



WINTER 2025

Safe at Home

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



The Gift of Independence and Safety

Bill was desperately trying to keep up his aging home. On a fixed income and using a wheelchair because of his diabetes, he was unable to take on the daunting repairs himself.

But his home was not accessible, leaving him to precariously navigate with a walker where his wheelchair wouldn't fit. Entrances needed to be widened so he could safely get in and out of his home, and his bathroom needed to be fixed after a water leak and modified so it could meet his mobility needs.

Bill recalls, "If I had to go out through the front door, it involved moving furniture to make room for the door to open so I could

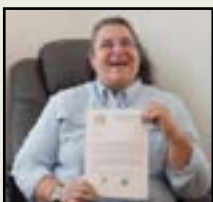
actually get out through it. The threshold, I had to either go out backwards or pop a wheelie to get up over it. It was kind of hairy sometimes. There was just a lot of stuff I couldn't get to do."

It's hard to imagine how much of his home he was unable to safely access and how that affected his day to day life.

Thankfully, you were there to help Bill get the repairs he needed to stay safe in his home.

After the repairs were completed, he reflected that his home was "so much better and [my] life so much more livable." *(continued on page 3)*

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Thank you! Families are safe and warm in their homes because of you!

From the Director

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



You've stepped up to help countless families like Patty and Bill, and are giving so much hope to partner families in progress like Drew and Chelsea.

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

Because of you.

Last year, you helped 50 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 and hopeful 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!



Chad Mullin
Executive Director

A Solid Foundation

Patty's home gave her family the stability they craved

Twenty years ago, Patty was tired of searching for new living situations. After living in her mother's garage with a kerosene heater, she knew she wanted to provide more stability for her two daughters.

Once she was selected for her Habitat home, she enthusiastically completed her sweat equity hours and enjoyed working side by side with other Habitat families.

She gets emotional when she recalls getting the keys to her home and finally having something she can pass down to her children. She muses, "They always have some place to come back to. If they start experiencing problems in life, they can come back home."

You can feel the pride Patty radiates for achieving homeownership all those years ago and the gratitude she feels for the opportunities it gave her family. She attests, "My two girls both have bachelors degrees from college now, which I don't think ever would have been possible without owning a home. They wouldn't have had that stability."

Your support today creates amazing long-term outcomes so families can be successful like Patty's. Thank you!



Patty with her 2004 Habitat acceptance letter

Building Community

Drew and Chelsea's future is bright!

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic turned Drew and Chelsea's life upside down. Chelsea lost her job and they had to sell their home and move in with family to make ends meet.

Since then, they've been living with their three young boys in a cramped two bedroom basement. As their financial situation grew stronger, the housing market grew worse, and they were afraid they'd be stuck living in Drew's parent's basement forever. "We don't want to feel like a burden anymore and want to give them their space back," Drew explains.

When they found out they were selected for a Habitat home in Standish, they couldn't help but wonder how they were about to change the lives of their children forever. Chelsea says, "We'll have something to pass on but also make memories in together."

After living without windows for four years, they're most looking forward to a home filled with natural light. Drew says as soon as they drove into their future neighborhood in Standish

it felt like home. And once they met the other Habitat families who will be their neighbors, their excitement to be part of a big community grew. They explain, "It was really cool to meet everyone in a similar situation."

As they look ahead to their new future as homeowners, Drew said, "It still feels surreal and hard to believe. It's cool to look back at all the people who have helped." Chelsea and Drew are so grateful for friends and family who have helped them along the way, and for your support as they embark on their journey to Habitat homeownership.



Drew, Chelsea, and their three sons can't wait for their own space!

"Your Gift of Independence and Safety" (continued from page 1)

Without your support, Bill never would have been able to afford these extensive repairs. This work was life-changing, allowing him to move room-to-room from the safety of his wheelchair.

Thank you for showing Bill how much you care about his independence and safety by making these necessary repairs possible!

Give Your Neighbors a Warm, Safe Winter

Do you remember Margie and Donna? They had a big clawfoot tub that neither of them could safely use due to health issues. They needed an accessible bathroom that would give them safety and peace of mind.

With your help, they were able to get the repairs they needed. "I never would have thought I would have such a lovely and new and safe bathroom in my home," Margie said.

But there are lots of other families in a situation like theirs still waiting for help.

With our area's aging housing stock, many homes need repairs. Bathrooms are old and leaky. Rotted entryways from wet weather. Roofs damaged by yet another winter storm. Nearly every home repair tackles one or more of these issues.

Your help is needed to keep your neighbors safe and warm!

A home where they feel safe and warm. A home they can be proud of. A home where friends and family can gather.

We all deserve a home like this. But we can't all afford it.

With your help, you can keep your neighbors in Cumberland County safe, warm, and dry.

Critical repairs go a long way to keeping a home comfortable. Please help your neighbors get the help they need.

If you want to help more neighbors have a comfortable home this winter, please send back the enclosed response card with your gift.



Donna and Margie's bathroom before (above) and after (below)



Help a neighbor who needs a safe, warm home!

Yes, Chad! 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:

___ \$54 to provide one day of safe, warm housing for a family!

___ \$108 to provide two days of safe, warm housing for a family!

___ \$216 to provide four days of safe, warm housing for a family!

\$_____ to provide as many days of safe, warm housing as possible!

Please return the enclosed reply card with your gift.
To give securely online, visit www.habitatportlandme.org

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