

Honor President Carter's Habitat legacy, donate



President James "Jimmy" Carter

Thirty-ninth US President James "Jimmy" Carter is a hero to Habitat for Humanity International and began volunteering for our philanthropic organization in 1984. It's because of his efforts to bring awareness and publicity to the mission that builds strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter, that millions have benefitted through volunteering or homeownership. Today, we honor him, his legacy, and send prayers to his wife Rosalynn and their family. President Carter recently entered hospice care.

President Carter is often confused as being the founder of Habitat. He is not. He is a staunch and avid volunteer. Since March 1984, he and Mrs. Carter have been involved in many quick-turnaround construction projects known as "Carter Work Projects." Their first was in New York City's

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Greater Springfield
Habitat
for Humanity®

June 2023



Top and bottom right: Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity Intern Stephon Henderson creates and posts messages about advocacy and volunteering for the organization's various social media platforms.

Stephon Henderson, 18, is a senior at Springdale Education Center in Chicopee. He is also a Marketing and Communications intern at Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity and began the internship in early March. He graduates June 15 and will become a sheet metal apprentice.

To read his feature article about the internship, go to Page 4.



GSHFH Board of Directors welcomes two new members

Welcome to the Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) Board of Directors, Katie Shea and Dominic “Dom” Santaniello. The two Western Massachusetts natives said they have long known about the nonprofit organization and want to contribute to an agency that gives back to the community.

Katie Shea comes to Greater Springfield Habitat from Chicopee and works full-time at the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission where she serves as the educational outreach manager. Dom lives in Feeding Hills and works in the real estate and sanitation business. He co-owns Naples Realty Group, Naples Home Buyers, and Naples Waste Removal.

“I really believe in GSHFH’s mission to strengthen our community through homeownership,” said Katie. “Additionally, the board at GSHFH takes an active role in the work of the organization, including assisting with builds and helping with events.”

Dom agreed.

“I am committed to giving back to the community and feel that the overall mission of GSHFH has a lot of positive overlap with what we do at Naples Home Buyers,” Dom said.

As members of the board, Katie said she would like to be a part of planning, outreach, and fundraising to help more local families become homeowners. Dom said he would like to get involved in the financial side and assist with the sourcing of new project opportunities.

“I would also like to leverage the Naples network to raise more awareness and donations for the organization,” Dom said.

Katie and Dom were both recommended for the

board by current members. Mckenzie Russell-Masterson suggested Katie.

“I thought Katie would be a great fit due to her passion for the Greater Springfield community,” Mckenzie said. “Katie grew up in Springfield and worked with children and teens alike – helping them succeed in their education. She now works with the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission,



Katie Shea



Dominic “Dom” Santaniello

where she works hard to ensure residents are provided adequate and clean water resources. She’s

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SPOTLIGHT ON

Katie Shea
Board member
of Chicopee, MA

How old are the oldest pair of shoes in your closet? 10 years

Would you eat an insect for \$100? Definitely not!

What movie can you watch over and over again? “Murder Mystery”

Dragons or aliens? Dragons

What’s something unusual you think everyone should try at least once? Why? Singing karaoke at the top of your lungs. It’s so fun (even if you’re a terrible singer like me!)

SPOTLIGHT ON

Dom Santaniello
Board member
of Feeding Hills, MA

Science fiction: love it or hate it? Hate it.

If you could have any famous artist - dead or alive - create a work of art for you, who would you commission? Pablo Picasso

What cheesy song do you know all of the lyrics? “A Thousand Miles,” by Vanessa Carlton.

Would you rather be known for moonwalking or dad dancing? Dad dancing

Wear silly socks or silly hats? Silly socks

Volunteer of the Month



William J Dean Vocational Technical High School Class of 2023 Carpentry students

In March 2023, Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) welcomed a new group of volunteers to the Chestnut Street, Holyoke, build site. The group then returned several days each month. It was a mutually beneficial relationship. William J Dean Vocational



Several William J Dean Vocational Technical High School’s Senior Carpentry Class students pose with their new safety glasses and Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity t-shirts. They stand with their teacher Robert Craig (back row in black sweatshirt). Ceasar Torres poses in front of Mr. Craig, third student from the left.

Technical High School’s Senior Carpentry Class in Holyoke gained invaluable hands-on experience and GSHFH got help moving the project forward. In June, the class graduated, but not before one student reflected on his experience.

Ceasar Torres said he learned about Greater Springfield Habitat during a field trip to the build site. He volunteered on four occasions and said he greatly appreciated the safe educational environment, knowing it was OK to make mistakes.

