

Winter Newsletter 2026

Volume 24, Issue 1

Winter 2026

Working with our many partners, Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity builds strength, stability and self-reliance through affordable homeownership in Hampshire and Franklin Counties. We are an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, an ecumenical organization that envisions a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

Looking Forward:

- » **1st Wednesday of the month, 6:30pm, new volunteer orientation**, online, signup: pvhabitat.org/ways-to-volunteer
- » **3rd Saturday of the month, 9:00am, new volunteer orientation**, online, sign up at pvhabitat.org/ways-to-volunteer
- » **3rd Sunday of the month, 12-4pm, Women Build**, Westhampton Rd. Cottage site, sign up at pvhabitat.org/ways-to-volunteer/womenbuild/
- » **Saturday, April 18, 11am - 3pm Scrabble Tournament at the American Legion Hall, Florence.** The Northampton Scrabble Club's annual fundraiser for PVHH. Open to all Scrabble lovers!
- » **TBD**
Deadline for homeownership applications for a home in Pelham MA will be announced later this spring
- » **Wednesday, May 20, 6pm FEAST for Habitat**, rk Miles warehouse, Hatfield

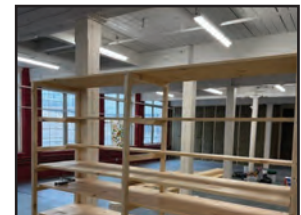
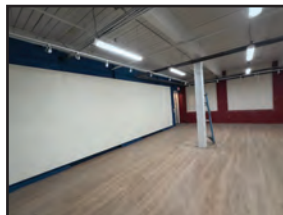
Your Habitat Affiliate is on the Move!

Who remembers our top Wish List item several past newsletters running? Well, the big headline for this edition of your Habitat affiliate's newsletter is to report out that Wish List wishes do come true. This 37-year-old construction company has found a warehouse, finally! We are moving about 200 yards down the block into the Brushworks Building at 221 Pine Street in Florence where we will lease a roomy office abutting lots of storage space.

Many friends are helping to make this transition happen. Two anonymous donors in particular are thinking strategically and extend an invitation to others to join them in seeing that the modest costs of transforming the space to maximize both office and warehouse operations and easing into a higher expense location are met without taxing the important revenue stream needed to build houses.

Their challenge:

For every dollar you give designated to the Brushworks Campaign before June 30th 2026, two donors will match 1:1, up to \$5,000.



That's not where the news stops. We are also working on a website update that will refresh our look and enhance the website's mobile use. Volunteers will be able to more efficiently access their Better Impact accounts in the field to sign in and log hours. Donors and event attendees and auction bidders will find more user-friendly navigation to registration and payment sites.

And finally, stay tuned for a Big Reveal to come soon around our affiliate name. We will be updating you in the coming weeks on a name change to better reflect the region we serve.

Spring is here! Time of rebirth and renewal! Maybe it's time to renew your vow to move that unwanted vehicle out of your driveway and see it converted into cash to support someone's dream of becoming a first-time homebuyer. It's easy, as easy as making a call and waiting for a truck to come take your vehicle away. And your unwanted vehicle will help birth the roof, the walls, the windows a family's first home.

Go to pvhabitat.org/donate/cars-for-homes to learn more.

Donate your car.



(877) 277-4344
carsforhomes.org

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Welcome Donovan!

While he's new to the Habitat staff roster, he's not new to Habitat... We are thrilled to welcome Donovan Lee, who helped build and purchase his Habitat home in Greenfield last summer, to the role of construction coordinator for Pioneer Valley Habitat. Donovan brings to the position experience and knowledge in the trades and has been a key driver in our move to a new location with warehouse and a thoughtful contributor to the many conversations around the many areas of growth the organization is currently experiencing.



Letter from the Director

Dear Habitat Community,

In January we said goodbye to MJ Adams, a true advocate for taking actions and living with integrity. She was the first executive director our local Habitat for Humanity affiliate had, leading for over 10 years. She helped grow the organization to take on bigger projects



like the Westhampton Road condominiums in Northampton and the Stanley Street project in Amherst.

But MJ's involvement with Habitat was not just in decades past, she had continued to volunteer on our construction sites through 2025. She worked alongside Women Build volunteers and future homeowners to continue making homeownership and construction accessible. She and Pioneer Valley Habitat Women Build leader Amanda Hanley share fond memories of traveling to Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Work projects around the country.


"I don't recall anybody I ever encountered in Habitat who was not the salt of the earth, who will give you the shirt off their back, who were so much so committed to the work."

