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**Holiday Gingerbread
House Contest is back.**

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Greater Springfield
**Habitat
for Humanity®**

November
2021



Left: A crew from Roberts Roof works to replace Ludlow homeowner Frank's roof on Nov. 10.
Right: Frank stands beside the Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity Veterans Build sign.

Ludlow veteran benefits from Home Preservation program

“It’s a home run for me,” said 78-year-old Frank, an honorably discharged private 2nd class from the Army National Guard, who sat on his front stoop Wednesday morning and reflected on the new roof he purchased through Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH). Employees from Roberts Roofs, Inc. of Belchertown, hustle around him.

Frank also speaks about his family home, Ludlow, and his rich personal history. He talks of the mills and the famous “jute” factories that spun the plant fiber into strong, coarse threads such as

rope. He talks of the streets in his neighborhood that are named after places in England, from which the jute company originated. He also mentions “Frank’s Diner,” his father’s establishment, which he ran until the COVID-19 pandemic struck.

Following his military service, Frank returned to his beloved hometown, where he married and raised three children. Today, his grown children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren live in Hampden County and he maintains his family’s home. Due to pandemic restrictions, his business

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Fall Festival is successful following COVID-19 pandemic

Fall Festival grossed \$34,500. The November event was Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity's (GSHFH) largest fundraiser since the COVID-19 pandemic began. While it is not as much as was raised in previous years, it's a significant step forward.

The evening event held at Twin Hills Country Club in Longmeadow offered guests samples from six food vendors, including Elegant Affairs, Cerrato's Pastry Shop, Nadim's Downtown Mediterranean Grill, and Twin Hills Country Club. Additionally, the approximately 125 visitors in attendance were encouraged to bid on more than 50 auction items. Three of which were offered in a live auction, and included two tickets to the Nov. 11 Bruins game; an outdoor pizza oven; and a stay at the Red Lion Inn in the Berkshires. The remaining pieces were sold through a silent auction.

John O'Farrell, GSHFH Fundraising and Volunteer

coordinator, said while the fundraiser and its goals are important, the impact of how our mission affects 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 Festival, call John at (413) 739-5503. If you would like to support the mission and empower Greater Springfield Habitat to help more families, donate at habitatspringfield.org/donate

To relive the evening, check out these pictures from photographer Marie Ciosek. To see more event photos, go to habitatspringfield.org/fall-festival



SPOTLIGHT ON

Myra Quick
ReStore manager
of Chicopee, MA



How long have you been a staff member? I started Sept. 1, 2021.

What attracted you to the position? I love the mission of the organization and that ReStore supports that mission as well as providing a service to the community.

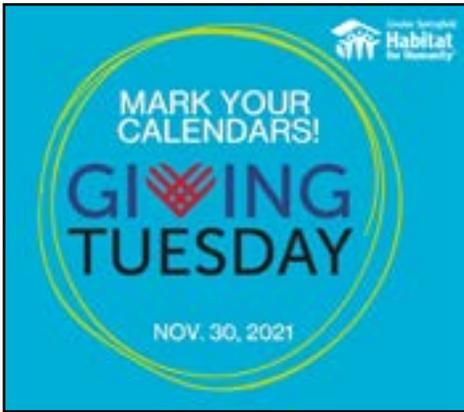
What song always gets you out on the dance floor? "I Want to Dance with Somebody (Who Loves Me)"

What fictional character do you relate to most? Why? Scarlett O'Hara. I make it through anything.

What is a phobia of yours? Scorpions

If you could meet anyone, who would you like to meet and why? Barack Obama, because he is amazing!

What's something most people like, but you don't? Sushi



In honor of Giving Tuesday, please create a Facebook post asking your network to donate to Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity. It's easy.

1. When creating a post, click on the three dots in the "Add to your post" section.
2. Select the "Raise Money" icon.
3. Type and choose "Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity" in the search bar.
4. Type your personal message and click "Post."



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suffered and he ultimately closed the doors of the diner for good. Frank, a cancer survivor who is currently dealing with heart issues, hasn't financially recovered from the loss of his income and needed help replacing his dilapidated roof that sported a hole and a leak in the attic. The job, which would have cost approximately \$14,000, was out of his price range.

His daughter reached out to Habitat for Humanity International's Veteran Build department, which put her in touch with Greater Springfield Habitat. GSHFH then reached out to Roberts Roofs.

"This is our first project with Habitat and we'd like to do more in the future. We're all for supporting its mission and we want to do whatever we can," said Brian Blanchette, vice president of Operations at Roberts Roofs.

"We want to thank Roberts Roofs for partnering with GSHFH to help this deserving veteran preserve his home for future gatherings with his family," said Deborah O'Mara, GSHFH Family Services manager. "Frank's children and their families come to visit often and now they can do so knowing their father's home is well protected from the elements."

