

Thrive. That's what Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity families do. But they can't do it alone. Family by family, house by house, we are building communities that flourish. **Won't you help us?**

1 small business • 10 full-time jobs • 48 birthday celebrations • 2 fish • 1 toddler • 3 children grades K-12 • 8 high school degrees, one with high honors • 2 weddings

What makes a Habitat community?

Once a jumble of abandoned buildings in South Lawrence, Market Common is now an attractive area with a central lawn surrounded by three duplex houses and a single-family home. It's a haven for seven families of modest means but ambitious dreams; safe and sheltering like the neighborhoods more prosperous folks take for granted.

Market Common took 43,130 volunteer hours, more than 12 city permits, about 80 windows, \$59,445 of lumber, and much more to build. But like all of our neighborhoods, it is more than just bricks and mortar. Take a look!

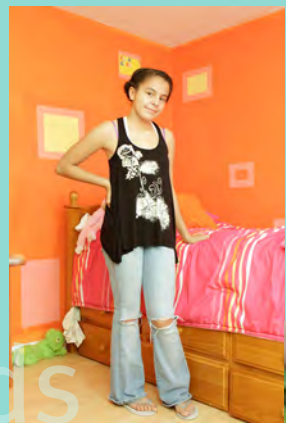


"Habitat for Humanity helps our family live a life-style that we've always dreamed of." – Arisai



2 part-time jobs • 6 graduation parties • \$6,314 in property tax revenues for the city of Lawrence each year

9 college and trade-school students • 8 higher-ed graduates



3 students pursuing advanced degrees (medicine, nursing, psychology)



Changing lives, one house at a time

Our goal, as the local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, is to help families thrive in homes of their own. Homes that they themselves help to build, alongside generous volunteers and donors just like you. Times are tough, and people are struggling. **Your help is urgently needed now, more than ever.**

Won't you help build a better tomorrow for families like the ones who live at Market Common?

Even with volunteer labor and donated supplies, it costs about \$110,000 to construct a Habitat house in the Merrimack Valley. Your donation of any amount will help build more houses, including our most ambitious project yet — converting the former St. Patrick convent in Lawrence into 10 affordable condominium homes.

Please help us help our low-income neighbors live and thrive in dignity and safety. Together, house by house, we can change the world.

Thank you and happy holidays.



“They are loving and caring people and they are always there. Once you become a Habitat family you always belong.” –Ruth

“I am in my own home and it’s peaceful for me and my kids.”
–Magnolia

What do
Market Common
homeowners say
about Habitat?

“The people of Habitat really have human warmth and courage. They work to make every day better.” –Dillyam

Did you know?

Habitat families:

- Help build their own homes
- Attend special classes to learn about homeownership
- Pay affordable, no-interest mortgages to Habitat
- Pay property taxes
- Often attract private developers to nearby properties, adding stability to the neighborhood and increasing the potential value of surrounding homes.

For more information: www.merrimackvalleyhabitat.org

Did you know?

Homeownership:

- Is associated with improved health, education, and employment outcomes
- Improves the community’s appearance and safety
- Increases property values
- Enhances a family’s sense of dignity and pride.

community

sweat equity
ownership



Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity is an ecumenical housing ministry. Along with other local affiliates of Habitat for Humanity International, we seek to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action.

Since our founding in 1985, we have built 74 homes and have 11 under construction. Worldwide, Habitat volunteers and homeowners have created 500,000 units of housing.



Merrimack Valley
**Habitat
for Humanity**

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