Welcome to Albert’s Way, Our New Neighborhood in Charlotte!

Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity is launching our largest project to date, building homes for five families 2013-2014.

Five families will leave substandard housing behind and move into their own homes in a new neighborhood in Charlotte, thanks to many donors and volunteers. Named “Albert’s Way” after longtime Charlotte resident Albert Gecewicz, this is Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity’s (GMHfH) largest project to date and will convert a formerly commercial property into a residential community.

There will be three single-family ranch-style homes and one duplex and a shared common space where the children can play. The Albert’s Way Project will also conserve 4.5+/-.5 acres of the LaPlatte River watershed through a conservation easement with Vermont’s River Conservancy. These houses will remain perpetually affordable for working Vermont families.

Following GMHfH’s energy efficiency history, each home will be built using Energy Star guidelines and exceed Vermont’s building codes for energy efficiency. In addition to hundreds of volunteers, Habitat will also contract with licensed tradespeople to complete foundation, excavation, electrical, plumbing and other work as needed.

Families for Albert’s Way homes will be selected on the basis of their current need for housing and their willingness to participate in the Habitat for Humanity program. The family for the first house (SEE ARTICLE on page 2) has already been selected and the selection committee is currently reviewing applications for two additional families for the remaining two homes to be built this year. Families must have household incomes below 60% of the median income to be considered.

GMHfH partners with its families before, during and after the homes are built including extensive counseling in homeownership, financial management, and budgeting and home maintenance skills. This support system from dedicated volunteers helps the families be successful as homeowners and reduces the risk of future homelessness. Habitat homes are energy efficient and designed to accommodate families with mobility issues and aging homeowners so that they can stay in their homes for many years to come.

Staff Update

David Mullin, Executive Director of Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity, is pleased to announce that Catherine Stevens has joined the team as Director of Advancement. Stevens most recently managed grants for Vermont Family Network and prior to that was the Vermont Maple Syrup marketing director for nine years. Please contact Catherine at Advancement@VermontHabitat.org if you have a good fundraising idea or questions about how to become involved.
**Local Companies Join “Bring It Home” Program to Help Families**

The “Bring It Home” program was developed in 2011 to involve companies in organizing a team of 8-12 volunteers to work on the build site and to raise money for the Habitat homes. Thanks to the dedication of UVM student volunteer Bridget Walsh we already have three teams to work on our Albert’s Way project.

This year’s participants include ABB, which also volunteered last year, the Williston Area Business Association (WABA) and Dinse Knapp & McAndrew. Green Mountain Habitat provides support including selecting a build day for each team and providing help in developing fundraising online pages and e-mails.

⇒ If you would like to involve your company in the “Bring It Home” program please contact Catherine Stevens at 802-872-8726 or Advancement@vermonthabitat.org.

**Spring Cleaning? Moving? Remodeling? Downsizing?**

These are all opportunities to donate items to the ReStore. In fact, we’ll even come to your home or business to pick up large items and/or large quantities of items for free. So if Aunt Martha is moving in with you and is leaving a home of belongings that she no longer wants, please consider calling the ReStore. And, if your child is graduating from college and moving into a new apartment, visit the ReStore to help furnish their new place. It’s a fun place to shop and you’ll find different items for sale each time you visit.

⇒ What items can you donate? For a full list, please go to http://vermonthabitat.org and click on the ReStore menu item or call us at 802-857-5296

⇒ You can clean out your home and help families and the environment all at once! And your donations to the ReStore are tax deductible.

⇒ The Green Mountain Habitat ReStore is located at 528 Essex Road (Rte. 2A) in Williston.

**Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity**

Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity utilizes innovation and partnerships to approach the challenge of providing affordable home-ownership opportunities to low-income families. Incorporated as a 501c3 nonprofit in 1984, GMHfH is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International whose mission is to provide affordable housing for low-income people. GMHfH builds basic, energy efficient houses using a small army of volunteers (400 volunteers are involved in building each home!) at no profit and provides no-interest mortgages with no down payment to give families a “hand up” in attaining their own homes. Families are engaged in the building of their homes by providing 200 to 400 hours of “sweat equity” before, during and after construction. Mortgage payments are then used to help fund new homes for future families.

