

"We mobilize the local community to provide responsible home ownership opportunities to families with limited incomes."

Why Homeownership?

A recent study done by the United Way of Western CT confirmed what area residents already suspected: affordable housing is the #1 problem in the greater Danbury area. Since 2001, CT housing costs have risen 64%, while wages have risen only 19%. While the energy and resources directed toward homeless shelters and government subsidized housing are important, they are only short-term solutions. Home ownership is a long-term solution – the type of housing that best increases the health and stability of a community. We want to be the area's 'go to' organization when it comes to solving long-term housing needs.

The Key: Our Business Model

Prospective homeowners go through a rigorous interview process. Those chosen are obligated to make payments on a 20-30 year interest free mortgage; with \$1,500.00 due at closing. To date, there have been no defaults on our mortgages.

Housatonic Habitat sells each house at NO PROFIT. An important component to this arrangement is the fact the future homeowner is required to invest 400 hours of "sweat equity" into the building of their new home. They work right alongside our volunteers. It's a meaningful experience for all involved.



ReStore

Shop • Donate • Volunteer

Housatonic Habitat ReStore sells new and gently used building materials and home improvement supplies at discounted prices to the public.

ReStore

51 Austin Street
@ Shalvoys Lane
Danbury, CT 06810
203.205.0952

email: donations@housatonicshabitat.org



Habitat for Humanity®

Serving Connecticut Since 1991

Administrative Office

203.744.1340

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Housatonic

Habitat
for Humanity®

It's more than just a house...



housatonicshabitat.org

**It's more than just a house...
It's more than just one family...
You might be surprised by all that fits into our Habitat homes!**



FAMILY IMPACT

- In our 19 homes, 11 sets of parents and 8 single moms are free to worry about all the other challenges in life knowing their kids are safe and secure.
- 33 children are now living in lead-free and asbestos-free homes.

In general, homeownership is correlated with higher school attainment in children. This effect is largely due to the increase in residential stability associated with homeownership.

- 71% of Habitat children graduate from High School and attend college (Flower City Habitat for Humanity Study, Rochester, NY, 2005).

- The drop out rate is 47% lower for Habitat children.

The most common benefit of home ownership is not financial – it is the pride and increased stability the family receives.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Our 19 homes have changed 11 different neighborhoods – replaced dangerous eyesores and vacant lots with warm and inviting homes.

- They have added more than \$2.5 million to the city's tax base. Well over \$50k is paid in property taxes each year.

- Habitat homes are generally assessed for more than other homes on the same street.

VOLUNTEER IMPACT

There is an increasing body of research that tells us people who volunteer (50+ hours/year) possess greater emotional and physical health than those who do not volunteer. Volunteers also self-report a greater sense of social benefit and life satisfaction due to their volunteer efforts.

- Over 400 individuals volunteered their time working on one of our Habitat homes last year.
- Over 50 individuals volunteer their time to administrative roles on a regular basis.

- A very conservative estimate suggests over 11,000 hours were donated to the mission and purposes of Housatonic Habitat last year.



COMMUNITY IMPACT

VOLUNTEER IMPACT

"Building Stronger Communities and Fulfilling Dreams...One Family at a Time"