



# *the* Homesteader

www.hfhplymouth.org

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth, Inc.

Fall 2012

## Welcome O'Hara Family!

*By Drew Cook*

On June 9th dozens of friends, family, future neighbors and Habitat for Humanity volunteers gathered on South Pond Road to see Irene O'Hara and her two children, Joe and Reighan, take ownership of their brand new home. Everyone was gathered to dedicate, welcome and celebrate this momentous occasion.

The day began with an open house, which allowed guests to view the completed home, and partake in refreshments which were provided by a donor in memory of Maggie Donahue, a longtime Habitat supporter. The ceremony got underway at 3 p.m. with a welcoming by HFHGP president Nancy Morse, and an opening prayer by Reverend Rollin Johnson. Following these initial introductions, a special acknowledgment was provided to the Pinehills Affordable Housing Charitable Trust for their significant financial support of the South Pond Road home. In addition to the acknowledgment to the Pinehills, one of the regular construction volunteers, Joanne Re, gave two of the local neighbors a special thank you gift for their kind assistance during the construction of the home.

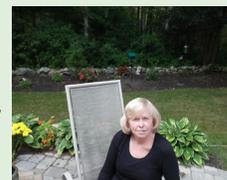
The new homeowner, Irene, was invited to say a few words as well. This was followed by a blessing of the home by Reverend Rollin Johnson, and the presentation of the house keys and bible by Arnold Thorell and Doug Ballum. Other gifts were presented to Irene to welcome her family to the new home, including two handmade quilts for Joe and Reighan. Doug Ballum, the HFHGP construction supervisor, spoke about some of the challenges of construction, and provided certificates of appreciation to all those who helped build the home. The event was concluded with a closing prayer by Arnold Thorell.



*Top Row to Bottom: Doug Ballum, Site Supervisor, Buster Main, Pinehills; John Judge, Tony Green, Deb Sedares, Pinehills; Nancy Morse, HFHGP President, Irene O'Hara and her children Reighan and Joseph, Gerre Hooker, Pinehills*

## Extraordinary Board Member: Dawn Armstrong

Dawn Armstrong came to us at the exact time when we were searching for a new Clerk/Secretary for the Board of Directors. A volunteer for the Affiliate for the past two years, her skills earned from 15 years working as an Assistant to the President of the MSPCA, as well as from 5 years working for the South Shore Hospital Foundation have enabled her to blend right in. Additionally, Dawn has been instrumental in working tirelessly on several fundraising events. We have greatly benefitted from her skill in procuring sponsorships and raffle donations for our annual events. Truly, we cannot thank Dawn enough for her dedication to our mission and look forward to many more years of service with her.





72 North Main Street  
P.O. Box 346  
Carver, MA. 02330  
(508) 866-4188

Email: hfhplymouth1@verizon.net  
Website: www.hfhplymouth.org

**Habitat ReStore**  
72 North Main Street  
P.O. Box 346  
Carver, MA. 02330  
(508) 866-4199

**Hours of Operation:**  
Wednesday 10am to 12 pm  
Thurs. thru Sat. 9am to 5pm

<http://www.hfhplymouth.org/restore>

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## President's Perspective



Greetings to all! I am pleased to say that Irene O'Hara and her family are now safely residing in their new home on South Pond Rd. in Plymouth and we are all very delighted that the home is finished. I can't tell you how grateful I am for the hundreds of professionals, volunteers and businesses that made this happen, and especially the Town of Plymouth and the Pinehills Affordable Housing Trust. Thank you one and all.

Many of you have met our interim Executive Director, Jim Middleton, who is working part time for a few months. He has been doing an excellent job and worked very hard, along with Krista, on the Capacity Building Grant to ensure that it was completed and sent in on time. Thanks to both for that effort. Jim has also been meeting with several banks and is getting very valuable advice.

We currently have several potential properties that we are pursuing, and hope to have an announcement soon on where we will build next. In the meantime, we are working diligently on our 3-5 year strategic plan as we use this 'down time' to revitalize the affiliate and develop plans for multiple builds going forward. Rest assured that much work is being accomplished behind the scenes in order to fulfill our mission of providing more affordable housing to deserving families.

