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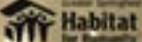


THE LIVING ROOM  
ANTIQUES

95 SHAKER ROAD | EAST LONGMEADOW  
*December 13th*  
*Tuesday 5 pm - 7 pm*

DALTON,  
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Raffles with proceeds going to 



every can counts

Greater Springfield  
**Habitat**  
for Humanity

268 Cold Spring Ave, West Springfield, MA

# Volunteers wanted



[habitatspringfield.org/volunteer](http://habitatspringfield.org/volunteer)



# Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity®

# NEWS

December  
2022




From left: students from Springfield's Roger L Putnam Vocational Technical Academy autograph foam blocks Nov. 18 at the "Behind the Build" event in Holyoke. On the right, two of the future homeowner's daughters and son sign foam blocks.

## GSHFH introduces "Build with Strength" to community

Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) recently celebrated its newest and most innovative green build: an insulated concrete form (ICF) home. Approximately 30 guests participated in the Nov. 18 "Behind the Build" event at Chestnut Street in Holyoke. Many attendees represented local, regional, and national partnerships. Guests listened to featured speakers, viewed the current construction, and signed blocks that will be used to frame the first and second floors.

The project is a collaboration between the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association and Habitat for Humanity International to build 50 ICF homes across the United States. Greater Springfield Habitat's ICF build utilizes Integraspec blocks, which consist of 2-inch foam panels that are separated by spacers. The blocks are stacked together much like children's plastic building blocks. Once assembled, concrete is poured between the foam panels.

Continued on Page 5

# GSHFH bids farewell to board president Anne Eisenman



Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors President Anne Eisenman stands with the quilt she made for Habitat's annual Fall Feastival. This year's event was held Nov. 10. The quilt sold for \$200.

**T**hank you, Anne. Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) Board of Directors President and longtime supporter Anne Eisenman will step down from her post at the end of the month. In her six-year tenure on the board she said she has seen staff turnover, the affects of a modern-day pandemic, success in action, and has gained self-

confidence. Even though she'll no longer serve on the board, Anne said she will remain committed to Greater Springfield Habitat.

Anne said Habitat's mission of building strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter resonates with her. After all, the Long Island native grew up in a home that was affordable because of post-World War II veteran



Marie Ciosek / Photosynthesis  
Anne Eisenman, Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors president, speaks at a May dedication event in Springfield.

benefits. But she knows that's not the case for everyone and discriminatory housing policies has prevented many from buying their own homes. Habitat is a way to make dreams come true for homebuyers who wouldn't qualify through traditional means.

Anne said she first learned about Habitat more than 40 years ago, but didn't volunteer until an opportunity presented itself 20 years ago in Hartford. She participated in a corporate build. Later, in 2011, Greater Springfield Habitat became a regular part of Anne's routine when she began volunteering at its construction build sites.

"When I moved to Springfield after living in Conway, Massachusetts, it was difficult to meet people and feel a part of the community," Anne said. "Volunteering with GSHFH has enabled me to do so."

Two years later, Anne joined the Family Services Committee, which recommends families to the board of directors based on an assessment of their application, need for homeownership, and a willingness to partner. Her passion for the nonprofit organization grew. Anne became more involved and joined another committee. In 2016, Anne was elected to the board.

Continued on Page 6

## SPOTLIGHT ON

**Anne Eisenman**  
Board president  
of Springfield, MA

**What words of wisdom would you pass down to your childhood self?** Live in the present. Enjoy the day.

**What is your favorite book of all time?** I don't think I could name just one for each genre let alone one book!

**What is your favorite family holiday tradition?** Sharing a meal while visiting with family and friends.

**Would you join a mission to live on the moon? Why or why not?** I'm not adventurous and the moon looks too barren. I'd rather enjoy the beauty of Earth.

**Help us support more families. Donate today.**



## Did you know? The Rockefeller Christmas tree benefits Habitat for Humanity



Photo credit: AP Images

The 2022 Rockefeller Center Christmas tree is an 82-foot tall Norway Spruce that is 50 feet wide and weighs 14 tons. The tree hails from Queensbury, New York, near Lake George. The tree is lit by 50,000 multi-colored LED lights and topped with a 900-pound Swarovski star, which has 3-million crystals. When the tree is taken down in early January 2023, it will be milled into lumber and used to help a Habitat partner family build their home. Lumber from the famous tree has been donated to Habitat every year since 2007.

# Fall Feastival gains momentum following pandemic; event grosses \$35,000

**F**all Feastival gains momentum in year following COVID-19. Fall Feastival grossed \$35,000.

The November event is Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity's (GSHFH) largest annual fundraiser and continues to gain popularity following the COVID-19 pandemic.

The evening event, held at Twin Hills Country Club in Longmeadow, offered guests

samples from eight food vendors: MexiRico Food Shop, Tekoa Country Club and Banquet, Macken's Specialty Sliders, Texas Roadhouse, Munich Haus Restaurant, Mamma Mia's Pizzeria and Trattoria, Max Tavern, the Lower Pioneer Valley Career Technical Education Center's Culinary Arts program, and Twin Hills Country Club.

Guests were encouraged to bid on 53 silent auction items, which included gift baskets, gift cards, pictures, a quilt, and furniture. Five live auctions also occurred. Prizes such as a propane fire pit, and tickets to see the Boston Bruins, New England Patriots, and Boston Red Sox were also up for grabs. The evening also boasted a wine bottle ring toss, DJ Eddie of Holyoke, an opportunity to sign the foam panels to be used in the insulated concrete form newest home build, and a model home built using Legos.

John O'Farrell, GSHFH Fundraising and Volunteer coordinator, said while the fundraiser and its goals are important, the impact of how our mission effects families is where we should concentrate our focus.

