

Welcome home

Habitat families take ownership of Boylston house

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Photo galleries

- [Habitat for Humanity turns over keys to homeowners](#)



Kristy Mendoza accepts the keys to her family's new home on Old Mill Circle from Project Manager Bob Turbidy during a Habitat for Humanity dedication on Saturday. To see more photos from the event, click on the photo galleries link. (Banner photo/KEN CLEVELAND)

BOYLSTON — When it's snowing outside, like it was during last Saturday's dedication ceremony, it's nice to have a home.

For the Mendoza and Davin families, that home came courtesy of the labor Habitat for Humanity volunteers put in, alongside the families, on a Boylston townhouse.

Lisa Davin and her two children, and Kristy and Domingo Mendoza with their two children, will now call the house on Mill Road Circle home.

And it comes with a large family, of sorts: The 772 volunteers who each did a little to create the three-bedroom, 1,150-sqare foot houses that have become their homes.

"The best part of the Habitat process is the community," Sue Olsen, co-chairwoman of the town build committee, said as she told the group the occupancy permit had been approved the day before Saturday's dedication ceremony.

"Thanks for giving me a hand up," Kristy Mendoza said. "I'm a proud homeowner," something that may mean more because she had worked in human services in a shelter and "became homeless myself."

For Mendoza, her husband, Domingo, and two children, "there's no place like home," she said. It was "the most beautiful land I have ever seen," she said, "or heard," she added, noting the quiet location.

Mendoza said when she sent in her application for the Habitat for Humanity project, "I said a prayer and put it in God's hands."

Some 1,544 hands turned out to help, as it turned out, contributing over 3,476 hours of donated labor.

"There are so many wonderful people in this organization," Lisa Davin said of those who helped create the home for her and her two children. "A huge thanks to all of you," she said to the volunteers. "They made this dream become reality. I'm grateful to be part of this family."

The Habitat family was out in force Saturday, despite the snow, crowding the Mendoza basement.

"It's a joy to present these keys today," Bob Turbidy said. Turbidy, Habitat's building project manager, had become ill during the building process, but appeared in a wheelchair Saturday to see the project to completion. He praised Boylston resident Steve Welus, who, as the local build site project manager, took on the bulk of the work when Turbidy became ill.

"My wife and I decided when I retired I would help them build homes and she would help feed them," Welus said. "This was fun and Bob taught me a lot of things along the way."

Although many were recognized for contributions, lead sponsor, the George F. and Sybil H. Fuller Foundation, was recognized for being "more than generous," Olsen said, providing \$50,000 early on in the project, then stepping in again with a similar amount in September when the lack of funds threatened the effort.

Mark Fuller detailed the Boylston connections the Fullers, from the Flagg family farm to one-time ownership of Hillside, to family members who have attended Tahanto and live in town.

"Everything they were about is represented here today," Fuller said of the foundation's founders.

Michael Wimberly, president of the Habitat board of directors, referred to "a generosity I just can't fathom with contributions like the Fullers."

"You encounter obstacles, but you always get there," Wimberly said of individual projects. He said every project has two constants: That every one is different and "every habitat build is made up of extraordinary people."

Boylston Local Project Co-Chairman Howard Drobner cited the people and businesses that helped out and even fees waived by the town.

"Habitat's continued existence only happens with the support of the community," Drobner said. "It's a pleasure to meet and work with so many great people."

He took special note of the food crew, Rich Reardon and his team, that brought coffee every build day, then lunch and finally afternoon snacks every Tuesday and Saturday. "Some good stuff," one of the volunteers interjected.

The duplex consists of the 31st and 32nd affordable housing units built by the MetroWest/Greater Worcester Habitat For Humanity since it was founded in 1985. The Habitat chapter is now working on projects in Worcester and Sturbridge.