

The Culver Family Cooks Up a Storm in Their New Home, Thanks to Donors and Volunteers

One of the things that Amber Culver was most looking forward to about their new home at Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity's Albert's Way neighborhood, was a decent kitchen in which to cook. For years she dealt with unlevelled plywood counters and floors in their rental house, in addition to unsafe plumbing and electrical systems. And for their final five months, they had no running water!

But, thanks to our donors and volunteers, Amber now has a well-planned, new kitchen and she invited us to visit her while she taught her son Noah and his step-brother Hunter how to make roasted vegetables and blueberry cookies!



Hunter is very serious as he adds ingredients to his mixing bowl.



Noah carefully, under his mother's watchful eyes, chops vegetables for the family's dinner.



Amber teaches Noah how to safely chop vegetables in their new kitchen.

Why I Give to Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity

"If people get into their own home I think they'll be more independent citizens and maybe elevated to a higher level of prosperity and that is a good thing for the overall population. If their children are safer, it will allow them to do better in school, which will allow them to do better in the workplace, which will be better for the community and that's why volunteering for Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity is a good use of my time." Dick Shasteen, Construction Committee Chair and GMHfH Board Member

How You Can Help

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

- Construction volunteers needed to help build houses this fall and interior work this winter. Please go to www.vermonthabitat.org and click on "Volunteer to Build".
- Habitat ReStore Volunteers needed—call 802-857-5296 and ask for Jonathon.
- Development volunteers needed for the Development committee and to help with research and donor support—call 802-872-8726 and ask for Catherine or e-mail cstevens@vermonthabitat.org.

Thank you!

Bouchard-Pierce Has Helped Green Mountain Habitat Families for 14 Years

Bouchard-Pierce, a family-owned appliance, kitchen and bath store since 1976, in Essex Junction and Barre has been helping Habitat families since February 1, 2000. Lee Owen, General Manager, became familiar with Habitat for Humanity the way many people did, through the volunteer work by former President Jimmy Carter and his wife Roslyn.

The essence of the Habitat program that appealed to Lee the most was that the families must put in sweat equity to help build their homes. "I like that a Habitat home is not a hand-out", Lee stated, "I think it's important that Green Mountain Habitat requires the families to invest their time, as well as paying their 0% interest mortgage." He also likes that Green Mountain Habitat only has three people on staff because that means that most of the money raised locally, goes into the homes, with volunteers filling many roles.

So in early 2000, Bouchard-Pierce offered to design the kitchens for all Green Mountain Habitat homes and to sell the cabinets and countertops at cost. Lee personally designed the kitchens using the least expensive models of the good-quality cabinets and countertops that the store carries. This generous partnership reduces the total cost of each home which means that the families have a smaller mortgage.

Brittney Mee joined Bouchard-Pierce as a kitchen designer almost two years ago. In her spare time, Brittney enjoys doing volunteer work and when she heard about the work that Lee does with Habitat, she offered to take over the kitchen designing. She meets with families to help them select the color of their countertops and to answer any questions they have about the kitchen design. Brittney said "I enjoy helping people and this is a great way to combine volunteering with my professional skills.

Lee went on to say "Home ownership is critically important to the community and the country, and Habitat makes it possible for people who can't qualify for a conventional mortgage to become homeowners. Plus, the people at Habitat are great and easy to work with—otherwise we wouldn't partner with them!"



Lee Owen (left) and Brittney Mee, Bouchard-Pierce

What does it cost to Build 4 Green Mountain Habitat Homes?

It costs approximately \$140,000 to purchase land, create the infrastructure and build one home. This means that if we want to build 4 homes, we need to raise \$560,000. In order to have a high percentage of grants and donations go directly to building homes, we keep a very small staff of 3, depending on many volunteers to get all of the work done. Your donations are helping to make it possible this year for four low-income working families to make a step up out of a terrible situation and into their own, perpetually-affordable home.

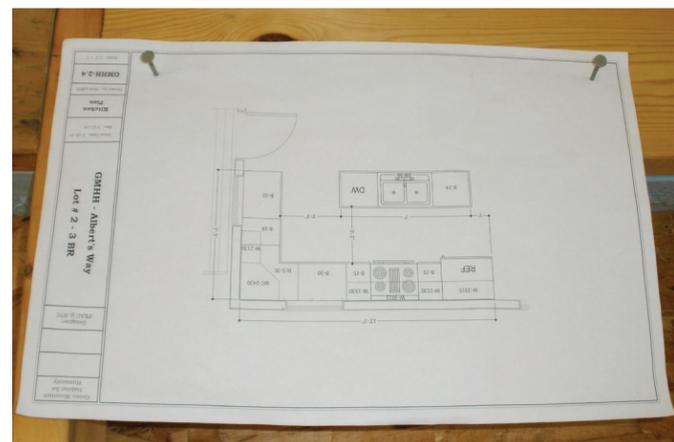
Why Is It So Important to Build Simple, Decent Homes for Families in Our Community?

"How Housing Matters" is a five-year research project, funded by the MacArthur Foundation, which examines the impact of affordable housing on a community. While it may seem obvious that children who live in substandard housing and/or who move from apartment to apartment, suffer as do their parents, this is some of the first research to quantitatively prove the benefits of living in a home of their own.

One of the Research Studies, found that "Children exposed to homes with leaking roofs, broken windows, rodents, non-functioning heaters or stoves, peeling paint, exposed wiring, or unsafe or unclean environments experienced greater emotional and behavioral problems. Housing quality also was related to school performance, with adolescents in poorer quality homes showing lower reading and math scores.

In addition, the stress to parents of living in substandard housing and moving when apartment buildings are sold and rents are increased, can take its toll.

When families can live in a safe, energy-efficient and perpetually affordable home, the children have fewer behavioral problems and do better in school, which helps them to succeed.



Kitchen Design by Bouchard-Pierce

Meet the Paquette Family



Renee and Jordan Paquette are currently living in transition housing for veterans and while they are thankful that the housing exists, it is still a stressful environment for a family with three young sons. Jordan served his country in Iraq 2005-2006 and then served in the Vermont Army Guard until last year. There is no place for the boys to play at the Winooski apartment building and Renee and Jordan are stressed trying keep them quiet. Two toddlers and a five-year old sometimes need to run and laugh and they are all very excited about having the ability to go outside when they move to their new home at Albert's Way the end of this year. Jordan had some building experience and is enjoying helping to build their new home when he's not at his job. And Renee can't wait to make new memories with her family!

What Are We Building This Year?



Volunteers roofing at Albert's Way on a hot summer day.



Harrington Village, Shelburne

It takes 300-400 volunteers to help build each Habitat home. **Want to help? Visit www.vermonthabitat.org/get-involved/build and sign up today!**

Shopping at the Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity ReStore Provides Creative Opportunities

Susan Herr is a volunteer at our Habitat ReStore in Williston and enjoys buying items and then refurbishing them as these pictures demonstrate.



Before



After

Shopping at the Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity is little like a treasure hunt because our stock changes every day as items are sold and new items come in. If you are crafty like Susan is, you can find lots of inspiration, but you can also find couches, chairs and lamps that are ready to place in your home just as they are. Come and see what is in the store today!

And, if you are in the mood to clear out possessions, please consider donating new and gently used furniture, household goods, building supplies and appliances to us. Your donations are tax-deductible and the money raised when we sell them will help us to build more Habitat homes.

Meet the Luitel Family



Durga and Puspa Luitel, outside their new home during the Dedication Ceremony in April. **Welcome to Albert's Way!**