

Inching closer to making a house a home

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY CONTINUES
FUNDRAISING FOR STURBRIDGE PROJECT



BY KEVIN FLANDERS
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STURBRIDGE — Habitat for Humanity MetroWest and Greater Worcester has used an eclectic group of fundraising events — a hat day at local schools, a food tasting event, and build days with local corporations — to raise \$66,000 toward building a house at 79 Fairview Park Road.

The money helped pay for initial resources that were required to pour the foundation, complete the framing work and construct walls for what will be a 1,200-square-foot, single-family raised ranch with three bedrooms and one and a half bathrooms.

“We have a very active Local Planning Committee that hit the ground running in terms of fundraising,” said Michael Wimberly, Habitat’s Local Planning Committee chairman and board president. “Their time and efforts have been invaluable to raising funds for this build, the first in the Tri-Community.”

The Habitat Tri-Community Build Project in Sturbridge is the product of a partnership between the Town of Sturbridge, the Sturbridge Housing Partnership and the local Habitat for Humanity. The Sturbridge Housing Partnership purchased the land using Community Preservation funds that were intended to increase the affordable housing inventory in town.

A family selection lottery was held back on April 12, and Randy Smith and Kimberley Renaud were chosen to partner with Habitat and purchase the home. Renaud is a disabled war veteran, and her husband is a full-time student at Quinsigamond Community College. The family, which includes children Phelicia and Garrett, is renting an apartment in Southbridge.

Of course, it shouldn’t be much longer before Smith and Renaud are able to call 79 Fairview Park Road home. Wimberly is not only excited about the amount of money past fundraising events generated, but

also about upcoming events scheduled throughout the fall that will help produce the funds necessary to complete the project.

“The support from individuals, corporations and organizations has and continues to be tremendous, a testimony to the compassion and commitment of this community to provide decent, affordable housing,” Wimberly added.

The next fundraising event is scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 27, when Habitat will occupy a booth at the Auburn Mall in an effort to sell coupons that can be used throughout the day at the Macy’s store. Coupons are \$5 each, and all proceeds will go to the Tri- Community Build. Coupons can be purchased ahead of time by calling Habitat at (508) 799-9259.

On Friday, Sept. 16, a three-alarm chili cook-off will take place at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Southbridge from 5-9 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person, and raffle tickets for the Lottery Scratch Ticket House II (\$250 worth of lottery tickets) will be available to guests. Tickets can be purchased in advance by visiting www.habitatmwgw.org.

Members of Habitat for Humanity MetroWest and Greater Worcester also wished to thank several local businesses and organizations for their significant contributions, including Savers Bank, Charter Communications, the Harrington Healthcare System, Incom, Inc., Southbridge Savings Bank, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Cares, and the Worcester Regional Association of Realtors.

For more information about upcoming fundraising events, call Habitat for Humanity MetroWest and Greater Worcester at (508) 799-9259 or visit www.habitatmwgw.org.

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