



In 1987, a group of volunteers in Dorchester came together with the goal of addressing the neighborhood's need for more affordable housing. Despite many hurdles, they eventually accomplished their goal of serving three families by completing construction on a cluster of homes at Dorchester Terrace. Along the way, **this group reorganized to become Habitat for Humanity Greater Boston.**

Thirty-five years later, Habitat for Humanity Greater Boston continues to rise to the occasion of improving the lives of hardworking families through access to affordable homeownership. To date, the affiliate has completed 122 homes, serving 635 individuals across 26 towns and cities throughout Greater Boston.

A lot has changed in the past 35 years. In response to the ever-present need for affordable homeownership, Habitat Greater Boston has evolved into a **sustainable, staff-run, and donor- and volunteer-supported organization.** Since the first three homes were built, the affiliate has constructed 119 more, and plans to continue to grow both in quantity – **30 more homes are planned for the coming years** – and in our

## Making History Together

footprint. Habitat Greater Boston has 5 units underway in Malden and will break ground on 6 more units in Weston, 4 homes in Roslindale, and 7 in Dorchester in early 2023.

By expanding beyond the city, Habitat will increase its impact and address the need for affordable housing through the Greater Boston area.

In 2010, we opened the ReStore, our retail outlet, which has become a must-visit destination for community members, thrifters, and many of our partner families who are furnishing their new homes. Today, we have a dynamic construction operation, administrative offices, and a comprehensive, full-service homeownership program offering partner families financial education and continued support.

**Habitat Greater Boston shares this moment with you - our donors, volunteers, and mission ambassadors.** Here is to another 35 years of helping our neighbors.

# Message from the President



Dear Friends,

Thank you for supporting Habitat Greater Boston, our families, and our mission.

This year is a special one for us. **Thirty-five years ago, a group of dedicated Bostonians came together to tackle the need for affordable homeownership in our city.** This committed group became Habitat for Humanity Greater Boston and went on to complete their first block of homes in Dorchester over the next several years. **We are incredibly grateful to the past leadership, staff, and supporters of Habitat Boston, whose efforts continue to drive our mission across Greater Boston.**

Thirty-five years later, here we are. With the same spark of dedication that inspired our organization's humble beginnings, you continue to help us build a Greater Boston where 'everyone has a decent place to call home'.

**Your support has led to more than 635 people being able to experience the benefits of homeownership.** Your financial contributions and thousands of volunteers over the years have led to the construction of 122 affordable homes in Boston and the surrounding 25 cities and towns. And your commitment is the reason we are able to celebrate 35 years of serving our community.



Reflecting on the past year – and more broadly on the past 35 years – provides a great opportunity to refocus our energy on the work at hand and our vision for the future. Habitat Greater Boston's overarching goal is to improve the wellbeing of working families through successful homeownership.

The need is greater than ever with more than 30% of our neighbors being rent burdened and struggling to afford another increase. **With your continued generosity we are ready to start our next projects in Roslindale, Dorchester, and Weston in early 2023.**

I look forward to celebrating our milestones together and having more impact on local families.

In partnership and with gratitude,

President & CEO

“  
Sending best wishes for a holiday season full of joy and love.  
”

**P.S.** Please support Habitat Boston's work this holiday season!

# A Special Partnership

When you think of Habitat Greater Boston, you might picture volunteers raising a wall or painting a bedroom. These are important – and fun – parts of that process, but ultimately, building homes is just the means to an end.

**Our true objective is to make the dream of successful and affordable homeownership a reality for those living in Greater Boston.**

As you're reading this, our Homeowner Services team is working to select **5 new partner families** to enter our homeownership program. Each partner family must meet the following requirements in order to enter the program:

## Homeownership Program Requirements

To Qualify:	To Complete Program:
Demonstration of need	Sweat equity hours
Ability to maintain financial stability	12 homeownership preparedness classes
Willingness to partner with HFHGB	Cover closing costs
	Commit to 0% interest mortgage for cost of home



Cynthia and her children entering their own home for the first time in Spring 2022.



Abdi and Justine onsite at their future homes completing their sweat equity hours.

The ultimate goal of Habitat Greater Boston's homeownership program is to provide a pathway for future homeowners – aka "Homesteaders" – to the stability offered by affordable homeownership. In order to ensure success on this journey, Habitat Boston provides Homesteaders with tools and information necessary for them to understand and be prepared for the realities of homeownership. In addition to completing **courses on financial management, home maintenance and estate planning**, Homesteaders also learn about what goes into building a home by volunteering on Habitat construction sites for 300 sweat equity hours.

## Habitat Greater Boston Homesteader Education Program

Financial Management & Budgeting

Home Maintenance

Estate Planning

Post-Closing Check-ins & Support

## Effects of Homeownership

Stephen and Arlene moved to Boston from South Carolina in 2009 to pursue work and a better future. When they arrived, **they worked three jobs between them and were still barely able to afford rent and utilities in a 2-bedroom attic apartment** where they lived with their three young daughters.

**Their story is not uncommon for our partner families and thousands of others who are rent burdened and must move multiple times to escape high annual increases.**

A good friend encouraged the family to apply to Habitat Greater Boston's homeownership program. They qualified, did their 300 hours of sweat equity, and learned about the responsibilities of homeownership and benefits of being homeowners in their required classes. In 2015, they moved into their new house; seven years later, they continue to reap the rewards of owning their own home.

As we recognize Stephen's and Arlene life-changing accomplishment, we also acknowledge all our partner families whose work and commitment to building better futures is a hallmark of our work.



*"It was the best decision I made for my family,"*  
Stephen proclaims.

Because of Habitat's homeownership program, Stephen and Arlene are able to own a home they can afford. Affordable mortgages aren't the only benefits Habitat's homeownership program provides.

Homes are built with energy efficiency in mind – so that families can focus on saving and building wealth that can support future generations. *"Our light bill is zero because we have the solar panel on the roof,"* Stephen said. **These savings provide the family with opportunities to spend more time together, to live healthier lives, and to plan for the future.**

With a big smile Stephen added, *"Having a home changed everything for us, and we feel very lucky."*



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**877-277-4344**  
[www.habitat.org/carsforhomes](http://www.habitat.org/carsforhomes)

## Local Students Giving Back

In recognition of the volunteer support and community effort that is at the heart of Habitat Greater Boston's mission, we engaged graphic design students from **Bridgewater State University** to create a **special logo to celebrate our 35th anniversary.**



Building together since 1987

**Nicole Johnson**, designed the winning logo – "To me, Habitat Boston is about helping families build a home that ensures a sense of safety, strength, and self-reliance. It was an honor to be part of the creative process that helps express 35 years of building homes and communities."

Many thanks to Nicole and her classmates for helping us spotlight our special anniversary.



Scan to **donate** to Habitat Boston and change the lives of local families.