



Our offices will be closed Thanksgiving Day (Thursday, Nov 23) and the following day (Friday, Nov 24). Our offices will reopen Monday, Nov 27, at 9am.



Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity®

NEWS

November 2023




A Bath Fitter of Greenfield replaces the bathtub in a veteran homeowner’s primary bathroom and replaces it with a walk-in shower.

Agawam veteran benefits from Home Preservation program

A 91-year-old Agawam veteran is the newest Hampden County homeowner to benefit from Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity’s (GSHFH) Veterans Build Home Preservation program. Renovations on Shor’ty’s home began this past summer and when the project

finished, he gained a new fence, electric range and oven, updated electrical panel, and a walk-in shower for an affordable price.

Veterans Build is a Habitat for Humanity national initiative to provide housing solutions, volunteer, and employment opportunities for US veterans,

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Highlights from Fall Festival



Upload your pictures to Facebook or Instagram and tag us.
Facebook: @GSHFH
Instagram: @greaterspringfieldhfh

Stay tuned for more event pictures. They will be posted at habitatspringfield.org/fall-festival

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military service members, and their families. The program serves limited-income homeowners who are affected by age, disability, or family circumstances, and struggle to maintain the condition and utility of their homes.

The home preservation program provides affordable micro-loans to qualifying homeowners who need help with accessibility modifications, home weatherization, general home repairs, yard cleanup, and landscaping. GSHFH works alongside volunteers and homeowners to make repairs.

“What I like the most about working with our veteran homeowners is hearing their stories about their time in the service and the pride they have. Shor’ty has a big personality and it wasn’t surprising to learn that he performed with the United States Organizations (USO) while in Korea and continued to perform once he was back states side,” said Aimee Giroux, Greater Springfield Habitat executive director. “As a fan of the blues, I love hearing about his music career and the people he has worked with.”

Shor’ty (pronounced Shor-tay) purchased the 1957 ranch home in 2020 and kept it in good condition. Only minor renovations were needed to allow him to safely age in place. Among them was the removal of a fallen tree, which wasn’t in the original scope but when a storm this summer

took the tree down and portions of the fence Habitat added that to the work it did. Distinctive Tree Care of South Windsor, Connecticut donated their time to remove the tree. AmeriCorps NCCC River 4 Team replaced the fence that had been damaged. The gas range and oven were replaced with an electric option. These repairs occurred over the summer.

The bathroom modification happened in late October. The tub and shower were replaced with a walk-in shower with a safety seat and grab bars donated by Bath Fitter of Greenfield. This makes the bathroom much more accessible for Shor’ty.

Shor’ty, an Army private first-class served three years and earned three medals before his honorable discharge in 1956. Shor’ty qualified for the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Veterans Housing Rehabilitation and Modification Program (VHRMP). The program gives competitive grants to nonprofits that serve lower-



Agawam veteran homeowner Shor’ty’s new electric range and stove.

income disabled veterans. The grants can be used to rehabilitate eligible veterans’ primary residences.

Diane, Shor’ty’s caretaker and the mother of his three grown children, said they learned about Habitat from the local Department of Veterans Affairs and the representatives passed along the phone number to the Greater Springfield affiliate. Diane reached out and spoke with Aimee, and as they say, the rest is history.

“Aimee is the best. She’s now part of the family and Shor’ty hugs her when he greets her. She’s good people. Habitat too,” Diane said. “I like Aimee’s personality and her concern for people is what makes her so special.

Welcome, Qunnell Arnold

Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) recently welcomed its newest board member Qunnell Arnold to the team. Qunnell, a Western Massachusetts native hailing from Sixteen Acres and Wilbraham, is well-versed in giving back to the community and understands good finances.



Qunnell Arnold

Qunnell, an account manager and independent financial services representative for FR Insurance and Benefits Group. “I am here to serve others in life as my business and career to helping someone in need and join a good cause GSHFH has done some pretty good work in the community and I am looking forward to

giving a helping hand.” Qunnell said he was introduced to the GSHFH board of directors by former and present members who asked if he’d consider joining its ranks. Among them was Tiffany Tranghese, Greater Springfield Habitat board of directors’ vice president.

“I nominated Qunnell because he has a strong commitment to giving back to his community,” Tiffany said. “He is a dedicated, hardworking individual who is always willing to help others.”

Learn more about who we are and what we do!
habitatspringfield.org

SPOTLIGHT ON Qunnell Arnold Board member of Springfield, MA

Would you rather visit a place with dinosaurs or dragons? Wouldn’t they both be a part of the same family group? I don’t think I would want to be near anything like this, but if I had to choose - dragons. (Big Game of Thrones/House of Dragon TV show fan)

Apple cider or pumpkin spice latte? Pumpkin spice

What’s the tallest building in which you’ve been to the top? Rockefeller in NYC

If you were a superhero, who would be your archnemesis? A female superhero. They are a male’s kryptonite.

If you could star in a movie with any famous actor/actress, who would you choose as your costar? Why? Mike Epps (comedian). The guy is just overall funny. It would be a good time; I’m sure a bunch of laughter.

Help Habitat for Humanity International

From Nov 9-12, players of the Property Brothers Home Design mobile game can play a limited time event to benefit Habitat for Humanity International. For each player who completes the event, Storm8 will donate \$1, up to \$10,000.



From Nov 1-30, Mattel will donation 1% of purchase price (before taxes) received from the sale of certain Barbie Dream House products to Habitat for Humanity International, up to \$60,000.

