

CONNECTICUT HABITAT FOR HUMANITY AFFILIATE HIGHLIGHTS

Habitat for Humanity has worked in Connecticut since 1985 when the first group was formed in Bridgeport. As of March 1997, the eleven Connecticut affiliates have built or rehabbed 106 single family or attached dwellings. Another 40 units are under construction or planned for this year.

HFH of Greater Bridgeport affiliated in 1985, has completed 25 units. This affiliate is involved in both new construction and rehab and has worked on the East Side, West Side and East End of Bridgeport. They have developed many successful community partnerships. 1997 marks the third year of working with young people who are learning construction skills through the Youth ReBuild program. In 1996, construction efforts were focused in the East End neighborhood where Newman's Own sponsored a house and Paul Newman kicked off the project by spending a volunteer day at the site. This growing affiliate plans 8 homes in 1997. The "Easton Coalition", in a first for this region, has joined together churches, congregations and civic groups to sponsor a house in Bridgeport. An additional goal of this project is to build relationships between suburbanites and those living in an inner-city neighborhood.

Hartford Area HFH, affiliated in 1989, has completed 36 homes, 28 new construction homes and 8 rehabs. This affiliate concentrates building activity in Hartford's North End. Two suburban houses in Farmington and two in Rockville have been completed and occupied. The first Northeast "Women Built" house, a duplex on Clark Street, was dedicated in the spring of 1996. The Annual "Build-A-Thon" raised approximately \$30,000 and involved hundreds of volunteer builders. They plan to complete 10 homes in 1997. A newly established Community Outreach Committee will focus on developing stronger relationships with churches and other organizations in the North End neighborhood where they have focused their work.

Housatonic HFH, founded in 1992, has completed a new construction home on Elm Street in Danbury. Plans are in place to break ground for two new construction homes in Newtown this spring. One of these homes has been sponsored by St. Stephens Episcopal Church of Ridgefield.

HFH of Litchfield Hills, founded in July of 1991, has completed new construction, single family homes in South Kent and in New Milford. Two new construction duplexes in the historic district at the center of New Milford were completed in 1996 in time for the families to celebrate Christmas in their own homes. One of these units was designed to be handicap accessible. They have scheduled 5 owner-occupied repair projects as they seek suitable sites for their next projects.

HFH-New Haven, affiliated in 1986, has completed a total of 23 Habitat homes, both new construction and rehabs. Nine major and minor rehabs are planned for 1997. They work in two different neighborhoods: the "Hill" and the Newhallville sections of the city. Because of the success of "theme builds", this program will continue into 1997. Their second Women Built house is in progress. Ground was broken in October for a second "Collegiate House", built in partnership with four area colleges. "Covenant House," sponsored by a consortium of 20 churches and synagogues, was completed last fall. The Third Annual Coast to Coast Bike-A-Thon sponsored by the Yale Campus Chapter provided funding for the 1996 Collegiate House. In August, the affiliate kicked off their 10th anniversary celebration.

Northern Middlesex HFH affiliated in 1996, will break ground this spring for a single family, handicap accessible home on a lot donated by the city of Middletown.

HFH of Northeast Connecticut, affiliated in 1995, is nearing completion of their first project, a fire damaged, donated house in Danielson which is being rehabbed as a duplex.

HFH of Northwest Connecticut, affiliated in 1991, worked on owner-occupied repair projects while negotiating for their first property. They have completed a single family new construction home on a site in Cornwall which was obtained through the Cornwall Housing Commission. Construction of a single family, handicap-accessible home in Salisbury is nearing completion. Their next home will be built on donated land in Falls Village.

HFH of Southeastern CT, affiliated in 1987, has completed 9 units: a new construction duplex in Norwich, and the rehab of a duplex on Truman Street, a single family rehab on Greene's Alley and a steel-framed, single family on Garfield St., all in New London and the addition to a single family home on Birmingham Ct., Groton. A three-unit rehab, donated by New London Landmarks, provides an office for the historical society as well as two Habitat homes. Pfizer, Inc. has donated two house and will pay for the moving costs to available lots in Groton. Additional building lots and houses for rehab assure on-going construction. They expect to complete 3 homes this year.

HFH of Wallingford, founded in 1993 acquired 2 properties on Wallace Row. The first duplex and one unit of the second have been rehabbed and are occupied. Renovations of the other first floor unit will be completed when a family is selected. Negotiations are in progress for future sites.

Windham Area HFH, affiliated in 1997, has begun the rehab of a single family house in Willimantic. The Campus Chapter at the University of Connecticut has provided tremendous support both to construction and to the forming of the affiliate.

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