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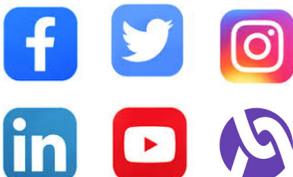
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NEWS February 2023

Board grows with newly-elected leaders



Michael Cardaropoli,
GSHFH Board President



Tiffany Tranghese,
GSHFH Board Vice President

A New Year often brings changes. Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) is no exception. January introduced five new leaders to the GSHFH Board of Directors, four of whom now make up the executive committee.

Michael Cardaropoli is now president. He previously served as vice president. Robin Olejarz, former treasurer, is now clerk. General members Tiffany Tranghese, Ian Coddington, and Nadine Maggi are also newly elected into positions of leadership.

“I hope the new board leadership will work together

throughout the community advocating the need for affordable housing and that by working through our mission we can increase our impact and serve more families,” said Aimee Giroux, GSHFH executive director.

The board president is the chief executive officer and presides over the annual meeting as well as all regular and special get-togethers. Additionally, he will call the meetings, lead them, and enforce the by-laws. Michael will also facilitate the board’s decision-making process, create

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International Women's Day Celebration
Saturday, March 4; 1-5pm
Elks Lodge, 440 Tiffany St, Springfield




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HAPPY NEW YEAR

Make **2023** the year of beer.



Coming soon. Stay tuned.

My home is: safe, secure.

- a place to kick off my shoes.
- where I can paint the walls whatever color I want.
- a place to eat a donut and then work out.
- put posters and pictures up on my walls.
- turn up the TV volume.
- open the windows on a cold night.
- turn on all the lights if I want.
- a place for game night.
- a place where my kids can run around.
- a deep sense of rest.
- a place where my kids can play outside.
- where I can do nothing.

Volunteers of the Month



Springfield College Habitat for Humanity Club

President Kaylie Langer and her peers at Springfield College's Habitat for Humanity club are no strangers to a residential build site. The community service volunteer group frequently participates in construction work for this affiliate.

Kaylie estimates the group visits Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity's (GSHFH) build site in Holyoke monthly at what the club refers to as "build days." Additionally, the group's members also participate in "Alternative Spring Breaks," which means they travel out-of-state during their college's weeklong spring vacations to volunteer at another Habitat for Humanity and build on their sites.

"Springfield College revolves around our humanics philosophy, which is to educate the whole person in spirit, mind, and body for leadership in service to others," said Kaylie, a senior studying Athletic Training. "This means we acknowledge our privilege and use



Kaylie Langer, 21
 Springfield College senior of Barkhamstead, CT

it to serve people in need."

Kaylie said she joined the club her freshman year and it was actually the first group on campus she joined. Emma Blarney, a sophomore in the Physician Assistant Program, said she joined the Habitat for Humanity club in the beginning of the year.



Emma Blarney, 19
 Springfield College sophomore of South Hadley, MA

"I continue to volunteer because I know others are benefitting. I enjoy helping others, but also helping myself grow," Emma said.

Kaylie and Emma said they encourage others to take a chance and spend a day at a GSHFH build site. It's fulfilling, everyone is kind, patient, and overall amazing.

In their own words ...

Kaylie

What tips would give someone who wants to volunteer? You never know what you're going to do on builds, wear clothes you wouldn't mind getting wrecked or dirty. I always go to thrift shops for clothes and shoes to wear. Make sure you eat a good breakfast, drink plenty of water, and pack a lunch.

Would you rather be an Olympic gold medalist or Nobel Peace Winner? Why? I would rather win a Nobel Peace Prize over being an Olympic Gold Medalist. I used to be an athlete, but I am no longer that. Now I would rather (gain) something from the research I plan to do that would benefit the whole world.

Emma

What tips would give someone who wants to volunteer? Don't be intimidated by building a house. The people in charge give a lot of instructions and allow you to feel safe and (confident in) what you're doing.

What's one skill you'd love to learn instantly? I would love to learn how to draw or paint.

Would you rather sew your own clothes or grow your own food? I would rather sew my own clothes because I already enjoy crocheting and making clothes that way.

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and update a long-range plan for the organization, oversee board and committee meetings, act as an official board spokesperson, and recruit new members.

“I was very fortunate to work with Anne during my time as vice president,” Michael said. “In addition to working tirelessly in her role on the board, she also was a very active and successful volunteer and fundraiser. I only hope that I can continue the same efforts in achieving those goals.”

Tiffany Tranghese accepted the vice president position. In this role, Tiffany is expected to attend all board and executive committee meetings, know the organization and board president’s responsibilities, and step in to cover the president’s role when Michael cannot fulfill the task. As vice president, Tiffany will also chair at least one committee and carry out any special assignments given by the president.

Tiffany said she is so excited for the opportunity to serve as vice president and learned a great deal from former president Anne.

“Anne truly has a passion for this organization, she has made an incredible impact in the community. I can only hope to do the same,” she said. “I am looking forward to



Robin Olejarz,
GSHFH Board Clerk



Ian Coddington,
GSHFH Board Treasurer



Nadine Maggi,
GSHFH At large

working closely with Michael and continuing the mission.”

GSHFH’s most tenured board member with a leadership position and previous treasurer Robin, handed off her reins

to Ian and accepted the role of clerk. Within her new position, Robin will record the minutes of each meeting, take attendance, sign certain documents, and track each board member’s term. Robin has been a board member since December 2018.

Ian is now board

treasurer. Among his responsibilities are custody of the organization’s funds and securities. He may receive, deposit, or disburse it under the direction of the board of directors. Ian is responsible for keeping full and accurate accounts of the GSHFH’s finances and reporting

reports/returns as required by the Internal Revenue Service and state taxing authorities in a timely manner. He must also keep a true balance sheet of Greater Springfield Habitat’s expenses and statement of activity at the close of each fiscal year for the board of directors.

“With my background in accounting, I wanted the treasurer position to use my skills to better assist the organization in understanding the financial picture and hopefully make better decisions,” said Ian, who is a senior associate at Meyers Brothers Kalicka, a local certified public accounting firm. “My impression of Greater Springfield Habitat is an organization that cares about its community and is willing to put in the work to see its towns and cities grow with deserving families.”

Nadine accepted the role of “At large,” which means she provides broad board support and acts as a liaison for the group.

“I will assist the greater board to ensure we are meeting the needs of the organization while continuing to bring new ideas forward. In this role, my hope is that I can continue to be a catalyst to help the community we serve and make a positive difference impact on families in need.”

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”
*-- Ian Coddington,
GSHFH Board of Directors treasurer*