

Greater Springfield
Habitat for Humanity

NEW
VOLUNTEER
 registration & calendar

View calendar to see
 available options

Greater Springfield
Habitat for Humanity

Sept 14
 10am-2pm
 East Longmeadow
 High School

East Longmeadow and Longmeadow
 work sites only

**EMPTY, CLEAN
 ALUMINUM
 CANS WANTED**

Recyclable soda bottles too!

Greater Springfield
Habitat for Humanity

**VOLUNTEER
 OPPORTUNITY!**

Volunteer Services Coordinator

For one year, you can get paid to build sustainable solutions in a community, gain valuable hands-on experience, and prepare for your future. This full-time AmeriCorps service position offers a great opportunity to make a real impact in the lives of others while building your own knowledge and skill set.

habitat.org
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Greater Springfield
Habitat for Humanity

**Equity in housing
 is achievable,
 and better public policies can
 play a key role in making it
 happen.**

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Greater Springfield
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Make an impact for years to come.
 (877) 277-4344
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Greater Springfield
**Habitat
 for Humanity**

NEWS

**September
 2024**



Holyoke's Appleton Corp volunteers take a quick break to smile at the camera. They're working at the Dwight Street, Springfield, build site.

Help wanted at GSHFH

Volunteers essential to mission

Volunteering is not just an opportunity offered at Habitat for Humanity, it's the soul of the nonprofit organization. Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) can't function without volunteers. In fact, there's just three paid construction positions and three administration staffers at the affiliate. Volunteers make up the remainder of the team.

On average, Greater Springfield Habitat builds one to three homes a year and

takes on a half dozen home preservation projects for low-income seniors who want to age in place, limited-income families and veterans. The affiliate also attends several community events, hosts fundraisers and projects that support recycling and green building, workshops on financial stability, and many administrative tasks in the West Springfield office.

"I was aware of Jimmy

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Latest round of Novelis Affiliate Recycling Program to end October 31

We're almost there! Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity's (GSHFH) big push to collect aluminum cans for a grant ends Oct. 31. These days, the affiliate is working to raise just 217 pounds to lock in a \$1,500 bonus. It has already secured the minimum requirement of 500 pounds and more than half of the extra 500 pounds.

The revised Novelis Affiliate Recycling Program kicked off in April and the premise is simple. Collect a minimum of 500 pounds of aluminum to earn a \$2,500 grant. Novelis, an international leader in aluminum rolling and recycling, provided bins and encouragement.

"When we introduced the program knowing we'd have to collect 500 pounds of aluminum, we were nervous. But, the community surprised us. We hit the initial goal in July," said Brandy O'Brien, GSHFH Marketing and Communications manager. "Since then, we've worked to collect an extra 500 pounds and the community has not let us down. They amaze us every week with their bagged donations."

The Novelis Affiliate Recycling Program debuted in May 2021 when Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) and Novelis introduced a collaboration and invited Habitat affiliates to participate. Each quarter, donated cans were weighed and the weight was reported



The latest load of aluminum cans is packed into the Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity van to be dropped off at the recycling site.

back to Novelis. A large sum was awarded to the affiliate that collects the most cans and a smaller amount is donated to participating organizations. Through these efforts, Greater Springfield Habitat earned roughly \$6,000 and kept many cans out of the landfill.

The funds acquired from these challenges have primarily been put toward home preservation projects, namely ramps for limited-income seniors aging in place. It's estimated an 8-foot steel and aluminum modular ramp with handrails can be made from approximately 2,400 cans, according to a source at Able Home Accessibility. Since 2021, GSHFH has

installed three ramps.

Several area businesses have participated in the initiative by allowing a bin in their businesses and donating the contents to GSHFH. They include: All States Transport (AST), SR Commercial Realty, Reminder Publications, Lock and Key Realty; Pellerini, Seeley, Ryan & Blakseley; Dalton & Finegold; Shatz, Schwartz, and Fenin; and Romeo Athletics in Enfield, Connecticut.

To get your bin, call (413) 739-5503. Cans can be dropped off at 268 Cold Spring Ave in West Springfield. To schedule a pick up, call (413) 739-5503. Greater Springfield Habitat will also accept recyclable glass and plastic beverage bottles.



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Carter's role as a volunteer and I had long thought that I would like to try it. My wife, Anne, and I have done many do-it-yourself projects together as homeowners over the years so I thought it would be something I could do," said Tom Eisenman, a retiree who began volunteering at GSHFH

approximately 13 years ago. "I did like it. I've done other things besides construction, including Christmas gift wrapping, event planning, and serving on the Family Services committee. I found that people who choose to volunteer or work for Habitat tend to be very nice folks."

Construction volunteer Christopher Daly agreed. He said he's been aware of Greater Springfield Habitat for years, but it wasn't until he visited a build site

following a New England Public Media fundraising campaign held with GSHFH held in summer 2021 that he realized an opportunity

"I really enjoy working on the builds, seeing, and learning what it takes to complete a home."
- Christopher Daly
construction volunteer

to volunteer. Christopher is an on-air fund drive director for the nonprofit broadcasting station headquartered in Springfield.

"I really enjoy working on the builds, seeing, and learning what it takes to complete a home. Also, the people at the job site are terrific," Christopher said. It's a good, productive way to fill free time."

Volunteers come to Habitat for many reasons. Some are students looking to fulfill a community service graduation requirement. Others work for corporations and want to participate as a team. Some are individuals like Tom and Christopher, or part of a church

group. This year, at least a dozen corporations, vocational high school groups, and families have volunteered at Habitat.

Some, like Sue Zielenski, enjoy making a difference in the financial lives of the Greater Springfield community. Sue manages the day-to-day operations at the Bank of America Holyoke Lincoln Financial Center and frequently teaches 90-minute financial literacy seminars that started this year.

"It makes me smile when I see one of the participants is enlightened by the lesson," Sue said. "I also love the energy in the room and the participants actively engaging in the discussion."

Signing up to volunteer at Greater Springfield Habitat is simple. Visit habitatspringfield.org/volunteer, and click the "volunteer calendar" button. Select a preferred day and opportunity. Click the "register" button and follow the prompts to create a volunteer profile account.



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7
6-9 pm
TWIN HILLS COUNTRY CLUB,
 Longmeadow

- Entertainment
- Cocktail reception
- Raffles
- Exclusive auction



Tickets: \$100

habitatspringfield.org/building-dreams



Habitat Classifieds

Line ad | 2.4"x.5"
\$50/12 monthly issues

Mini ad
2.4"x1"
\$100/12 monthly issues

1-column ad
2.4"x2.9"
\$150/12 monthly issues

Advertise with Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity. Your ad could be seen by **10,000 followers** via social media, the website, and email marketing.