Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity®

November | 2026

From the Foundation

New home construction underway



Eversource volunteers spend a day at Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity's Hancock Street build site in Springfield constructing supports for the subfloor.

A new path to homeownership began taking shape in October when Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) broke ground on a building site in Springfield.

The four-bedroom, 1,530-square-foot colonial home is near the intersection of Hancock and Clark streets.

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A young pumpkin painter smiles at the camera as she puts the finishing touches on her work at Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity's second-annual Habitat Family Fun Fest held in October at Vanished Valley Brewing Co.

Building community through fun

A blustery October afternoon couldn't put a chill on this community's generosity. Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity's (GSHFH) second annual Habitat Family Fun Fest raised approximately $16,000 to help local families build and preserve safe, affordable places to call home.

Held Oct. 17 at Vanished Valley Brewing Co. in Ludlow, the event brought together

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neighbors, businesses, vendors, and community partners for an afternoon of music, activities, and connection. Despite the chilly weather, supporters bundled up and joined the fun, showing just how much a community can accomplish when it comes together.

"Raising roughly $16,000 despite the weather is a great result, and we're grateful to everyone who contributed," said Aimee Giroux, GSHFH executive director. "These funds help support our home construction and repair projects in Hampden County. Fun Fest also gave us a chance to talk with people about our work and how they can get involved."

That spirit of participation made the day a success. To our sponsors – Florence Bank, Dietz & Company Architects, Westfield Bank, Tandem Bagel Co, Associated Building Wreckers, Home & Hearth Remodeling and Restoration, IBEW Local 2324, and Able Tool and Equipment – your support helped cover event costs and kept admission free for the community. We appreciate your investment in Habitat's work and at this annual gathering.

To our performers, community partners, and vendors, including Etienne Perley, Donaly Designs, Matt's Crazy Designs, Grateful Threadz, Quabbin Creations, HPC Soapery, Cheryl's Diamond Delights, Hartsprings, Rick's Place, and Stompin' Boots, thank you for sharing your resources, talents, and businesses with our guests and giving everyone plenty to enjoy throughout the afternoon.

To our host, Vanished Valley Brewing Co, volunteers, raffle donors, and everyone who attended, thank you for bringing good company and great cheer to a chilly afternoon.

"It was such a great event this year, and seeing the community come together like that was really special," said Michael Clemente, GSHFH board president. "We are so grateful to everyone who attended and for their generous donations that help support our mission. From the pumpkin painting and the Home Depot building station for the kids to the music and all the wonderful craft vendors, there was so much to enjoy."



Volunteers from Dietz & Company Architects, a platinum sponsor at Habitat Family Fun Fest, manage the pumpkins for painting.



Etienne Perley, performs traditional Andean music using pan pipes at Habitat Family Fun Fest.



Photo by Marie Ciosek, Photosynthesis

A family stops to pose for a picture while wandering the grounds of Vanished Valley Brewing Co during Habitat Family Fun Fest.











1. Eli Patenaude (left) and Peyton Dias perform at October's Habitat Family Fun Fest at Vanished Valley Brewing Co in Ludlow.

2. Stompin' Boots dancers teach fairgoers line dancing.

3. Shoppers visit Mimi's Blessings: Soy Wax Candles and More. (*Photo by Marie Ciosek, Photosynthesis*)

4. Two young woodworkers show off their newly-constructed Home Depot witch candy boxes.

5. Candice Somar, Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity board member, shops at the raffle table.



Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity®

A typical Habitat home.

2 HOMEOWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES in HOLYOKE

If your family is in need of better housing, is willing to partner with us, and pay an affordable mortgage, you may qualify for homeownership. If your household income falls within the limits listed below, apply today.

Family size	Minimum income	Maximum income
3	$41,400	$71,000
4	$46,050	$78,900
5	$49,700	$85,200
6	$53,400	$91,500
7	$57,050	$97,850

Scan QR code or click link to apply.
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Application deadline: January 11, 2027

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity provides housing opportunities regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, physical or mental disability, familial status, or any other classification protected by applicable federal, state, or local law.

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A typical Habitat home.

VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSIONS

Two homes in Holyoke.
Two opportunities to become a homeowner.

Join a virtual information session to learn how to qualify, help build, and purchase a home through Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity.

Nov 16:	Dec 2:
12 to 1 PM	5:30 to 6:30 PM

Register today: bit.ly/4z86bpe

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"Every new Habitat home begins with a community willing to invest in a family's future," said Aimee Giroux, GSHFH executive director. "We're grateful to the Springfield Community Preservation Committee, The Beveridge Family Foundation, Community Bank, and Charlesbank Homes Foundation for helping bring this home to life. Their support helps create an opportunity for a family to build equity, find stability, and put down lasting roots."

Chantal, who was selected through GSHFH's homeownership lottery in June, will purchase the home upon completion.

"We have had to move three different times. One apartment was affected by a fire. Another became too small for our family, and at another home, the landlord decided to sell the property. We had to move again," Chantal said of herself and her three children. "Each move meant packing our belongings, finding another place to live, and starting over again."

Chantal, who is a housekeeper at a nursing home, said she learned about Greater Springfield Habitat online and through people who have benefitted from the program.

"I applied because I want a safe, stable, and affordable home for my family," she said. "I want my children to have a place they can call 'home.'"

Chantal immigrated to the United States in 2012 when her sons were 7 and 10 years old, and her daughter was 3. Before that, the family had lived as refugees in Rwanda after Chantal was forced to leave her native Democratic Republic of Congo because of war and conflict. In Western Massachusetts, she faced the challenges of adjusting to a new way of life while working to provide a stable home for her children.



"Chantal has worked hard to create opportunities for her children through every challenge and every move," said Olga Callirgos, Greater Springfield Habitat Homeowner Services manager. "As she works toward purchasing her home, she's building on that commitment. We're excited to walk alongside her as her family prepares for a future with a place to call their own."

Volunteer opportunities are coming soon. To stay informed, visit habitatspringfield.org/volunteer

To see progress pictures, go to habitatspringfield.org/hancock-st-springfield



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