

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Community Invited to Tour Habitat Home

Mid-Build Ceremony will take place Saturday, March 5 at 10 a.m.

Habitat for Humanity North Central Massachusetts (Habitat NCM) is inviting community members to visit the house it is building on Ragged Hill Road in Hubbardston during its Mid-Build Ceremony on Saturday, March 5 at 10 a.m. Guests will get a tour of the partially completed one-family home and a chance to meet the new homeowners. They will also be invited to write messages of welcome on the studs framing the walls as a gesture of support for the family's presence in the community.

Habitat NCM will also use the occasion to acknowledge the many volunteers involved in building the house. Faculty and students at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School (Monty Tech) in Fitchburg are key partners in the construction effort. They will donate thousands of hours to the build by the time the house is completed.

"This is a great opportunity for students in our carpentry, plumbing, electrical, and HVAC programs," said Tom Browne, Monty Tech principal. "The project provides valuable life lessons as well as on-the-job experience for our students."

Weekends bring community volunteers to the site to lend a hand, with groups coming from Leominster's Leaktite Corporation, Workers Credit Union, the Leominster Center for Excellence, and Heal Winchendon. The future homeowner will also contribute hundreds of hours of sweat equity to constructing the house and will take on a 0% mortgage to purchase the home at an affordable price.

To keep costs down, several area companies have contributed materials directly to the build. EDF Renewables is supplying solar panels, and Harvard-based Solar Design Associates is donating their installation; Watertown-based M.L. McDonald is supplying paint. These generous gifts will reduce building costs by thousands of dollars.

The Hubbardston Habitat build was started by the Hubbardston Planning Board, the town Select Board, and the Community Preservation Committee to help address the urgent need for affordable housing. Presently 29% of all households in Hubbardston are low-income, but there is no subsidized housing in town except for Hubbardston House, a residence for low-income seniors, and group homes. By partnering with Habitat NCM, Hubbardston is offering "a hand up, not a handout" to a hard-working low-income family.

Representative Donnie Berthiaume, an advocate for affordable housing, plans to attend the Mid-Build Ceremony. "I'm looking forward to meeting the homeowner, celebrating progress on the house, and thanking all the folks who have contributed to the build," he said

Attendees will gather at the build site on Ragged Hill Road just south of Birches Road at 10:00 a.m. The event will be held rain or shine.

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

Photo courtesy of Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School

Caption: Monty Tech students help Habitat for Humanity North Central Massachusetts build a single-family home in Hubbardston.

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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.