Funding to purchase land and materials comes from philanthropic and grant support. The completion of the third house at Albert’s Way this fall will bring the total number of Habitat homes built in Northwest Vermont to sixty-three. For information about donating to the Albert’s Way Project please go to www.vermonthabitat.org. We are grateful for the generous local support for this project by the Shelburne Charlotte Hinesburg Interfaith Projects (SCHIP) and their understanding of the need for affordable homes for families in their communities.

⇒ Meet the Habitat Families

We are excited to introduce the Crandall family, three children and two adults, as the family for our first home at Albert’s Way! The Crandalls have been waiting over a year to join our many volunteers in the building of their new home, and we welcome them as soon-to-be homeowners in Charlotte. They have started their “sweat equity” requirement at the Habitat ReStore in Williston.

We also wish to congratulate two families, the Monger family and the Kadka family, who became Habitat homeowners in December and wish them much happiness in their new homes.

Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity’s ReStore Sells Donated Items to Help Fund New Homes for Families

Items are kept out of landfills, reused by new families and sold to raise money to help build new GMHfH homes!

Have you visited the Williston ReStore, the only Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Chittenden County? Individuals and companies donate a wide variety of new and gently-used items which are then sold to raise money to build new Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity homes. Not only are families able to leave substantial housing behind and move into their own energy-efficient homes, but tons of usable items are “upcycled” and kept out of area landfills.

⇒ The Value of Stuff

We often complain about the “stuff” that we have in our garages, basements, closets and even storage units and wish we had a way to turn our stuff into something else’s treasure. Good news—Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity’s new ReStore will do just that. When you donate your gently-used, or even never-used, items to the ReStore and we sell them, the money will be used to help build the next GMHfH houses.

So, what is your old microwave worth? It could buy a front door knob for a family’s new Habitat home. What about the couch that is still comfy but doesn’t go with the colors in your living room? It could buy a faucet for a family’s kitchen sink. And the kitchen cabinets that you just replaced? Those could help to buy shingles for a new Habitat house roof. That’s pretty valuable stuff you have and we would be appreciative if you would consider donating it to the Habitat ReStore. We’ll be happy to pick up your items for free if they are too big for you to deliver and we will also give you a tax receipt for your donation. Call 802-857-5296 for information or drop off your items at the ReStore, 528 Essex Road (Rte. 2A) in Williston.

**Be Sure to Check Out the ReStore**

ReStore Sells Donated Items to Help Fund New Homes for Families

⇒ ReStore is located at 528 Essex Road (Rte. 2A) in Williston.

⇒ ReStore is open Monday through Saturday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

⇒ ReStore sells new and gently used furniture, home decor, appliances, tools, yard and garden items, building supplies, office supplies, art supplies, decorative lighting, crafts and sewing supplies, books and more. ReStore also has a full line of affordable, energy-efficient appliances and electronics and a wide selection of building supplies, electrical, plumbing, hardware, and tools.

⇒ ReStore accepts donations of gently-used or new items. Items can be dropped off at the ReStore during ReStore hours.

⇒ To find out more about donations, Saturday hours or ReStore events, visit www.vermonthabitat.org or call 802-857-5296.

⇒ To host a ReStore donation event, contact the ReStore at 802-857-5296.

⇒ To find out more about donating, Saturday hours or ReStore events, visit www.vermonthabitat.org or call 802-857-5296.

⇒ To find out more about donating, Saturday hours or ReStore events, visit www.vermonthabitat.org or call 802-857-5296.

⇒ To find out more about donating, Saturday hours or ReStore events, visit www.vermonthabitat.org or call 802-857-5296.

⇒ To find out more about donating, Saturday hours or ReStore events, visit www.vermonthabitat.org or call 802-857-5296.