"Our houses give families a

place they can call 'home,' where children can feel safe, and have a quiet place to do their homework," John said. "These families are

warm and sheltered from the elements. They are educated and supported to be able to take on a mortgage and successfully make their month-to-months payments. It's a place they can call their own."

If you would like to volunteer and take part in planning next

year's Fall Feastival, call John at (413) 739-5503. To see more event photos from the event, go to [habitatspringfield.org/fall-feastival](https://habitatspringfield.org/fall-feastival)

**T**he impact of how our mission effects families is where we should concentrate our focus.

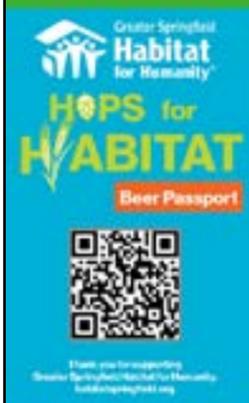
— John O'Farrell,  
GSHFH Fundraising and  
Volunteer coordinator



Marie Ciosek/Photosynthesis

A Fall Feastival guest bids on a silent auction at the annual fundraiser on Nov. 10 at Twin Hills Country Club in Longmeadow.

Buy a beer passport



Be 1 of the first 25 to buy a beer passport at an event mentioned below and get a Greater Springfield Habitat pint glass AND be entered to win a swag & tool gift basket.



and you may win stuff

habitatspringfield.org/hops-for-habitat

Wednesday, Dec. 14, 5-8pm: [whitelionbrewing.com](https://whitelionbrewing.com)  
Friday, Dec. 16: 5-8pm: [fieldcrestbrewing.com](https://fieldcrestbrewing.com)

## Continued from Page 1

The 6-inch concrete core along with the foam panels create a super insulated and resilient home. The panels will be used for all of the exterior walls from the foundation to the second story.

"The City of Holyoke is pleased to host this energy-efficient, cost-efficient, and moisture-resistant home. We're always pleased to work with Habitat, because a home means hope and neighborhood revitalization," said Holyoke Mayor Joshua Garcia.

Aimee Giroux, GSHFH executive director agreed. She said Habitat is very excited to build

in Holyoke and construct this home in this new way.

Unlike a traditional wood frame house with sheathing, an ICF home offers several additional benefits to the builder and homeowner.

The foam panels are made from recycled material. ICF walls do not off-gas, whereas conventional walls sheathed with oriented strand board (OSB) off-gas through glues and resin. ICF walls are resistant to mold and rot, which provides a better living environment for those suffering from allergens or asthma. Also, due to the rising cost of lumber, this method significantly

reduces the need for wood for framing and sheathing the exterior and less trees are cut down.

Since an ICF house has foam on both sides of the concrete, it provides increased thermal mass. This means wall temperatures won't change throughout a day because the foam eliminates the gaps in regular construction that can cause cold spots. It'll cost less to heat and cool the home, which leads to energy savings typically sparing a homeowner 30-70% on heating, cooling, and dehumidification expenses. Also, foam and concrete walls insulate sound better than wood-framed walls. An ICF home will likely be quieter than a traditional house.

"Doing something different in construction is not easy. Construction is hard enough when you're doing the same thing day in and day out. Try to take on a new way of building and it's really a huge deal," said Gregg Lewis, chief communications officer at National Ready Mixed Concrete Association. "Sheri (Green, GSHFH construction manager,) took this job on to lead this construction project ... and she's doing phenomenal work."

To volunteer at the ICF build site, go to [habitatspringfield.org/volunteer](https://habitatspringfield.org/volunteer)

No experience is necessary.



FANCY FOOTWORK

Socks for a cause

Just 4 pair left.





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## Continued from Page 2

She rose to the role of vice president in 2018 and president in 2019.

"In the past six years, I have learned so much. I have attended two affiliate conferences in Atlanta and discovered that each affiliate is unique while all are focused on the mission of housing equity," Anne said. "I have traveled to Guatemala on a Habitat Global Village trip and learned how services offered and the types of homes built vary based on area needs. My involvement with GSHFH has given me a better understanding of my city."

Those six years were also filled with turmoil as most of the full-time staff turned over and the COVID-19 pandemic struck in 2020. Pandemic restrictions forced Greater Springfield Habitat to function virtually, build homes in small groups, and assist homeowners in unconventional ways, such as virtual home application interviews and tours versus in-person meetings.

Despite the hardships, GSHFH continued to build two to three

homes a year and fix homes for low-income families in need of repair. That, Anne said, is the definition of success.

"Success is each time a family purchases their home. Success is when a repair improves the health and safety of a homeowner. Success is when a new volunteer becomes a long time one."

Anne said she also gained personal growth from her role as president.

"I learned people are happy to help when asked. I learned it's important to ask. I learned speaking in public is less scary the more often you do it," she said.

Anne's board colleagues said she'll be missed.

"She is one of the most caring, kind, and committed people I have ever met," said Nadine Maggi, GSHFH board member who joined earlier this year. "She has just such a gentle nature, deeply cares about the organization and its mission – getting enough people on the board for votes, to join, and for the affiliate to be successful. Additionally, when you dedicate a home, you can just see the happiness she has for the

recipients. It radiates from her."

GSHFH Board Treasurer Robin Olejarz (pronounced Ole-yarz) agreed.

"Anne is humble and wise. She is a soft-spoken leader who is contemplative and thoughtful, yet decisive," Robin said.

Anne has just one more ask of the Habitat community.

"I encourage everyone to volunteer for one day on a build site. No experience is needed," she said. "You'll meet nice people, have fun, and hopefully come back another time."

Justin Roberts is also stepping down from the board. GSHFH wishes them both good luck in their future endeavors.

