

Home for the Holidays?

Lawson Family Hopes to Finish Sweat Equity, Move into New Home by Year-End

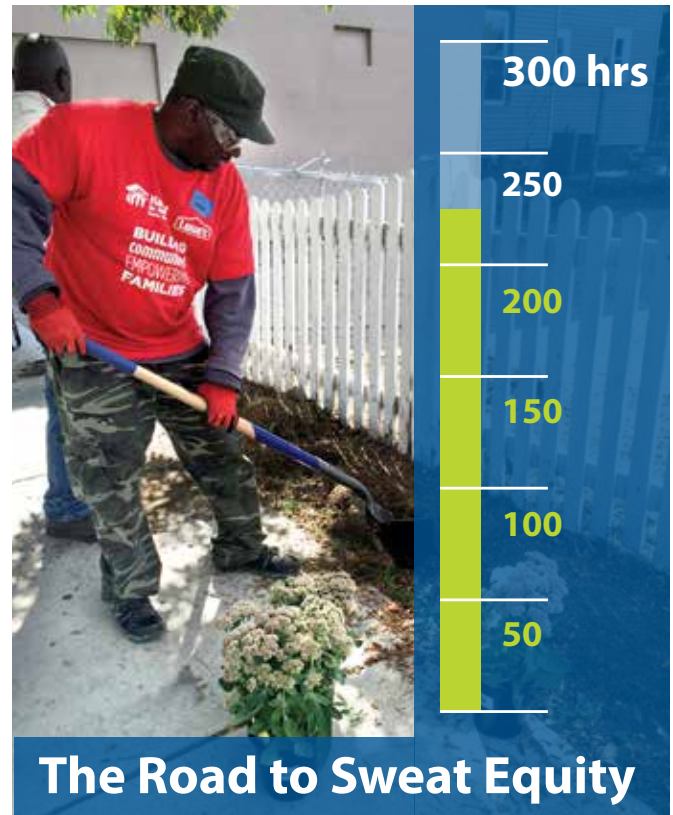
Habitat families aren't just given the homes your support helps build. Every partner family contributes 300 hours of "sweat equity" to Habitat by building their home or another partner family's home or by working in Habitat's ReStore. After completing the sweat equity requirements and attending a series of homeownership classes, Habitat families pay for their home with an affordable mortgage. It takes the average family at least a year to complete the Habitat program and be ready to purchase a home.

Well, as you can see, Tyrone and Junia aren't average...

With more than two-thirds of their 300 hours complete, this power couple is on track to finish by the end of 2016. That's a total of about nine months!



Tyrone and Junia Lawson with their two kids Amanda and Jacques. On track to finish their sweat equity three months faster than average, this couple is eager to create a better life for their family in the Habitat home you've made possible.



Along with our newly-selected families (featured on the back page of this newsletter), Tyrone and Junia will complete a series of ten homeownership classes this fall so they will be able to purchase their new home as quickly as possible.

Thanks to you, their days of living with two young children in a one-bedroom apartment will soon be behind them! 🌱

Wanda & Ronald Mourant: Why We Give



Wanda and Ron (shown here in a "selfie" taken in their front yard) have supported Habitat Greater Boston since 1993 and Habitat International for 30 years. The couple describes themselves as "Retired but still active, although not as active as we once were!" Here's what they had to say about why they give to Habitat...

Why does this cause matter to you?

Being homeless or living in inadequate housing is hard on people and especially hard on kids. People need decent homes. Habitat builds those homes, finances them at 0% interest, befriends the owners, helps them learn to care for those homes, provides financial management guidance... it's all good.

What other causes do you care most deeply about?

We have a list of about fifty organizations that we support at some level. The organizations on our list

feed the hungry; help victims of disasters; befriend the old, handicapped, and lonely; work to protect our environment; teach the blind and underprivileged; give free concerts; provide scholarships; go to court to protect the environment and the rights of people who have been mistreated... We're not rich. Some organizations get small donations every year, some get more, and with a few, we have charitable gift annuities.

What are the different ways you've been involved with Habitat?

We are members of the cheering section. We don't know if you realize you have a cheering section, but how else can we describe ourselves? We read *Habitat World* and all the other literature we get about Habitat, especially about Habitat Greater Boston. We talk with others about what Habitat does. We went on a build site tour. We donate. Give while you're alive and can enjoy doing it!

