The Crandall Family will soon become Homeowners at Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity’s Albert’s Way Neighborhood

Amanda and Wayne Crandall, and their three young sons, will be moving into their new home at Albert’s Way this month thanks to Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity donors and volunteers! Several years ago, Amanda and Wayne were doing okay-- Wayne worked full time to support his family and Amanda was at home taking care of their three young sons and providing respite care for foster children. All that changed when they were in a car accident caused by a drunk driver, and Wayne was severely injured. His employer fired him because he wasn’t able to work while recovering from his injuries and Amanda took on two jobs to support their family. They moved into the only rental home they could find, a substandard house which has no insulation and old, single pane windows, and is so cold that icicles form on the floor and walls! It costs them over $800 a month to heat in the winter, in addition to their rental payment. Wayne thankfully recovered from his injuries and found a new job, but his recovery and their medical expenses made it impossible to save enough for a down payment for a conventional mortgage.

Then they heard about Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity, applied to become a Habitat “partner family” and were accepted! That’s one less family living in substandard housing in our community and one more family who can break the cycle of poverty. The Crandall family will purchase their home with a 0% interest mortgage financed locally by Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity, with no down payment and a purchase price based on the actual cost to build their home. Habitat families’ mortgage payments are placed into a revolving loan fund to help finance future homes. Habitat believes in giving families a “hand up” to becoming first-time homeowners, not a “hand out”.

Wayne and Amanda Crandall completed their 400 hours of “sweat equity” required of Habitat homeowners, helping to build their home. Partner families can also work at the Habitat ReStore in Williston as part of their sweat equity hours. Wayne described the excitement of helping to build his new home, “I mixed and poured cement, unloaded roof shingles, and pounded nails with volunteers and was excited each day that I went to the build site because I was working on a home for my family. Habitat was a saving grace to us.”

“Amanda Crandall said, “Having our own home will completely change our lives, allowing our sons a safe place to live and play.”

“Then they heard about Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity, applied to become a Habitat “partner family” and were accepted! That’s one less family living in substandard housing in our community and one more family who can break the cycle of poverty.”

“When people have the opportunity to become homeowners, their lives are changed and the impact on their children is dramatic. Children who live in a stable, safe home are more successful in school, and have fewer behavioral and emotional challenges.”
First Home at Albert’s Way Nears Completion!

Thanks to donors and volunteers, the first of five homes scheduled to be built at Albert’s Way is almost complete, and the Crandall family will move in soon. Three single-family homes and one duplex will be built by the end of 2014, enabling five families to leave substandard rental housing behind and to become first-time homeowners. Part of the property, formerly occupied by commercial greenhouses, has been conserved with the Vermont River Conservancy. In addition to the five homes, the Habitat neighborhood will have a play space for the children and room for a community garden.

How Your Donation is Used By Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity

Your donations and philanthropic grants make it possible for Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity to build homes for working families. It’s as simple as that. We need to raise money each year to purchase land; provide infrastructure (roads, utilities, permits, etc.) purchase the building materials needed, pay skilled tradespeople (electricians, plumbers, contractors) where we don’t have skilled volunteers; and the other myriad costs required to build simple, decent, energy-efficient homes. Our partner families pay their 0% interest, no money down mortgage on the actual cost to build their homes so we try to keep those costs as low as possible, including depending on volunteers to help build the home and on companies who donate materials or provide them at lower costs. We also keep our administrative or “overhead” costs very low as well and we only have three employees at the GMHfH office: our executive director, David Mullin, who sometimes serves as one of our supervisors of the building projects in addition to his other responsibilities; our advancement director, Catherine Stevens, who works with businesses to obtain donations and volunteers, manages fundraising including individuals and grants; and Hillary Critchlow, our bookkeeper who does accounts payable and receivable and works with our partner families. That’s it. So 88.4% of our budget goes directly to building homes, and only 11.6% of our budget goes to administrative costs.

Thanks to Our Many Volunteers Who Help Build Vermont Habitat Homes!

We rely on volunteers to help to build our GMHfH homes in order to keep the total cost of the homes affordable for our partner families. On average, 400 volunteers work on each home! Some people volunteer for one day, others sign up for multiple days and area businesses send teams of employees. People who are experienced in home building volunteer to help us, as well as people who have never used a hammer! We have experienced supervisors who train volunteers and ensure that safety and quality is paramount. Thanks to all of our volunteers who make it possible for Habitat families to leave substandard housing and move into their own decent, simple, energy-efficient home.

