



Habitat for Humanity®

MetroWest/Greater Worcester

With COVID-19 causing uncertainty, families are faced with even fewer options for a safe and affordable home. We need your support now, more than ever.

Dear Friends,

We have all been faced with significant challenges this year. Fear for the safety of our families and our loved ones, concerns about access to essentials, such as food and cleaning supplies, uncertainty about our jobs—these are real and daily struggles for many in our communities. Now, envision not having a safe place to shelter during this crisis.

The uncertainty that most of us feel during COVID-19 has been felt for a lifetime by families who need help. For most of us “shelter in place” means figuring out logistics. For many families it means living on the edge in homes that might be overcrowded, too expensive, or unsafe. Their priorities are being able to purchase food on a regular basis or pay for prescriptions for medical needs. Many have lost their jobs during this health crisis. Living in a safe home is a dream that has grown even more distant.



Marc, Sophie and family in front of their Habitat home.

Even before COVID-19, many families were hurting and urgently needed a safe home:

Sophie and Marc's family lived on a street so busy that they were always fearful their three young boys would bolt and be hit by a vehicle. Their first-floor apartment was expensive and cramped. It was not up to code, rundown, and there were no fire alarms. Marc maintained the apartment himself to keep it safe for the kids.

The family's prospects were bleak at the time. Sophie had put her career on hold and cared for her boys around-the-clock. Because of the financial hardship of raising three boys with complex medical needs, they had nearly given up on the dream of home ownership.

Thankfully, the family now lives in their Habitat home at the end of a dead-end street, where their boys can play outdoors safely. Marc and Sophie no longer worry that the boys will bolt and be hit by a car.

Sophie said, *“Habitat for Humanity changed our quality of life. Every single donation, every single person who made our dream a reality is an angel. We are forever grateful. There are no words to express our thanks. Hopefully the smile on our boys' faces tells you. All of our best to all of you angels.”*

There are so many other families like Marc's and Sophie's who need a helping hand, especially during this unsettled time in our world.

Can you imagine being confined in a home with no area out of doors for your children to play safely? Constantly worried that your child might run out into the street and be hit by a passing vehicle? Paying so much for rent you have to decide whether to purchase food, pay for medicine, or to put gas in your car? These are terrible choices to make. But it's what many families deal with every day, on top of worrying about the health crisis.

These are the families who now more than ever need the hand up that we can provide. Even in these times—especially in these times—we continue to work tirelessly to build safe and affordable homes for local families.

We have always believed that we will only find our way forward together. It's true every day—and will be even truer now. This should be a world where everyone has a decent place to live, where we recognize that we are all connected, and where we come together in times of crisis—and stay together when the urgency has lifted.

Use the envelope and reply card provided to mail in your tax-deductible donation.

Or make a secure donation online by visiting: www.habitatmwgw.org.

Click the orange donate button and direct your gift to Annual Appeal 2020.

Thank you!

Please see reverse.

Please be generous during this very perilous time in our community and in our world. We need you more than ever. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your support of local families who need a safe and affordable home.

With gratitude,



Debbie Maruca Hoak
Executive Director



Bryan Clancy
Board President

P.S. We wish you and your family a safe, healthy, and happy holiday in your home! Please remember the families who will be spending their holidays in unsafe housing. Your gift will make a profound difference in their lives.

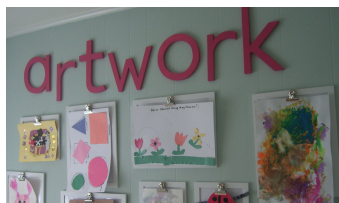
Through shelter, we empower.

During a major health crisis, a local family is thankful for their safe and affordable home.

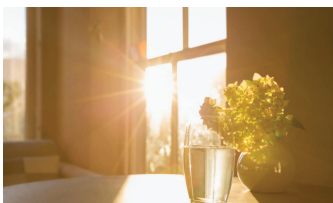
Gina was renting an apartment in a 100-year-old triple-decker with a leaking roof and a faulty heating system. The bills were so high that hot water could not be used for washing hands or dishes. The mildew in the hallway made it hard to breathe and the rugs were always damp. Can you imagine sheltering in such a place during the pandemic? Thankfully, Gina doesn't have to. Gina and her daughter now live in a safe and affordable Habitat home, where they can shelter in safety. Help us provide more safe and affordable homes for the many families who are suffering through the pandemic in substandard housing!



Every gift makes a difference. Your support provides a hand up for local families in need.



\$2,500 For walls to display hand-drawn artwork.



\$1,000 For windows to let warm sunlight in.



\$500 To install the floors for little feet to run freely upon.



\$100 For a kitchen sink to let dishes soak in after a healthy family meal.



\$50 For paint to brighten a room.

Become a Monthly Donor! We have a special group of supporters who believe so deeply in our work that they are Monthly Donors—also known as Habitat HopeBuilders. By becoming a **HopeBuilder**, you are helping local families build strength and stability.

It's easy to sign up to become a Monthly Donor! Use the envelope & reply card provided. Check the box that indicates you wish to be a monthly donor. **Or visit:** www.habitatmwgw.org and click the **Orange** donate button at the top right. Select the **Blue** button at the top of the next page that reads HopeBuilder Monthly Gift. Thank you for your support—every penny counts to families who are in urgent need of an affordable home.

For questions on any of our home builds, programs, to get involved, or ways to support us, please call 508-799-9259 X 111, or email Deborah.Huegel@habitatmwgw.org.

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Please see reverse.