



Thayer Engineering Students Design 3-BR Home



This Spring, Professor Karolina Kawiaka's Thayer School of Engineering students partnered with us on a Social Impact Practicum project focused around the new house we will be building in Spring 2021.

The ENGS 44 students were divided into two groups: One group was tasked with researching and analyzing building materials and methods and the other group was charged with creating a floor plan and designs for the new 3-bedroom home.

Our Building Committee provided the students with specific requirements for the house, like overall square footage, price per square foot, ADA accessible bathroom, etc. The students worked in separate groups but also collaborated on many aspects of the project including energy modeling, window layout, heat load calculations, and the final presentation. They hosted regular Zoom meetings to discuss layout, mechanical systems, materials, and progress. These check-ins were a really fun way to see the project evolve and discuss ideas.



Under Professor Kawiaka and TA Charlie Levy's guidance, students analyzed our Sharon high-performance home and passive houses in Vermont (including Central Vermont Habitat's East Montpelier passive house) and ultimately designed a passive house for the Lebanon site.

Our Building Committee's Design Team will review the Thayer student's report and plans as they begin to finalize plans for the new Lebanon home. We hope to include many of their suggestions in the final plans.

Thank you Professor Kawiaka, TA Charlie Levy, Abdul-Rashid Alhassan, Brenda Batista, Catherine Cable, Emma Doherty, James Gibson, Keoni Ocalvey, Peter Unger, and Yanling Lei for making this process so engaging and putting together a terrific package for us! You exceeded our expectations.

A heartfelt thank you also goes to **Rick Biddle and Joshua Elliott** of our Building Committee for all the time they devoted to supporting the students with their expertise, research, and feedback. Our other Building Committee members who helped make this project a success are **Tim McCosker, Jim Masland, and Logan Bergeron. Thank you!**

Still Accepting Donations for Chin Reno Project

Upper Valley Habitat volunteers are making good progress with plans for the home renovation project for Isil Chin and her two children in Lebanon. We are still accepting donations for their project! [Click here](#) if you missed the newsletter about the Chin Family.



Meet our newest partner family! Jacinda, Isil & Draco

[Donate Now!](#)

Seeking Volunteers: Electricians & Sawyer

Before we sell the Chin's future home in Lebanon, we want to make sure it is in tip top shape. **We have a big volunteer ask: We are looking for a licensed electrician** who can inspect the electrical, install new light fixtures, and run the wiring and a 15 amp outlet from the electrical panel to the location of a new HRV (heat recovery ventilator) unit.

Our Building Committee estimates this will take 1 to 1.5 days. If you are an electrician and would like to start volunteering, *please* reach out!

Thanks to Bob Danielson and John Tietjen, we now have two volunteers who take turns mowing the grass at an empty lot we own in White River Junction. The only problem is that there's a downed tree limb on the property that we'd like to clean up. **We are looking with a volunteer with a chainsaw to cut down the branch and carry it away.** You'll be making mowing easier for John & Bob, keeping the lot looking it's best and the neighbors happy, and getting some wood out of the deal!

[Please email Eva if you can help with electrical work or chainsawing!](#)