## Register for our 12th Annual Golf Tournament

Here is a truism: any major non-profit organization worth its salt holds an annual golf tournament fundraiser. Most frequently, the event is run like others, a "best-ball scramble", with a meal, prizes and a whole bunch of other stuff. So why participate in Habitat of Greater Plymouth's 12th Annual Golf Tournament on October 20th if it's like all the rest?

***"These people know how to run a tournament!" "Did you see this goody bag?" "Best tournament I have EVER attended!" "You don't mind supporting a charity when it's going to such a good cause."***

Those were just some of the comments heard last year at the event held at Souther's Marsh Golf Club on the Plymouth/Carver line. And they represent some of the reasons to support HFHGP's fundraiser.

We at HFHGP really do care about your experience with us, and will do almost anything to see to it that smiles are left on your face. And we know what we're doing – this is our 12th annual tournament!! We don't try to smash your pocketbook, with an entry fee of \$95, one of the least expensive anywhere. Our event is tailored such that all levels of golfers can have a great time. The choice of golf course, Souther's Marsh, is truly a fun course to play, and you don't have to smash it 400 yards to give your team a chance at the top prize.

So why not come on out and support an organization where you know exactly where your donated dollars are going? Just ride up the street and see the beautiful "affordable housing" properties that we've built for deserving families – all in the immediate neighborhood. The date is October 20th, the fee is \$95 (after 9/15, \$85 before, a bargain for early birds!), the place is Souther's Marsh, and you can get a registration form from our office (508-866-4188) or our website ([www.hfhplymouth.org](http://www.hfhplymouth.org)).

I can guarantee you and your foursome will have a good time!!

## Meet our Interim Executive Director

Over the past few months, Habitat has been working to increase its presence in the community and expand its range as an organization. The first step in doing that was hiring an Interim Executive Director, Jim Middleton. Jim had been working with us in an advisory capacity before becoming our Interim Executive Director, helping us with strategic planning and how we can continue to grow as an organization.

Before joining us, Jim previously worked at the Cardinal Cushing Centers in Hanover and several other non-profit organizations. He has also served as a board member for a few non-profits, including his current involvement with Dream Day on Cape Cod. He has extensive experience in non-profit management, and has already brought much of that knowledge and expertise to our Affiliate.

We are excited and privileged to have Jim on our staff, and appreciate all of the hard work and dedication that he has already shown to Habitat and its mission.

## Executive Director's Corner

I am honored to have the chance to learn so much in a short time about Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth. I have known of all the great volunteers, good work and powerful mission for many years through my work with community organizations, churches, and residential programs. Until I became more involved I could not have appreciated the many ways—public and private—that Habitat works to connect people and improve the community.



As the economic and real estate environment has changed so significantly over the past few years, the changes have impacted families in many ways. Our biggest challenge now is to find land or rehab projects that will allow us to sustain our mission of building homes, lives, and communities. We are putting most of our efforts into our search for sites.

With our strategic planning well along, and some vital commitments that the Board of Directors and volunteers have made, we can see a clear path to the future. Our job now is to make our case more clearly to the public, town officials, future volunteers, and financial supporters. Thanks to outstanding community support, we hope to be able to help even more families over the years to come.

## Join us for our Energy Expo

Save the date and join us at the upcoming Energy Expo on Sunday, September 23 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The event, sponsored by Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth, the Town of Plymouth Energy Committee and Town of Plymouth Schools, will be held at the new Plymouth North High School on Obery St. in Plymouth.

Come learn about the different ways to conserve energy in your homes and businesses. There will also be a tour of the new LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified high school, slated to open this school year.

The keynote speaker will be Representative Tom Calter, and other speakers include School Superintendent Dr. Gary Maestas. There will be vendors, raffle prizes and much more.

Sign up for a free home energy audit, and a donation will be made to Habitat for each sign up. Admission to the event is free. We hope to see you there!

## Habitat is sixth largest homebuilder in U.S.

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth recently dedicated its Plymouth home, helping its national organization to rank as the sixth largest builder in the U.S., according to an annual survey completed by BUILDER magazine.

BUILDER, a publication for the residential construction industry, annually compiles data from U.S. builders and ranks them by the number of closings. Habitat built or rehabilitated 4,970 homes across the United States and is the only non-publicly traded company in the top ten ranking. The organization made an additional 2,795 house repairs to existing homes, which were not accounted for in the survey.