What's your favorite thing about Habitat?

Everything! Especially requiring sweat equity from future homeowners and making the effort to build energy-efficient homes. It's wonderful that people who couldn't afford decent housing can have solar power, energy efficient appliances, and flooring from sustainable sources. 🌱

All of us at Habitat are so grateful to have supporters like Wanda & Ron—and YOU!—as part of our family. Thank you for your generosity!

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Growing up Habitat... Remember Jamal?

Both Somali refugees, Jamal Fiin's parents were selected for the Habitat program in 2009. Jamal was eleven years old.

As you may recall, at age seventeen, Jamal shared his story of growing up in a Habitat home at last year's American Dream Awards Breakfast. And this fall, Jamal started his freshman year at Suffolk University where he's taking pre-law classes.

When you give homeownership opportunities to low-income families like the Fiins, you're offering more than just a place to live. You're offering safety, stability, and self-reliance. The result—stronger families, stronger communities, and stronger futures for children like Jamal. ♪



Jamal Fiin, age 11 in 2009, shows off the keys to his family's new Habitat home. In 2015, he took the podium to share his story at our annual breakfast. This past spring, he graduated from Boston Latin School and is now a freshman at Suffolk University.

DID YOU KNOW that children of homeowners are **25% more likely to graduate from high school** and **116% more likely to graduate from college?**

**Compared to renters of the same age, income, and race*

It's a Win/Win!

Your Habitat Homes Aren't Just Affordable, They're Solar-Powered

→ Your support helps the environment *and* low-income homeowners

You may remember reading last year that six of the Habitat homes you've helped build were going solar. Each homeowner was given their own individual system and the solar energy was expected to cover 85% of the family's utility bill.

Well, your results are even more impressive! Our newest Habitat owners on Woodbine Street have a negative balance on their electric bills because their solar panels are producing more energy than they're using. They will be able to use these credits to offset their electric bills in the winter when the solar panels generate less electricity.

The six Habitat homes running on solar energy have produced enough combined electricity to power the average home for almost five years. And with your continued support, two more homes will be ready to have solar panels installed in the coming months. That's electric! ♪



Stephen and Arlene England, Habitat homeowners in Roslindale, show off the inverter that turns solar power into electricity for their home. The Englands had an electric bill of only \$10 this September.

With your continued support, two more Habitat homes will be getting solar panels!

Selected from More Than 50 Applicants!

Two Families Hope to Become Habitat Homeowners in Roslindale

Two new families have been selected to benefit from your generosity. They have both been approved for homes under construction at Red Rose Condominiums in Roslindale. From a competitive field of strong candidates, these families were chosen based on need and their potential to succeed in the Habitat program.



Emilio Baez and **Maria Silva** currently live in a small apartment in Roslindale with their two daughters, **Hailey** (8) and **Isabella** (3). The room where the girls sleep doesn't have an operable window because it opens onto the fire escape. Making matters worse, the apartment's ventilation system does not work properly, which allows cigarette and marijuana smoke in through the vents. These conditions would be unsafe for any child, and it's particularly bad for Hailey because she has asthma. Living in a home where each of the girls would have her own bedroom and easy access to play outside would be a dream—a dream you can make come true!



Immigrants from Togo, **Kossi Toutou** and **Esther Houze** live in a small, two-bedroom unit in Mission Hill. Coincidentally, they have two daughters the same ages as the Baez-Silva family, **Pamela** (8) and **Janella** (3). Their tiny apartment is in a high-rise building with poor ventilation and pests. They are eager for a safe, decent home with outdoor space where the girls can play. The Toutou-Houze family learned about the Habitat program from another homeowner and came to a Habitat info session at the ReStore this summer. They submitted their completed application on the spot! 🌱

With your continued support, these families, both with two daughters the same age, will become neighbors (and hopefully friends!) living side-by-side in safe, affordable homes.

Yes! I want to help **Habitat for Humanity Greater Boston** build decent, affordable homes in partnership with low-income families.

Please accept my gift of:

\$35 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 Other: \$ _____

Enclosed is my check payable to *Habitat for Humanity Greater Boston*

Please charge my credit card (Visa or Mastercard)

Account Number _____ Exp. Date _____

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You can also give online at
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Thank you for your generosity!