



With your help, Habitat homeowners are able to overcome barriers that so often exist between their families and better, healthier and more financially stable lives. Jonathan Reckford, CEO, Habitat for Humanity International.

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I am the lucky mother of two beautiful girls, Gabriella Ashley, and Aunahlyna. We have experienced a lot of pain and heartache already in life, but with my promotion to Catering Service Manager at the Holiday Inn (Rutland), and an opportunity of a lifetime to be accepted into Habitat's homeownership program, things are looking up and maybe all my guardian angels ARE looking out for my girls and me!" Melissa Sue Fournier - Editor's note: The above was part of what Melissa wrote when she was selected for the Fair Haven home.

Sunday, October 16th the day of the official dedication and celebration of their new home, will be a day that Melissa Fournier and her two daughters, Gabriella Ashley, and Aunahlyna will never forget! About sixty people, many of whom had helped with construction, celebrated with the Fournier family that, after months of hard work and anticipation, they are now able to live in their new home! Melissa invited everyone to tour her house and the volunteers from Fair Haven's Rotary Club provided a cookout dinner of burgers and hot dogs that had been donated by the Fair Haven Inn for the dedication.

The dedication was also an extremely significant date for all the volunteers who helped reestablish our affiliate. It took almost four years to meet all of Habitat for Humanity International's requirements to be accepted as an affiliate. The completion of this home represents the first tangible result of all that hard work. The house and land and some seed money for construction was donated to us by the Wells Fargo Bank. The Fair Haven house was one of Wells Fargo's foreclosed properties, and to say that it needed a lot of work is an understatement.

Like all Habitat home buyers, Melissa and her family were required to contribute over 200 hours of sweat equity, working side by side with volunteers to build her new home. Melissa said, "This has been an amazing and humbling experience. Volunteers have been selfless in giving their time and funds. I thank them from the bottom of my heart."



The Building Blocks of a Habitat Home

It all begins with you!

.....the,
 volunteers,
 suppliers,
 technicians,
 board and committee members,
 and
 members of our community
 who generously contributed their talent, expertise, and financial resources without which none of this would be possible.



←Then
&
Now →



The home was donated to Habitat by Wells Fargo as a part of their Community and Urban Stabilization Program, or CUSP. We are extremely grateful to Wells Fargo for donating the home and seed money for construction.

Like most Habitat for Humanity homes, it took many months of planning and hard work by as many as 150 different volunteers who contributed more than 3,000 hours of work to complete the home. The construction of Melissa's home was especially challenging because it was a whole house rehabilitation project. The work was led by Site Supervisor and Project Manager, Al Williams. "We had to reconstruct about half of the foundation, which was collapsing, tore out and reconfigured the interior walls, design a new floor plan, replace all the windows, and insulate throughout, all exterior walls."

Contractors, area businesses, suppliers and schools led the way.....

Please support these organizations who made this project possible. Berkshire Bank, Carris Reels, Casella Waste Management, Dundon Plumbing, Exit 1 RV, F. W. Webb, Foley Services Inc., Gagnon Lumber, Gawet Marble and Granite, Inc., Gilmour Lumber, Green Mountain Power, Heritage Family Credit Union, Home Depot, LaValley's Mill River Lumber, Needham Electric, Noble Ace Hardware, Peder Johnson Plumbing, Pittsfield Congregational Church, Poultney Hardware, Richard Reed and Son., Rob Stubbins Electrical, Solsaa Building and Energy Solutions, Four Seasons Sotheby's International, The Vermont Country Store, Union Church of Proctor, and Wells Fargo. Groups from Castleton University Habitat Club, Stafford Tech Center, and The Vermont Country Store, VSECU, helped build.

For a community to be whole and healthy, it must be based on people's love and concern for each other.

Millard Fuller, Founder of Habitat for Humanity



Chris Heintz congratulated Al Williams on a job well done!

Each and every one of us deserves the chance for a better future. With a little help, we all have the potential to get there.

A volunteer's perspective on what it was like to be part of Al's Crew....from Barbara Lacy

"My husband, David, and I had been retired just under a year when we heard Chris Heintz, HFHRC president, present the newly re-formed Rutland Chapter's plans for rehabbing a house in Fair Haven. It sounded like a great way to jump in and contribute to the community and, in particular, to help a young family start a new life. I couldn't have had more patient, knowledgeable teacher than supervisor, Al Williams, and the crew of volunteer plumbers, electricians and carpenters on the job. Suddenly David and I were mixing concrete, building stairs, weather stripping windows, and framing walls. *If you have a willingness to learn, like to be part of a team, enjoy meeting new folks and taking on new challenges, then those are truly the only skills you need.*"



We are proud to salute Paul Brown and Rob Geiszler, as indispensable volunteers.