"I'm very proud of the work of our more than 1,500 affiliates in the U.S.," said Jonathan Reckford, Habitat for Humanity International CEO. "The fact that they are continuing to build and rehab homes in these difficult economic times is a testament to their resourcefulness and their commitment to families, affordable housing and the communities they serve. We are grateful to our donors and volunteers whose generosity makes this work possible."

Habitat ranked sixth on the list last year and first made the top 10 in 2010 as the eighth largest builder.

This year Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth completed a home on South Pond Road in Plymouth. We are currently pursuing future projects to help deserving families achieve the dream of owning their own homes.



**A Brush with Kindness**

**To request an application, please contact  
HFH of Greater Plymouth at:**

**PO Box 346  
Carver MA 02330**

**Phone: 508-866-4188  
hfhplymouth1@verizon.net**

### Volunteer Spotlight: Karen Kelley



Karen Kelley has been a Habitat volunteer since 2003. She started out as a construction volunteer and participated in her first home by helping to clear the lot, set up the foundation, apply vinyl siding, and provide interior finish work. Her dedication extended to a second project which was to build an addition to a home for an elderly handicapped person and she has since then worked consistently on four more homes. She continues her role as a member of the Construction Committee where she has been instrumental in acquiring critical donations of energy efficient materials. In 2008, she was given the 'Hammer It Home' award for long-term dedication. As a valued member of our team, she often provides leadership in working with the volunteers on all of our builds. She brings to us many talents and is a pleasure to work with.

Thank you Karen for your years of service!

### Volunteer Spotlight: Carol Johnson

Recently retired from her service with the affiliate, Carol Johnson has been a longtime supporter, friend and advocate for our Habitat families. Carol initially served as the Family Partner for several families, advocating for them during the build process and helping them adjust to life as a homeowner after they moved in. She later chaired the Family Support Committee, continuing to serve each family and their Family Partners. She also coordinated family activities such as the annual community service project and annual family picnic. While volunteering with several organizations in the community, Carol has introduced Habitat to her fellow volunteers by bringing groups to the Habitat build sites to provide lunches for the build crews. Though we will miss her kind words and soft laughs, we know that Habitat resides in Carol's heart and that she will forever be like a grandmother to our volunteers and families alike.



*Photo by Al Solomon,  
Mayflower RSVP*

## Holiday Shopping Made Easy

If you live in the area, it's likely you recently were greeted by a spunky little four year old proclaiming that SHE was getting a new house with HER OWN room! Reighan O'Hara recently greeted pretty much everyone she saw that way, such was her excitement for her family being chosen for our latest Habitat home. Indeed, our volunteers get that excited too, happily arriving every Saturday morning to a messy, sometimes muddy, sometimes snowy, build site for the better part of a year just to give little ones like Reighan their wish.

We are all familiar with the fact that it takes loads of materials and hundreds of hours from dedicated volunteers to build a home from the ground up. It also takes funds from generous donors such as you to make a dream come true for a deserving family. In just about a month, we will be kicking off our Annual Appeal 2012. We ask not that you give to help pad our coffers, but that you give to allow us to purchase the items needed to build another home for another little girl or boy whose family can have a home of their own too. An acknowledgement will be sent to the honored person.

The short list below is just an example of some of the materials we need for a new home and their corresponding donation value. Why not donate in honor of that person on your list who has it all - and give to someone who needs a little more?

Overhead light fixture	\$25.00	Weatherproof front door	\$125.00
Bathroom sink	\$50.00	Siding for one exterior wall	\$500.00
Studs for a bedroom	\$75.00	Kitchen Cabinets	\$1,000.00

## Double your donation...ask your employer to match your gift!

### What are matching gifts?

Many employers will match tax-deductible charitable contributions by their employees, retirees, and employees' spouses. Some companies provide matching funds to support employee volunteer hours. Most matching gift programs have a minimum and maximum dollar amount they match per employee per year with a set match ratio. While 1:1 matches are the most common, matching gifts can be of a variety of ratios.

### How do I find out if my company provides a match?

Contact your Human Resources department to find out if your company has a match program. If they do, they will guide you through setting up a match. Be sure to provide them with our Affiliate name, address and tax identification number (EIN) so that the donations come directly to our office.

Of course, if your company doesn't currently have a match program, we can help you set one up. Please call our office at (508) 866-4188 for more information and to get started.

