



Our office will be closed
Christmas Day and Kwanzaa
(Dec 25 and 26).

Our offices will reopen
Monday, Dec 29, at 9am.



Greater Springfield
Habitat
for Humanity

NEWS

**December
2025**



**"It's beginning to look
a lot like Christmas"**



Photo credit: today.com

The 2025 Rockefeller Center Christmas tree is lit up with more than 50,000 multicolored lights and 5 miles of wire wrapped around it. A three-dimensional star, designed by architect Daniel Libeskind in 2018, is perched on top. The star weighs approximately 900 pounds, has 70 spikes, and is covered in 3 million crystals.

Story on Page 3



Baskets of Cheer RAFFLE

From Dec. 3-18, make a donation and be entered to win a basket of cheer.
*Must be 21 to enter.




Winners will be drawn on Friday, Dec. 19.

Iconic Christmas tree benefits Habitat for Humanity

The season of giving is here and in true community spirit, many will say no one does Christmastime quite like New York City or Habitat for Humanity. Each year, a Norway Spruce is donated, decorated, and displayed outside of Rockefeller Center in Manhattan. After the tree is taken down in the New Year, the trunk is milled into lumber and donated to Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) where it will be used for a future build.

The partnership between Real Estate Company Tishman Speyer, which owns and operates Rockefeller Center, and HFHI formed in 2007. The collaboration inspired “The Carpenter’s Gift,” by David Rubel, a children’s book that follows the journey of a young boy who wished for a decent home and how it comes true in an unexpected way. Books are available for \$10 each at Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) by calling (413) 739-5503.

“The heartwarming tale told in ‘The Carpenter’s Gift’ brings together – through beautiful illustrations and a moving, multi-generational story – two great traditions: the Rockefeller Center tree and the neighbor-helping-neighbor program of Habitat for Humanity,” said late President James “Jimmy” Carter in a previous interview.

“The tree annually brightens the Christmas season for millions who see it. Habitat houses brighten the lives of families all over the world – for those who live in them and those who build them.”

Since 2007, trees have been harvested from and used in Mid-Atlantic and New England states, with the exception of the first tree. That spruce came from Connecticut, and its lumber was used in Mississippi.

This year’s Norway Spruce hails from East Greenbush, a suburb of Albany, New York. It’s 74 feet tall, 45 feet wide, and weighs roughly 11 tons.

The tree is topped with more than 50,000 multi-colored lights and 5 miles of wire wrapped around it. A three-dimensional star, designed by architect Daniel Libeskind in 2018, is perched on top. The star weighs approximately 900 pounds, has 70 spikes, and is covered in 3 million crystals.

“That’s so cool,” said Trina Winans, Greater Springfield Habitat volunteer and supporter.

GSHFH intern Nate Shlosser agreed.

“That is a very kind and generous thing,” he said. “I’m very thankful for it because it means another family will have the wood needed for a home.”

The tree caught Rockefeller Center head gardener Erik Pauze’s attention after a picture of the spruce reached him via



Photo credit: The Center Magazine
The 2025 Rockefeller Center Christmas tree, before it was cut down, on its property in East Greenbush, New York. Owner Judy Russ said donating the tree is a way to honor her late husband, Dan, and other family members who have passed away.

a Rockefeller Center security supervisor. Erik visited the tree at Judy Russ’s family property in East Greenbush.

“As soon as I saw it, I knew it was perfect,” Erik said.

Erik returned to the Russ property several times to water and care for the tree.

The spruce arrived at Rockefeller Center on Nov. 8.

The 2025 Rockefeller Center Christmas tree is lit daily from 5am to midnight until mid-January 2026 when it’s turned off at 10pm. There are a few exceptions. On Christmas Day, the tree is lit for 24 hours. On New Year’s Eve, it is lit from 5am to 9pm.



Join us in Holyoke for a **HOME DEDICATION** ceremony

358 Chestnut St | December 22 at 1:30pm



Holiday To-Do List



Mail a Letter to Santa letting him know you stuffed the stockings



Hang Stockings stuffed with Habitat socks and beer passports



Make a donation to enter the "Baskets of Cheer" gift raffle

habitatspringfield.org