



# Safe at Home

Stories of how YOU provided safe, affordable homes for families!  
Thank you!



## Theresa is feeling “rich and blessed” because of you!

Like many homeowners, Theresa carefully saved to repair and maintain the home she’s lived in for over thirty years. Being on a limited income, she was so mindful how every dollar was spent.

Though they were less than ten years old, her front and back doors were rotting. The big gaps were letting cold air in and making her heating bill skyrocket. When she called Habitat, she was only looking to replace her doors.

But, when Habitat staff surveyed the work,

they found countless other issues that were causing problems that would only get worse with time.

Rain was pouring into her bathroom via the exhaust fan. The front porch was structurally unsafe. The roof needed shingles. There was so much rot around the doors and windows and in the bathroom.

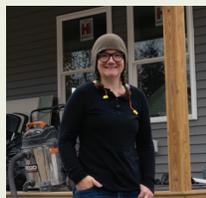
**Thankfully, you were there to help.** Theresa was able to get all of this repaired at a low-cost she could afford.

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# Thank you! A family is safe and wa

## From the Director

I'm so pleased to start the new year with stories of the neighbors you have helped.



Theresa, Christina, and Stefanie are all in a better place because you stepped up to help them.

Their stories represent the many families in our community who now have safe, affordable homes.

### Because of you.

Last year, you helped 35 families who needed a safe home.

As we welcome a new year, you can feel confident that you have helped every one of them stay warm during the cold winter.

As a Habitat of Greater Portland supporter, you have shown incredible kindness and care for your neighbors. And our community is stronger and safer because you stepped in to help.

**Thank you again for making safe, affordable housing possible!**

*Tara M Hill*

Tara M. Hill  
Executive Director

## Paying it Forward

Stefanie uses her gift of homeownership to foster children.

Stefanie is a helper. After college, she spent time serving with Teach for America and AmeriCorps (at Habitat!) and has spent most of her career in nonprofits. After AmeriCorps, she was still renting an apartment in Portland when she tried to realize her dream of becoming a foster parent, but she was told she didn't have a suitable living arrangement. Despite her familiarity with Habitat, it didn't occur to Stefanie to apply for a home until someone encouraged her.

Eight years later, Stefanie has opened her home to amazing children of all ages, all of whom were welcomed as members of her Habitat neighborhood. Asked what inspired her to become a foster parent, she says, "I wanted to provide children with the safety and security that I had growing up." She credits the stability of homeownership with allowing her to choose a career with flexibility to ensure she could be the best foster mom possible. "This home is a member of my family," she said with tears in her eyes.

Your donations to Habitat create a ripple effect that help families of all kinds have a stable future. Thank you for caring for your neighbors like Stefanie, so they too can have a home to accomplish extraordinary things.



# arm in their home because of you!

## Room to Grow

You're helping Christina and her kids write their next chapter.

Several years ago, Christina and her kids left a bad situation and were relieved to find their current rental - a safe, peaceful place to move forward.

She thought she might be interested in a rent-to-own deal for the property, built in 1807. But it became clear that its issues - a lack of insulation, problems with the foundation, and one too many rats- would require some serious time and money that she didn't have.

At the time she found her rental, having her young son and daughter share a room didn't seem like a big deal. But as they approach their teenage years, Christina knows they need more privacy.

She credits her boss with encouraging her to apply for Habitat's affordable homeownership program in Standish. When Christina found out she'd own a home in just under a year, she was ecstatic. "I'm still having a hard time believing that it's happening."

To surprise her kids with the news, she took them to Home Depot and told them to pick out a cool key. "Once they found what they wanted and showed it to me, I said, 'you're gonna need these when we go to our new house!' They were thrilled," she recounted.

There's so much Christina is looking forward to about her new home - it will be warmer, energy-efficient, without rats, and will give her kids their own space - "...the list goes on!" she says.

Thank you for giving Christina's family a place to relax, grow, and call their own!



### Theresa is Feeling "Rich and Blessed..." (continued from page 1)

She explained, "It never felt like charity. They never made me feel poor. I feel rich and blessed!"

Without you, it would have taken Theresa so long to be able to afford all of those repairs. And now she and her children are safe.

**Thank you for showing Theresa how much you care** about her well-being and safety by making these necessary repairs possible!

# Give Your Neighbors a Warm, Safe Winter!

So many homes in our area need repairs, but people just don't know where to turn. Young or old, we all deserve a safe, dry home. But for many who are raising a family or living on a fixed income, fixing your leaky roof feels like a luxury you can't afford.

And the problem with so many of these needed repairs is they lead to bigger problems. They become more costly, or even more deadly as time passes, and the repair remains untouched.

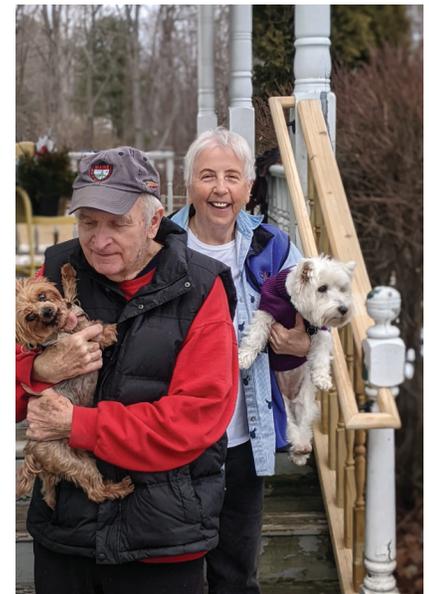
Gaps and holes in walls let in cold air and welcome in critters. Unstable railings and stairs make navigating your way extra dangerous when it's icy. Leaking roofs let in rain and snow and start to rot the inside of your home.

Having a stable home provides comfort and peace of mind. But having a home that is unsafe due to a high-cost repair is detrimental to the mental and physical health of all who live there. No one should have to live like this.

## Your neighbors need your help to live in safety and dignity!

A sturdy floor lets us walk safely and comfortably throughout our home without fear of falling. A well-built stairway and landing with rails keeps us safe as we leave to run errands. A roof keeps us warm and dry when heavy, melting snow bears down on us.

We all deserve this. But we can't all afford it. With your help, you can help keep your neighbors in Cumberland County safe, warm, and dry. Please help your neighbors get the help they need by sending back the enclosed response card with your generous gift!



## Help a neighbor who needs a safe, warm home!

**Yes, Tara! Please use my gift to provide safe, warm housing for a family!**

My gift will also support all the good work of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Portland. Enclosed is my gift:

\_\_\_ \$58 to provide one day of safe, warm housing for a family!

\_\_\_ \$116 to provide two days of safe, warm housing for a family!

\_\_\_ \$174 to provide three days of safe, warm housing for a family!

\$\_\_\_\_\_ to provide as many nights of safe, warm housing as possible!

Please return the enclosed reply card with your gift.  
To give securely online, visit [www.habitatportlandme.org](http://www.habitatportlandme.org)

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