



Chris thanked Ann Warrell of the Vermont Country Store for the store's generous financial contribution and hours of volunteer work on Melissa's home.



Bob Richards, Chair, Fair Haven Selectboard, spoke on behalf of the town of Fair Haven. He explained how happy everyone was that Melissa and her family were new neighbors and with

Habitat for turning the house into an attractive and energy efficient home.



L: Fair Haven Rotary Club cooked burgers and hot dogs that were donate by the Fair Haven inn.

C: Melissa Fournier with Board President, Chris Heintz.

R: Volunteers hung the Habitat banner for the dedication.

We are excited to have dedicated our first house at 30 West Street in Fair Haven. It is now the new home of Melissa Fournier and her two daughters. Having a stable and affordable place to call *their* home opens up possibilities, where before there were limitations. The town center of Fair Haven no longer has a blighted and vacant house, but now has an attractive and highly energy efficient home occupied by new neighbors who are energized by the opportunities their new home provides.



Our First Annual Golf Tournament a Great Success

We held our first annual fun and fundraising golf tournament on May 27, 2016 at the Proctor Pittsford Country Club. We raised awareness of HFH of Rutland County, funds to pay for the flooring for the Fair Haven home, and everyone had lots of fun.

Over 40 local businesses sponsored holes or donated prizes. We had 40 players compete. Winning team photo - back row Al Stella, Karl Ronn front row Bill Beanland

Capt. Jack Jesserwere. Prizes were awarded to the first, second and third place teams.

Participants enjoyed a sumptuous meal by Dick Bordonaro of Garafono's Restaurant. We thank all who participated and hope to see them and more avid golfers again May 26, 2017.

A message from Board President, Chris Heintz

In this newsletter you will learn about each of the building blocks that have gone into making this particular home possible. Each person who receives this newsletter has played a role in making this dream come true for Melissa and her family and has the opportunity to help us make a difference for more neighbors in need.



The necessity to provide decent and affordable housing for the people who live in Rutland County is a challenge that faces every community in our country. While each location has its own community context, the extent to which sufficient, safe and affordable housing is available is vital to what makes a community strong. Rutland County is no different. Housing is central to the fabric of our towns. Through our focus on housing, we provide the opportunity for lives to be transformed, one family at a time, and, in the

process our community becomes stronger.

HfHRC is poised to take another big step forward. We now turn our focus to Rutland City where residents are committed to building on the strengths of their neighborhood. In partnership with Rutland City residents and many other area residents, we have agreed to do our part through housing. Other organizations have already been working with Rutland City residents. A drive through the neighborhood provides evidence of the important steps that have already been taken as a result of the good work of the Rutland Redevelopment Authority, Project Vision, NeighborWorks of Western Vermont, the Rutland Housing Trust, and the Southern Vermont Council on Aging. Resources permitting, our Board of Directors has committed to build 5 houses and to complete some critical home repairs, in Rutland City, including the neighborhood that is the focus of Project Vision.

Chris Heintz has been with HFH of Rutland County since the initial formation of our steering committee. He has been tireless in his effort to organize and develop our affiliate and take it to the completion of our first house project. He is a key reason for the success we have enjoyed to date.

We are grateful to Joe Kraus and Scott Tucker, leaders of Project Vision, who have welcomed our participation. They wrote: "Habitat for Humanity is a new member organization of Project VISION, and is an emerging partner in our quest to build great neighborhoods! Project VISION's, Community/Housing/Neighborhood Committee outcome for a specific portion of the NW Neighborhood is to increase home occupied ownership from 29% to 51%." Through our Project VISION partnership, we have a unique opportunity to collaborate with over 400 members and 100 agencies, organizations, departments, non-profits and faith-based communities in the Rutland area. We plan to acquire property and begin construction in the spring of 2017.

Editor's note - Project VISION <http://projectvisionrutland.com> is a cross-sector community collaborative whose mission it is to address substance abuse, reduce crime and build great neighborhoods. The Vision Center was created as a bricks-and-mortar answer to engage organizations day-to-day to enhance cooperation and improve successful outcomes in lives, families and neighborhoods.