After participating in a trip with Chris Heintz and the Pittsford Congregational Church to Bennington Habitat, Paul was determined that Rutland County should have a Habitat for Humanity affiliate. He was active on the steering committee that reconstituted the old Rutland HFH, he recruited members and

helped raise funds.

Paul joined the Board of Directors and has been instrumental at keeping a high level of energy in support of the Fair Haven project. Paul's unmatched enthusiasm and energy act as a spark plug for the rest of the board as he is involved in all phases of our activities. He has developed fund raising sources and key contacts within the community. Paul helped to organize the golf tournament fundraiser in May and almost singlehandedly organized a display booth at the State Fair. His efforts have also resulted in many material donations for the Fair Haven house.



Rob joined HFH of Rutland County as a member of the Steering Committee. Rob's legal training and experience were instrumental in leading the committee through the maze of documents required for non-profit incorporation in VT and affiliation with HFH International. After nearly four years of filing paperwork with HFH International, HFH of Rutland County was affiliated with the International organization. Rob joined the Board of Directors, chaired the Family Selection Committee and was an active member of the Construction Committee. His diligence and attention to

detail kept us on the path to success as we began the rehab of the Fair Haven house and selected a family to own that house. Unfortunately for HFH of Rutland County, Rob and Joan moved out of the area this summer.

We are actively seeking more people to become involved and invested!

Habitat for Humanity is an all-volunteer organization. Our success rests completely on the generosity of people like you and many other individuals who share your commitment to our community, your values, and who generously share their talent, time, and provide financial support. We look forward to taking our next step forward in partnership with you.

Please don't be bashful. There are many ways, small and large and everything in between that you can make a difference, no matter what your age, experience or skill level. We need people to help with construction, but we also need help building a sustainable organization that will serve our community well, now and into the future. Please write

rutlandhabitat@gmail.com or call 802-747-7440 to discuss the possibilities!

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***Transforming People's
Lives and Our Community
by Creating Affordable
and Decent Housing:
Lifting Up One Family at
a Time.***

Imagine the possibilities for all those families in your community and around the world who are eager to build or improve a place they can call home. Imagine individuals who have great ideas and tremendous energy for contributing to the neighborhoods where they live. Now realize that, so often, all they really need is a helping hand, a way to help themselves and their families. Imagine what you can do to help create more opportunities for that kind of success through Habitat! Jonathan Reckford, Chief Executive Director, Habitat for Humanity International.



Jonathan imagines a world where people's lives and their communities are transformed by people working together to improve the places they call home. Please join with us in making this transformation happen in Rutland County.

Only with your help will we be successful. Chris Heintz

“What does it mean to have a home that underwent a rehabilitation under the Home Performance with Energy Star program?” It translates into comfort and money in the bank. The Fournier home is now a highly energy efficient home. Not everyone can undertake such a radical transformation, but there are many simple and cost-effective steps that all homeowners can take to make their homes more energy efficient.

Jeff Manney of Efficiency Vermont worked with us from the start to outline the steps that were necessary to get the Fair Haven home to earn a HERS rating below 50, meaning it uses about 50% of the total energy of the reference model to which it is being compared. The HERS rating (the Home Energy Rating System) is the industry standard by which a home's energy efficiency is measured. It's also the nationally recognized system for inspecting and calculating a home's energy performance. Like golf, the lower the score the better. Jeff wrote the following about the Fournier home: *"The Fournier home rated very nicely on the HERS Index, and I am very impressed by Habitat for Humanity's commitment to energy efficiency as a way of ensuring long-term affordability through lower energy bills."* (You can use the calculator on the right to learn what a lower scores could mean for you by going to <http://www.resnet.us/hers-index>.)

A screenshot of a web-based HERS Index calculator interface. On the right is a vertical thermometer-style scale ranging from 0 at the bottom to 150 at the top, with major tick marks every 10 units. A yellow circle with the number '100' is positioned next to the 100 mark on the scale. To the left of the scale, there is text that reads: 'Discover how the HERS Index works for yourself!', 'Launch our Interactive HERS Index Model and find out what the numbers could mean for you!', 'Click and drag the Score Indicator', 'Watch the Index scores change', and 'Find out the potential impact on your home and bank account!'. At the bottom left of the interface is a blue button with the text 'LAUNCH NOW!'.

We are very grateful to **Green Mountain Power** for their most generous donation of a Heat Pump, something we would not have been able to afford, and to students from **Stafford Tech** for installing it. Heat pumps draw heat from the environment and move it indoors to heat homes, or move it outdoors to cool homes. A cold climate heat pump can lower heating costs considerably and double as a cooling system in the summer.