

Spring 2021



PO Box 1038
White River Junction, VT 05001
www.uvhabitat.org
info@uvhabitat.org
802.295.1854

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Announcing our Newest Partner Family!

We are delighted to announce the Sargeant-Goodrich Family, who will purchase our next new home in Lebanon upon its completion. Shannon and her two sons, Braden (age 13) and Isaac (age 11) currently rent in Lebanon. Shannon works full time and takes college classes online.



Braden, Shannon, and Isaac

In 2019, Shannon suffered a life-threatening health condition that left her with large medical bills, medication expenses, and major anxiety due to the trauma of the situation. Stability is critical in managing her residual health impacts of this event.

The family has experienced countless transitions and moves and is looking forward to having a permanent home of their own. Shannon explains that “as a single mom, finding affordable housing in the Upper Valley on a single income isn’t easy. Having a home would give my kids the opportunity to have their own space and to make that space their own. To have refuge from each other, as siblings tend to need sometimes. To have space to be kids.”

Their current 2-bedroom apartment is constantly too hot; not all the electrical outlets function properly; some doors hang precariously off their hinges; and there are areas with persistent mold. The apartment is also undersized: the boys share a very small bedroom with barely enough room to navigate between their twin-sized beds and Shannon worries about them not having their own space or room to play.

Shannon knows that “this home would bring stability for my kids, health, finances and peace of mind. It is an answer to my prayers. My dream for my family is a sense of place and feeling settled. The ability to sit around the dinner table or for the boys to know they have somewhere they can go when they need a break. It would be ‘our home.’”

Shannon has been making excellent progress with her financial coach, Katy Almstrom of Almstrom Financial Coaching, whose services are partially funded through a Claremont Savings Bank grant. The Sargeant-Goodrich family is looking forward to remaining in the same school district and living in a quiet, rural and wooded location a short distance from downtown Lebanon. Shannon looks forward to homeownership as a way to “work towards financial freedom much more quickly,” elaborating that “this would really open up options for my children, and experiences they are interested in that would provide growth and development.” Shannon also predicts this will allow her to build savings faster, which would ease her mind if emergencies pop up.

Claremont Lead Abatement Grants Update

In September 2020, UVHFH committed \$30,000 to the Claremont Lead Abatement Grants Program. Funded by the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation, this program’s goal is to remove lead from older residential homes in Claremont, NH. Three families were selected to each receive a \$10,000 grant. The Breisch Family’s porch has since been safely remodeled and looks fantastic.

The two other recipients’ projects will be completed through the Sullivan County HUD Lead Based Paint Hazard Reduction Grant Program to mitigate dangerous lead contamination from low-income homes. The two \$10,000 UVHFH grants will serve as a community match, allowing the County to double the scope of their lead remediation work for these two remaining families.

Stay in the Loop!

Subscribe to our e-newsletter to get updates on volunteer opportunities, programs, projects & more:

<https://www.uvhabitat.org/newsletters>

Please Support the Sargeant-Goodrich Home Build

Our next project will be building a new home for Shannon and her sons on a lot we own in Lebanon this season (adjacent to the Chin’s home). The Sargeant-Goodrich home will feature 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, an open living/dining/kitchen space, and be designed to accommodate future aging-in-place and accessibility modifications.

Please consider a donation in support of the Sargeant-Goodrich home build. Your support is crucial for helping us build affordable, energy-efficient, durable, and healthy homes that our partner families can thrive and grow in. Your donation enables us to construct a high-quality home with volunteer labor and reduce the family’s purchase price.

Donate online at <https://www.uvhabitat.org/donate> or mail a check to PO BOX 1038, WRJ VT 05001.

Thank you in advance for your support!



The Breisch’s by their under-renovation porch in March 2021

Congratulations to The Chin Family!

Congratulations to the Chin Family for becoming new Habitat homeowners in late April! Isil and her two children closed on their home in Lebanon 7 months after renovation work began. We are proud of Isil for the hard work she put into renovating her home and in working with her financial coach and UVHFH staff and volunteers. It was not easy, particularly during the pandemic, but we know Isil's patience and perseverance will pay off and that the family will be excellent homeowners and neighbors.

