



First-ever ICF home

(insulated concrete form)
360 Chestnut St, Holyoke

Mission: Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) is a housing ministry dedicated to strengthening communities by empowering low-income families to change their lives and the lives of future generations through homeownership and home preservation opportunities. This is accomplished by working in partnership with diverse people, from all walks of life, to build simple, decent, affordable housing. Since 1987, GSHFH has built or repaired 129 homes in Hampden County.

PROJECT FUNDERS

HOLYOKE

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)



VOLUNTEERS: CORPORATIONS AND GROUPS

MassMutual
Springfield College
RISE/GTI Grows
Rotary Club of Springfield
Merrill Lynch
AmeriCorps NCCC River 4 Team
AAA Northeast
Farm Credit East
Sunrun Solar
MGM Springfield
Westover Air Reserve Base
PSRB Law Firm
Appleton Corp
OMG/Fasten Master
UBS Financial Services
Center for Human Development
Key Bank
Morris Group
Commonwealth Care Alliance

Western New England University Society of Women Engineers
Liberty Bank
Community Works
Naples Realty Group
Liberty Mutual
Holyoke High School Dean Technical Campus
Roger L Putnam Vocational Technical Academy

CONSTRUCTION TEAM

Aimee Giroux, Executive director
Joe Schebel, Interim Construction manager
Sheri Green, Former Construction manager
Mary Melchiskey, Former Construction Site supervisor
Edgar Herrera, Construction staff
Violetta Melendez, Construction staff
Rachel Leahy, Former Construction staff



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FAQs

Q: What makes an ICF home more energy efficient than a traditional wood frame house?

A: Since an ICF house has foam on both sides of the concrete, it provides increased thermal mass. This means wall temperatures won't change throughout a day because the foam eliminates the gaps in regular construction that can cause cold spots. It'll cost less to heat and cool the home, which leads to energy savings typically sparing a homeowner 30-70% on heating, cooling, and dehumidification expenses.

Q: How was the ICF frame assembled?

A: Greater Springfield Habitat's ICF build utilized Integraspec blocks, which consists of 2-inch foam panels that are separated by spacers. The blocks were stacked together much like children's plastic building blocks. Once assembled, concrete was poured between the foam panels. The 6-inch concrete core along with the foam panels created a super insulated and resilient home. The panels were used for all of the exterior walls from the foundation to the second story.

Q: What are other benefits to building an ICF home?

A: The foam panels are made from recycled material. ICF walls do not off-gas, whereas conventional walls sheathed with oriented strand board (OSB) off-gas through glues and resin. ICF walls are resistant to mold and rot, which provides a better living environment for those suffering from allergens or asthma. Also, due to the rising cost of lumber, this method significantly reduces the need for wood for framing and sheathing the exterior and less trees are cut down.

BLOGS

• [GSHFH introduces "Build with Strength" to community](#)

• [Habitat begins ICF build](#)

• [MA Habitat to Humanity affiliates embrace energy-savings ideas "Strength" to community](#)

PICTURE GALLERY

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