“My favorite memory was building the interior and working with rebar,” Ceasar said.

In his own words ...

What tips would you give other volunteers? Dress for the part and be ready to work.

Would you rather have a quiet dinner with a few friends or a party with 100 friends? Party with 100 friends to let loose.

Crusts or no crusts on your sandwiches? Crusts for protein and grain.

How long do you think you could last in “The Hunger Games”? Eight hours!



Ceasar Torres, 18,
of Holyoke

High schooler tackles Habitat marketing/communications internship

By **Stephon Henderson**
GSHFH Intern

Opportunity is a gift for those who seize it. Springdale Education Center (SEC) recently received an opportunity to give a student an internship at Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity's (GSHFH) administrative office in West Springfield. Over the course of four months, the Habitat Marketing and Communications manager taught marketing and photography. The student used his new skills to create social media and a newsletter story for the organization.

"I think the internship gives students an opportunity to learn skills outside of their wheelhouse and it shows Habitat is not only about construction," said Brandy O'Brien, GSHFH Marketing and Communications manager.

Brandy and Young Adult Teacher Trina Winans from SEC got together and came up with an idea to allow a high schooler to participate in an internship at Habitat. The student visits the administrative office twice a week for four months. Brandy and Trina brought the idea to Jill Brewer, SEC educational administrator and director, and she approved it.

"I pushed this internship forward because I saw great potential for Stephon's growth in the area of marketing," Trina said.

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit that helps those who can't get a house through traditional means purchase an affordable home. Habitat also offers home repairs for lower income individuals and veterans at a discounted rate.

At the start of the internship,



Above left and right: Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity Intern Stephon Henderson creates about the organization and volunteering for the agency, which he later uploaded to several social media platforms.

there were lessons about how companies and Habitat express themselves through colors, logos, and designs. The internship also showed how Habitat finds their target audiences, such as people who want to have a house and how staff makes content for those target audiences.

Brandy showed how to take proper photographs and how to edit those pictures. The internship also taught other topics, like interviewing and posting to social media.

One of the major lessons of the internship was taking pictures at the Habitat construction site in Holyoke. Afterward, the next step was to edit those photos using Photoshop and create a post through a design website called Canva. The posts were put up on social media websites, such as Instagram and Facebook. At the construction site, there were lessons on how to perform interviews and ask the right questions.

"I love mentoring and teaching and, if I can, impart some useful skills that not only benefit the students but also help me in the marketing department," Brandy said.

While on the work site in Holyoke,

there was also an opportunity to learn about construction. The crew working on a house offered some insightful lessons like basic building skills, how to cut wood, and taking measurements. They showed how the house was framed and gave an explanation to the building process.

Some of the topics Habitat taught had a degree of difficulty, like coming up with questions, doing the interviews, and trying to find the right wording for a social media post.

When asked if the internship is beneficial for other high school students, Jill said, "Absolutely! I think it provides students with real-life experience and that it can lead to a future job in the community."

"I think (the internship) provides students with real-life experience and that it can lead to a future job in the community."
- Jill Brewer,
Springdale Education Center educational administrator and director

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habitatspringfield.org/projects

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We improve lives when we reduce the #CostOfHome.



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smart, knowledgeable, diligent, and truly wants to make a difference in Greater Springfield so I thought she would make a great addition to the board."

GSHFH Board of Directors Vice President Tiffany Tranghese proposed Dom, who volunteers for several residential housing and commercial real estate boards.

"I recommend Dom because he has a strong work ethic and passion to give back to his community," Tiffany said. "He has been a family friend for many years and has always been reliable and supportive. He has built multiple successful businesses in Springfield and will be able to contribute in many ways to Habitat."



Promotion ending June 30



HOPS for HABITAT Beer Passport



habitatsspringfield.org/hops-for-habitat

Thank you for supporting Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity.



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Top: President James "Jimmy" Carter
Bottom: President Carter (left) and his wife Rosalynn Carter.

Lower East Side to renovate an abandoned building for affordable housing. Every year until 2020, the Carters volunteered with Habitat and more than 104,000 volunteers across the country and in 14 other nations to build and repair Habitat 4,390 homes.

Because of President Carter's advocacy, our affiliate has thrived. To date, Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity has constructed 74 homes in Hampden County and repaired 49 homes. Approximately 435 volunteers engaged in more than 13,000 hours of service in fiscal 2021.

We thank President Carter for his work and contributions. Help us to continue his legacy by supporting our mission. Help us empower more low-income families reach their dream of affordable homeownership.

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Greater Springfield **Habitat for Humanity**

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