

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 10, 2022

Contact: Carolyn Read, Executive Director
(978) 348-2749 x206
carolyn@ncmhabitat.org

Support Builds for Habitat Home in Hubbardston

The Hubbardston Lion's Club is the latest organization to step up to support construction of a single-family home on land donated by the town of Hubbardston for affordable housing. Local businesses Ladybug Farm Produce, LaMacchia Real Estate, Ross Mortgage Company, The Ruptured Duck, and The Parents Estate Planning Law Firm have also given generously to support the build, which is being overseen by Habitat for Humanity North Central Massachusetts (Habitat NCM).

The Hubbardston Candle Company, which sells 100% beeswax candles through Giacomo's Gourmet Foods at 32 Main Street and online at www.HubbardstonCandle.com, is donating a portion of all sales made through May 31. "We love this town," said Doug Cormier, who started the business with his wife Joanne five years ago. Now that they're in a position to start giving back, he said, they were drawn to the fact that "Habitat gives people who can't afford a traditional mortgage an avenue to a home."

Individual donors are also contributing to the project by taking part in an online Pampered Chef fundraising party hosted by supporter Stephanie LeBlanc, who is donating her commission to the effort. Orders should be placed at www.pamperedchef.biz/sleblanc by Feb.19 to benefit the Hubbardston build. Local artist and teacher Gayla Bieksha kicked off fundraising efforts with a festive Paint Night in December.

This month, the Law Office of David R. Rocheford, Jr., P.C., a long-time supporter of Habitat NCM, pledged \$7,000 to match new donations to the Hubbardston build dollar for dollar, allowing organizers to take their fundraising efforts to the next level. A generous donation from Hubbardston resident Ed Blanchard has already earned the project \$500 in matching funds.

The local Hubbardston build committee has committed to raising \$35,000 toward construction costs. The project was started by the Hubbardston Planning Board, the town Select Board, and the Community Preservation Committee to help the town meet the state's 10% affordable housing goal for every city and town. By partnering with Habitat NCM, Hubbardston is offering "a hand up, not a handout." Each Habitat homeowner contributes hundreds of hours of sweat equity to constructing their home and takes on a 0% mortgage to purchase it at an affordable price.

"We are especially grateful to the students and faculty of Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical High School who have donated so much time and skill to constructing the house, and to the area companies who have contributed services and materials," said Alice Livdahl, who sits on the Hubbardston Planning Board and the local build committee. "We're excited to see new contributors become part of this effort, and with our current matching dollars, they can feel great knowing the value of their gifts will be doubled."

To learn more about the build, visit www.ncmhabitat.org. If you'd like to contribute, click the Donate tab at the top of the page or mail your check, made payable to Habitat for Humanity NCM, to 201 Great Road, Suite 301, Acton, MA 01720.

#

Habitat for Humanity North Central Massachusetts offers a hand up, not a handout, to hard-working, low-income central Massachusetts families seeking affordable home ownership. Habitat NCM builds and repairs simple, decent houses with people in need, serving 30 towns and cities in North Central

Massachusetts. Habitat NCM also operates the Leominster ReStore, 637 Lancaster Street (Route 117), which raises funds through the sale of discounted and recycled materials and furniture.

House photos courtesy of Habitat NCM.

Photo of Joanne and Doug Cormier, courtesy of Joanne and Doug Cormier.