Even though this was a renovation and not a new home build, a lot of volunteer time went into the project. We had the added complication of navigating COVID restrictions throughout the entire project, but still managed to have strong volunteer support. We thank the following people and businesses for their significant contributions to the renovation project and to The Chin Family:

Rick Biddle; Terry Bryant; Jim Masland; The Jack & Dorothy Byrne Foundation; Jack Kauders; Markell Ripps; Stephen Girdwood; Charlie Clark; Hypertherm; our Board and Committee members- including the Family & Building Committees; all construction & lunch provider volunteers; Robin Hodgdon & Ledyard National Bank; Vreni Gust; Steve

Lagasse of Lagasse Appraisal; Travis Craig & Andrew Cadorette of NH Housing Finance Authority; Lebanon Paint & Decorating; Bob Tortorice of Building Alternatives Inc.; Noel Snow & The West Lebanon Home Depot; Leann Cushman & Tiffany Adams at the City of Lebanon; Richie Thompson; John Unger Murphy of Murphy's Cell-Tech; Greg Hance; LaValley Building Supply; Katy Almstrom; Mak's Trucking & Excavation; Memphremagog Heat Exchangers & Martin's Mechanical Plumbing & Heating.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this project and helped realize The Chin's dream of homeownership!



Isil with her attorney Stephen Girdwood

Seeking Skilled, Regular Volunteers

We are looking to build a cadre of skilled, regular volunteers. These "key volunteers" will become our "A-Team" - people we can rely on to regularly help carry out the construction work on the build site. These volunteers will consistently help with construction on the build site, work closely with the Project Manager, and will be willing to take an online "Competent Person" safety certification through Habitat for Humanity International. This training allows an individual to work alone on the build site or supervise others on site.

This is an excellent opportunity to get to work directly with the partner family; build friendships with other volunteers; and share in the satisfaction and reward of working towards a shared & meaningful goal.

We keep the cost of our homes low by using as much volunteer labor as possible. With the increased cost of building materials, we will be particularly reliant on donated labor and services and on discounted or donated materials. Regular key volunteers are a crucial component to helping keep homes affordable for our families.

Please contact Eva to learn more (eva@uvhabitat.org; 802.295.1854). **We look forward to having your help!**

Thanking Jim Masland & Welcoming John Heath

Our long-time Site Supervisor, Jim Masland, has retired from UVHFH after over 15 years with us. Jim has worked on many Habitat homes and has worked alongside nearly all the volunteers that have helped on our projects over the past decade and a half. When he joined the organization, the first house Jim worked on was the home that The Chin's purchased in April. Coincidentally, this was also the last house he worked on. We have been joking that Jim has been working on the same house for 15 years. Thank you, Jim, for your tremendous dedication to our families, volunteers, and community over the years. You will be missed.

We are pleased to announce that John Heath has joined UVHFH as our new Project Manager. John has over 35 years of experience in the local construction industry. Most recently, John worked with COVER Home Repair for 7 years, leading repair crews and directing their home repair program. John volunteered on the Chin's home renovation project and regularly volunteers at The Haven Food Shelf. John looks forward to teaching and guiding volunteers; helping families access homeownership; and applying his construction and organizational skills to the new home we will be building Lebanon this season. Welcome, John!

You can reach John at john@uvhabitat.org.



Jim at the Sharon build site

Car Donations Drive Home Builds

In October of 2020, Larry & Lynne Gordon generously donated a restored 1978 Silver Anniversary Edition Corvette to UVHFH. We were wowed by their contribution and wanted to learn more. The Gordons explained their gift was in honor and appreciation of James P. Kenney, who was affiliated with the Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell. Through taekwondo lessons, Master Kenney was an inspirational and transformational force in Larry's life and contributed greatly to his and his family's wellbeing and prosperity and they wanted to pass forward their gratitude.

Want to turn your donated car into a home? You can do so through the Cars for Homes Program!

Call 1-877-277-4344 or visit <https://www.habitat.org/support/donate-your-car>