Keep in mind that Habitat International has a list of over 11,000 companies who provide employee matching programs. Below is a small list of companies who offer matching programs...

3M Corporation - Volunteer Program	Google	Merck & Co, Inc.
Aon Consulting	Home Depot	Merrill Lynch
Bank of America	Honda America, Inc.	Microsoft
CNN Newsgroup, Inc.	ING Financial	Pfizer, Inc.
Disney Corporation	Johnson & Johnson	Verizon
General Electric	Marriott Corporation	Wal-Mart
GlaxoSmithKline	Mellon Bank, N.A.	

## Get your Playhouse raffle tickets!

*By Teresa Dollfuss*

Our child's Playhouse has been featured at multiple locations throughout the summer, including the Art on the Green event at the Pinehills in June, the 4th of July parade in Plymouth, the Carver United Parish Church in July, and in August at the Kingston Unitarian Universalist Church. From now until the drawing in December, the Playhouse will be displayed at Habitat's ReStore at 72 N. Main St. in Carver.



*New Habitat homeowner Irene O'Hara*

Designed with the child in mind, the Playhouse is the perfect place to let your child's imagination run wild. Complete with a roof, windows and doors, this could also double as a backyard shed for those with lawnmowers, tools, or whatever else to store.

Stop by the ReStore, 72 N. Main St. in Carver, and check out this child's dream. Raffle tickets are \$5 a piece, or 5 tickets for \$20. The proceeds go toward helping Habitat of Greater Plymouth provide affordable housing for deserving families. Win something for your family while supporting a good cause. What could be better?

Visit our website, [www.hfhplymouth.org](http://www.hfhplymouth.org), to order your tickets today!



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**EVERY DAY IS EARTH DAY**

When you recycle a vehicle, you help  
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## Great buys for home improvement at the ReStore

*By Shawn Gearin*

School is starting, the heat is slowly subsiding and soon the leaves will be carpeting our lawns as Fall arrives. The time has come to start looking at the interior of our homes and thinking..."company is coming for the holidays, I have work to do." Come by the ReStore for project ideas to help spruce up your homes.

We have a variety of supplies for projects around your home this season. For example, come see our huge selection of wall tiles donated by Home Depot. These ceramic tiles are great for mudrooms, bathrooms and laundry rooms, with prices ranging from \$0.25 to \$1.00. Also, enhance the look of your entry door with a new genuine Baldwin lock set, complete with deadbolt and key. Each set is \$50 each, regular retail is from \$379 to \$550...this is a price that can't be beat. Come get them while they last. Finally, freshen up the look of your kitchen with new cabinet door knobs and drawer pulls. We have a great selection with prices starting at \$0.50 each. While you're here, check out our drawer slides for that broken junk drawer.

No matter your age or project, we have the supplies for you at great prices. Added bonuses for our friends 62 years young and up, Thursdays are Senior Days. Come in for 25% off all purchases. We look forward to helping you with your "Honey Do" list. Watch for information about our Open House in December, complete with the drawing for our Playhouse fundraiser. Check out our website at [www.hfhplymouth.org](http://www.hfhplymouth.org) for more information, or follow us on Facebook (Greater Plymouth Habitat and ReStore) and Twitter (@HFHPlymouth).

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most recent donors...*

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Merritt, Robert and Margaret  
MIB Group  
Mid-Cape Home Centers  
Mitzvah Fund, Rabbi's  
Moran, John and Gretchen  
Morrison's Home & Garden  
Morse, Brian and Nancy  
Mudgett, Tom and Pat  
Mustacaros, Patricia  
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P.O. Box 346  
Carver, MA 02330

## Save the Date



Join us for our Annual Celebration!

Friday, May 3, 2013  
7 p.m. to 11 p.m.  
Pinehills Golf Club  
Plymouth

## Upcoming Events

### ***Energy Expo***

Sunday, September 23, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
Plymouth North High School

### ***Golf Tournament***

Saturday, October 20, 8 a.m. shotgun start  
Southers Marsh Golf Club, Plymouth

### ***Playhouse Raffle Drawing***

December  
Habitat ReStore, Carver

### ***Carver House Tour***

December  
Carver Public Library

*Watch our website for more information!*  
[www.hfhplymouth.org](http://www.hfhplymouth.org)