



Green Mountain

Habitat for Humanity®

300 Cornerstone Drive, Suite 335 • Williston, VT 05495 • [www.vermonthabitat.org](http://www.vermonthabitat.org)

SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER

Dear GMHfH Donors,

At times like these, knowing there are others who believe in our mission that everyone needs a safe and affordable home is inspiring. Thanks to you, our current partner families are “sheltering in place” in their Green Mountain Habitat built homes. They are safe, have lower housing and utility costs and know that they will have a home when the world returns to normal. However, many more families in our community are living in substandard and expensive apartments and our goal to help meet that need is to build 5 new homes in Burlington and South Burlington once construction is allowed.

Your continued partnership with us, will make it possible for us to begin building homes this year and beyond. The COVID19 pandemic has caused us to temporarily close our Habitat ReStores and donations and grants have been impacted. Please consider donating today, either online at [www.VermontHabitat.org](http://www.VermontHabitat.org) or with a check in the enclosed envelope, it would help more local families in need of safe and perpetually affordable homes.

Please be assured that, thanks to your gift and those of other supporters, we are continuing to do all we can to be ready to build more homes once the pandemic ends.

We'll continue to update you on how you are making a difference, and, in the meantime, with the situation changing rapidly, please check our website at [www.VermontHabitat.org](http://www.VermontHabitat.org) for the very latest updates.

With my best wishes for you and the people close to you.

David Mullin,

Executive Director

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## Here's what YOU are Helping to Build in 2020

We had just finished building a single family home in Burlington before the “stay in place” restrictions began and the new partner family was able to move in! Just imagine how their “staying in place” has improved in their new home. We hope that by the time you read this newsletter that the two Zero Energy Modular homes are being completed. And, that we will be working on site work for our 5 new homes in South Burlington and Burlington.

In addition, we are looking for land to purchase for the 2021 home builds and would appreciate hearing from you if you know of either single or multi-family lots for sale. Please contact Executive Director David Mullin at 872-8726 or [dmullin@vermonthabitat.org](mailto:dmullin@vermonthabitat.org).



The Duplex in Milton Before (left) and After, (right) is Now Home to Two Families Thanks to YOU!



## Tim & Emma and their three young daughters are in their own home!



David Mullin (right) Executive Director of GMHfH, presenting the house key to Emma and Tim.

Just in time for the holidays, Tim, Emma and their daughters moved into their very own home in Milton. Imagine the joy of having Christmas dinner in their new kitchen and the excitement of knowing that they own a perpetually affordable and very energy efficient home. They will be paying less than 30% of their income towards their mortgage, property taxes and homeowners insurance.

Tim and Emma had been living with Emma's

mother for two years while on the waiting list for an affordable apartment. Fortunately, they learned about Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity and were selected to be a "partner family". Tim's grandfather was a builder and taught him a lot. As a result, they did a great deal of "DIY" work on Emma's mother's house, as a thank you for living with her. This experience was very helpful as they exceeded their required 400 hours of "sweat equity" working side-by-side with volunteers building their future home.

At their home Dedication on December 14, Emma told the volunteers, friends and families, "We are so grateful for Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity, supporters and volunteers and to have a safe home in which to raise our family." As if working full time at a home improvement store, raising three young daughters and doing 400+ hours of sweat equity wasn't enough of a juggling act, Emma had just graduated from Champlain College on a full scholarship!

Each member of the family received a beautiful handmade quilt from the Champlain Valley Quilt Guild.

I spoke with Tim a while later and he said "The move into our new home has been great and our stress level is much less that what it used to be. We are enjoying making



Elsie at the Home Dedication

some upgrades including adding a barn door, 2 NEST thermostats and, most importantly, a coffee nook on our kitchen counter! The opportunity to add our own touches just makes the house feel even more special. And daughter Elsie, 3, loves having more room than we had when we lived in her grandmother's living room. Margo and Renae are just 1, but all three girls will enjoy playing in the yard once the weather is nice."

Thanks to YOU, this family's future is healthier, affordable and will help them to have a more financially stable future.



Elsie, Tim's mother, Emma and Tim holding Margo and Renae during the house dedication, surrounded by family, friends and volunteers.

## Melanie and Her Son and Daughter also moved into their new home in Milton



Melanie happily accepts the key to her new home at her closing.

## "I have a deep need to give back because of the help given to my family"



Caption: Deniz, (left) as a young girl living in her family's Habitat built home and (right) Deniz today.

Deniz, her three sisters and parents escaped the war in Bosnia in the early 1990's and immigrated to Vermont. This simple sentence doesn't begin to describe the terror her parents and older sisters felt and the fact that her parents left because they knew "we were going to die, or worse". They lived with an aunt and uncle, 10 people in a small apartment, and then moved to their own apartment. Her parents didn't speak English but learned it so that they could find jobs. Deniz told me, "My twin and I were only 6 when our family attended the Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors meeting to find out if we would be approved for a

home. My parents said that if we were quiet during the meeting that we would go to Burger King after so we were quiet!”

“Bosnia was a friendly country before the war, but it didn’t have a volunteer culture, so my parents couldn’t believe that people they didn’t know would help to build their home!” The opportunity to have their own home “was a life raft when they were drowning. Having a home meant that they still had to paddle but you had the opportunity to do so. My parents and older sister had gone through severe trauma of death, disappearances and a loss of faith in humanity. But the Habitat home restored that faith and made it possible for our family to be warm, have a bed and the ability to cook dinner each night. My parents thawed out when they were approved for a house.”

“Because of the amazing help my family received, I grew up with a desire to give back and began volunteering in high school and continued in college. I moved to San Francisco for a job but recently moved back to start my own business in personal development and fitness coaching using skills I learned in college.”

“I’m so very proud of my parents, who had good jobs in Bosnia, then lost everything to escape the war. They paid off their mortgage on their Habitat built home and still live in the home in Burlington. Because of the “hand up” my family received, I feel a deep need to give back. When people meet me they don’t think of me as a refugee, but being a refugee has made me who I am today.”

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## Legacy Circle Created by Donors to Build Homes in the Future

“I am deeply committed to Green Mountain Habitat because it brings the community together to assist families who want to build a decent place of their own and in the process changes their lives and the lives of their children. I do not know of another organization where everyone involved benefits.” John Owen



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A longtime donor and volunteer recently shared that he and his wife will not only continue their generous annual donations but have also included a bequest to Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity. About the same time, another individual said that he will be leaving his home to GMHfH in his estate. It is moments like these which make us so very grateful for all of you who are partners in building homes for low income working families.

As a result and request of these philanthropic individuals, the Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity Legacy Circle has been created to encourage others to include GMHfH in their wills or estate plans. These gifts will continue the impact of the donations you have made and will make, into the future. A quote by Nelson Henderson, “The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.” might be paraphrased as “Creating a legacy gift will help to build homes to shelter families years from now.” There is information on our website, [www.vermonthabitat.org/wills-bequests/](http://www.vermonthabitat.org/wills-bequests/) and if you would like to share your future plans please contact Catherine Stevens, Advancement Director at 802-872-8726 or [cstevens@advancement.org](mailto:cstevens@advancement.org).

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**Questions? Suggestions?** Contact Catherine at [cstevens@vermonthabitat.org](mailto:cstevens@vermonthabitat.org).



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