88.4% 
11.6%

Clarissa Dubie shingles the roof of the Crandall family home

Dealer.com volunteers (photo by Jill Badolato)
Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity opened the Habitat Williston ReStore on September 8, 2012 with a two-part mission: to sell donated household items to help raise money to build Habitat homes and to keep tons of materials out of our landfills. Thanks to all of you who have donated materials and who have shopped at the ReStore, we met our first year goal! We are on track to have enough net revenue in 18 months to build one house AND we have kept 170 tons of materials out of area landfills. In addition, the ReStore sells furniture, appliances, building supplies and household goods at low prices, enabling people of all incomes to be able to afford to shop there! Win, win and win!

We offer “Stuff the Truck” events at area businesses, schools and churches where we bring the Habitat ReStore truck to your location for several hours and you promote the opportunity for people to bring items to donate. Please call 802-872-8726 or e-mail advancement@vermonthabitat.org with questions and to schedule a “Stuff the Truck” event in your area.

If you have items to donate, please drop them off at the Habitat ReStore and we’ll give you a receipt to use as a tax deduction. If you have large items to donate please call us and we’ll schedule a time to pick your items up for FREE! Please call 802-857-5296 for information.

If you haven’t visited the Habitat ReStore yet we invite you to stop by and see all of the wonderful items for sale. We’re open from Wednesday through Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and we’re located on 528 Essex Road (Rte. 2A) in Williston. Please bring in the coupon below and receive 15% off one item as a thank you for visiting the ReStore.

Give a Recycled Gift!

Are you looking for a useful, decorative and recycled gift for someone? Stop in at the Habitat ReStore in Williston and purchase a barrette made of buttons! One of our very special volunteers, Jennifer Swint, volunteers at the ReStore as well as on our build site and, in her spare time, came up with the brilliant idea to craft barrettes with buttons that someone donated to the ReStore—how crafty is that?!

Host a “Stuff the Truck” event at your business, church or school

Students from the United Nations International School in N.Y. City helped GMHfH by painting walls at the Habitat Williston ReStore

Buy a chair, help build a Home!

15% OFF ANY ITEM at the Williston Habitat ReStore

528 Essex Road (Rte 2A) Williston VT
Open | Wednesday to Saturday | 9:00 - 5:00
SHOP | DONATE | VOLUNTEER
802-857-5296
Why I Give to Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity

We are often inspired by comments from our donors about why they give to GMHfH and thought we’d share what two donors recently wrote to us:

“We believe strongly that everyone should have their own home, and our donations to Green Mountain Habitat are one way we can help.”

“As a young girl living in Brooklyn, N.Y., the oldest of 8 children, always hungry, always living in horrible apartments and moving frequently, I swore someday to have my own home. It took until I was in my 20’s and had 3 children but my dream never faded. The day I moved into my home was like heaven. I think GMHfH is amazing, helping people to realize their dream.”

Thank you, donors! You are truly amazing.

How You Can Help

If you would like to donate to help us to complete the remaining homes at Albert’s Way and to break ground for our next project, please send your donation to: Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity, 300 Cornerstone Drive, Suite 335, Williston, VT 05495 or on our secure website at www.vermonthabitat.org. We are a 501 (c) (3) non-profit and donations to us are tax deductible.

You could also consider including GMHfH in your estate planning. This is a wonderful way to leave a legacy to help end substandard housing in our community.

Thank you for helping families achieve their dream of owning a simple, decent and affordable home!

Volunteer Opportunities

• Website volunteers are needed to help keep our site updated and to suggest ideas that will work with our Content Management System format. Please contact Ted Johnson at Tedjhmsn@aol.com.

• Board Member/ Treasurer needed for Green Mountain Habitat. Please contact Gary Frisch at Gfrisch13@hotmail.com if you are interested.

• Habitat ReStore Volunteers! Volunteers are needed to pick up donations, sort and merchandise donations and staff the store. Go to restore@vermonthabitat.org for information.

• Administrative Volunteers are always needed to work on a variety of marketing, fundraising, graphic design and other administrative tasks. http://www.vermonthabitat.org/get-involved