



## Cayer Home Dedication Ceremony

One year after we broke ground on the Cayer's house in Sharon, Vermont, we celebrated its completion!



Photo by Betsy Daviss



Photo by Gene Soboleski of BigZig Photography

On Saturday, July 27th, volunteers, supporters, donors, and suppliers came together to celebrate the house that their combined efforts built.

Zack and Mindy Cayer closed on the property on Thursday and we held our last official build day on Friday, just in time for the dedication celebration.

The event began with opening remarks from Habitat officials and community leaders about the importance of affordable housing in our region and the impact it will have on the local community.



Photo by Gene Soboleski of BigZig Photography



Photo by Betsy Daviss

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Executive Director Andrew Grimson recognized the hard work of our incredible volunteers:

- 188 volunteers contributed just over 3,400 hours on this house over the past year.
- We had outstanding support from lunch providers and construction volunteers including Shari Sacks, the Vogelites, Hypertherm, Stephen Raymond (118 hours volunteered), the West Lebanon Congregational Church, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Our Savior Lutheran Church, WRJ United Methodist Church, and the Tunbridge Church.
- Board member Rick Biddle, who volunteered 250 hours on the construction site.
- (Andrew himself volunteered nearly 700 hours on official build days, which doesn't include volunteering on unofficial work days!)



Photo by Betsy Daviss

**[The Cayer's] have a pretty profound story. They're some of the most resilient people I know."**

**- Kristen Sennett, Family Friend**

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Family friend Kristen Sennett introduced the Cayers and shared their "**profound story**":

In 2011, the couple was living happily in Texas. When Mindy was 10 weeks pregnant, Zack had a stroke, "which was a traumatic experience."

As Zack continued rehabilitation, they moved back to Vermont and started rebuilding their lives under immense financial stress and mounting medical debt. Their ultimate goal was to provide a home for their kids.

Kristen glowed about her friends, "it's been an incredible honor to watch them come from that to where they are now, **with everything laid out in front of them**. Where they are now is nothing short of incredible."

This house isn't just a house that was built - all of our kids have come, and this is their space: this is home."

**"And so Habitat and Zack and Mindy have worked together to create something that is lasting. The Cayer's are finally home."**



Photo by Betsy Daviss



Photo by Gene Soboleski of BigZig Photography

**"It's important for the kids to stay and grow in one community."  
- Zack Cayer, homeowner**

At the podium, an emotional Zack thanked everyone, saying "it's been a blessing; this house it beautiful. We couldn't have done it without all of you.... **Our kids are thrilled to finally have their own bedrooms....** It's nice to not have to worry about where we're were going to be staying.... I moved around a lot when I was a kid and never stayed in school for more than a year. So I feel it's important for the kids to stay and grow in one community. **I'm beyond excited.**"



Photo by Betsy Daviss

The dedication concluded with a tree planting ceremony with the family, tours of their high-performance house, and lunch. Thank you to everyone that helped make this project a success!



Photo by Betsy Daviss

## Donate or Volunteer on Our Next Project

### Thank You!

We owe a huge thank you to those that donated food for the event:

- Ramunto's Brick and Brew Pizzeria in Hanover, who generously donated 18 delicious pizzas!
- Co-Op Food Stores
- Wal-Mart
- Nate's mom
- Panera Bread
- BJ's Wholesale Club
- Shaw's
- Hannaford
- Price Chopper

We couldn't have done it without help from our friends. Big thanks also to:

- Family Committee member Shelia Cardamone for planning the menu
- Matt Delaney for providing sound support/PA system
- Gene Soboleski of BigZig Photography and Betsy Daviss for taking photos
- EC Brown for their donation of a maple tree

- Sharon Elementary School for letting us borrow tables and chairs
- The Haven for lending us their pop-up tent



Photo by Betsy Daviss

[See all the photos on Facebook!](#)

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