- MJ Adams

There has always been something comforting about the tangible nature of building a home. Many people around the world are facing immense hardship due to war, climate change, economic inequality, and common cruelty. And while these problems can feel immense at times, I know at Habitat we will keep doing the next right thing. Our moral compass is staying true. MJ Adams set that compass in the early years of this organization, and those of us who have come after are grateful to pick it up to use for our own current wayfinding on the path to equity and justice through the creation of sustainable homeownership opportunities.

Thank you, MJ.

With gratitude,


Megan McDonough,
Executive Director



Carrying MJ's Legacy Forward

Guest contributor: Amanda Hanley, former PVHH construction coordinator

I feel so honored to have worked alongside MJ Adams on Women Builds and Carter Work Projects. She brought an incredible light to every job site, never slowing down, always eager to learn, and always the first to lend a helping hand. She had a special way of connecting with every volunteer, making each person feel welcomed, valued, and accomplished, no matter what their skill set. She was more than a volunteer, she was a role model, especially for women finding their place in construction, showing what strength, kindness, and determination truly look like. Her daughters shared that she hoped to come back as a firefly, and I can't think of a more fitting image! MJ carried a quiet kid of magic that made everything around her brighter.



As we gather this year for the 50th Carter Work Project in Atlanta, she will be deeply missed. We will continue to carry her legacy of service forward in every wall we raise, every home we build, and every community we strengthen.

Coming Soon: Construction to Start up in Pelham



The Habitat construction pipeline is full of potential build sites, and with the onset of spring we are looking ahead to our next homebuilding projects, eager to enlist your involvement! We are happy to announce that we will be back in the town of Pelham later in the spring to build in a family-friendly neighborhood within walking distance of the elementary school. We will announce a second construction project in the weeks ahead, so stay tuned, keep your tool belts handy.

Maybe you have a parcel, or a corner of a property, or know of a piece of land that is just right for a Habitat home? Contact executive director Megan McDonough at megan@pvhabitat.org if you have some land our Site Squad might come review for homebuilding possibilities.

Bring your appetites: FEAST for Habitat Wednesday May 20st, 6-8pm at rk Miles, Hatfield



The date is set, the restaurants are planning, the band is practicing, the auction items are collecting...It's official, time to get your tickets for the Valley's best spring party in a warehouse, registration now open! You'll see an increase in pricing this year to reflect an expanded event but the good news is, you may purchase a 4-pack of tickets at last year's throwback price.

Have a hankering for some of the best in local Cajun fare or meat fresh off the barbecue or inspired veggie plates? It'll be there! Looking for wine made with the finest locally grown-on-a-Southampton-hillside grapes? We've got you covered! No matter where your palate finds the greatest pleasure, you will find something to delight it at the FEAST for Habitat while you check out the auction items, enjoy some music and mingle with your old Habitat pals and meet new friends. You don't want to miss this afterwork-party-meets-street-food-festival event! To register go to pvhabitat.org/feast-2026/.

Think once you've seen one FEAST you've seen them all? Think again! We have some exciting newcomers to the restaurant lineup and some other new touches as well, all with your comfort and enjoyment in mind.



What's happening on the build site?

Birch St., Greenfield

Volunteers are making progress on the final interior work. Upcoming tasks include landscaping in May.



Westhampton Rd, Northampton

Painting starting soon. Volunteer shifts on Tues/Wed/Thurs/Sat, we need you, come help future homeowner Jem get across the finish line and into her new home!



You may be lucky enough to work alongside one of the future homeowners the day you're out volunteering on site. The paths they've traveled to Habitat are extraordinary and inspiring. Read the stories of the families currently building their homes and of those who have gone before at pvhabitat.org/homeowner-stories/.

"I can't believe I get to do this. It's really satisfying, there's something so amazing about building your own house."

- Hannah, future homeowner

Wish List

- area rugs (show us a picture!)
- locking vertical file cabinets

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Two PVHH Board Members Recognized for Their Community Contributions



Hats off to Pioneer Valley Habitat board members Sarah Wilson (and her colleague Maura Geary from MassHire) for receiving the Community Champion award on behalf of MassHire Franklin Hampshire Workforce Board, and to Tom Crossman for his Distinguished Alumni recognition at Greenfield Community College's "Building Bridges and Belonging" dinner in early March. Sarah, a first year PVHH board member and Tom in his second year, both valuable contributors to the Development Committee, have hearts for community building that clearly extends beyond Habitat and into the world. Hearty congratulations to them and all the awardees who were recognized as having "made an impact on the college, as well as alumni who have made a difference in the community."



Get Involved!

Check out the list of committee volunteer opportunities on the PVHH website at www.pvhabitat.org/ways-to-volunteer. Could you see yourself contributing in one of those areas? We need you!



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