hot beverage? Hmm, Blake Shelton

Is there anything you wish would come back into fashion? I don't think there is. I don't miss the high hair, folded jeans, and layered socks.

You're invited! Join us Feb. 24 at Facebook Live



Dedication ceremony
Facebook Live
facebook.com/gshfh
10:15am, Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2021



Greater Springfield
Habitat
for Humanity®
2020
Year in Review

Coming soon ...

Moving forward,
expanding our reach,
despite a pandemic.

WE ARE WHERE YOUR BUSINESS WANTS TO BE...

in the homes of our **132,093** weekly readers.
LET US INTRODUCE THEM TODAY!



For more information call
413.525.6661 x135

280 North Main Street, East Longmeadow MA
181 Root Road, Westfield, MA
TheReminder.com

