



# The View from the Porch



Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity 10.13

## Building Houses Building Hope

### There's No Place Like Home

*Lila Silvestre and her daughter Gisell Jimenez have had many addresses, but never a home of their own. Living in Lawrence for more than a decade, Lila could only dream of being able to own a home where she could care for her daughter and her aging mother. But all that changed a few weeks ago when they signed the papers for their*

*house on Hancock Street.*

*Lila is a home health nursing assistant. She juggles a full time job with taking care of her mother and raising her daughter. It has sometimes been a struggle to provide for her daughter and her mother,*

*but she has accepted that*

*responsibility with grace and a determination to better her future and the future of her family.*



Members of Faith Lutheran Church and Lila work on her new home



### Dear Neighbors, Friends, and Supporters:

June 26th was a big day for us. Our board of directors met for our annual meeting, a meeting where volunteers committed to our mission come together not to build a home, but to support the organization through strategic leadership and steady stewardship. We took actions to strengthen our capacity to build and ensure that we can continue our work for many years to come.

As a group of volunteers, we are keenly aware of the value and importance of the volunteers that support our affiliate. This year, we had several retiring board members, four new board members were elected, and three board members chose to continue with a second term. And I was elected president of the board, assuming the position from Ken

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When she can, she studies at Northern Essex Community College as she hopes to someday become a registered nurse. Meanwhile, Gisell is a full time student planning a career in Criminal Justice. She works part time to help pay for her education and support her family and volunteers as part of the Lawrence Auxiliary Police Force.

Yet there was no place for the family to call home. Until now. "I can't believe I will have my own house," Lila said between tears at the closing. "Habitat is giving me the opportunity to be a homeowner. Thanks to Habitat, I will move into my own house!"

There were hugs and tears at the closing. A closing that for Lila and Gisell opens the door to a tomorrow realized in a home of one's own.



As a result, two families are approaching their 2nd anniversary as homeowners and Merrimack Valley Habitat has decided to do it again! Habitat for Humanity's 2014 Home Builders Blitz will take place June 9-13th, 2014. In the span of one week, Habitat for Humanity affiliates across the country will build more than 200 homes. The labor and materials for these homes will be donated by local building professionals and vendors so that the homes can be built by a professional team in one week at little cost. As part of this nationwide event, the Merrimack Valley Habitat will build two houses in Lawrence, marking the third time since 2006 that the affiliate has participated in a Builders Blitz. Planning for the 2014 Blitz began in early September with a kick-off event sponsored by the Lupoli Companies and Salvatore's at the Riverwalk in Lawrence, MA. Builders Blitz 2014 is being chaired by the leads of our 2012 Builders Blitz Team, Steve and Susan Howell of Howell Custom Building Group. Joining them on the Building Lead Team are Cote and Foster, JSR Adaptive Energy Solutions, and architect Andrew Steingiser, all from the 2012 Blitz. New to the team are Lavalee Plumbing & Heating and The Remodeling Company. Want to get involved? We are currently seeking a building professional who would like to be part of the Lead Builder team, building professionals and vendors who would like to contribute materials or labor, and anyone who would like to make a cash donation to help build these homes. To get involved or make a donation, please contact Sharon Mason at [sharon@merrimackvalleyhabitat.org](mailto:sharon@merrimackvalleyhabitat.org) or 978-681-8858.

## Home Builders Blitz 2014

The resounding answer to our question "what happens when you give Habitat a hand?" was the overwhelming success of our Builders Blitz 2012 where more than 300 volunteers came together to build two homes in one week.

## Arbor Day to the Rescue

What better way to honor Arbor Day then to tend to the trees on your property? One probably does not think that includes cutting the trees down. It may seem counter-intuitive, but for the Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity project at 100 Parker Street in Lawrence, MA, there were several compelling reasons to do just that:

- the trees intruded on the site that was to be off-the-street parking, an essential piece of the development plan for the ten homes being built there,
- with their overhang, the trees could potentially damage the building, and
- it had been recommended, as the trees were non-native species, to remove them.

Board member Ken LaRose reached out to Retelle Tree Corp. who responded very generously and on a sunny Saturday in April arrived, crew in tow, to remove five trees, improving the health of the surrounding landscaping.

Once down, the wood did not go to waste. Several artisan woodworkers came and collected wood which they will in turn craft into pieces ranging from beautiful salad bowls to fine furniture and quite a few volunteers came by to collect wood to be used as firewood, leaving very little for us to dispose.

Thanks to Retelle Tree Corp., it was a win-win-win situation.



## Building Dreams 2014

Our signature dinner, dance and auction Gala. 

The big event of our fundraising year will be held on February 8, 2014 at the beautiful Hilton DoubleTree in Danvers, MA. Highlights of the evening will include dinner music by Rayna Merrifield, a delectable dinner menu, enticing silent and live auction items presided over by the dynamic Charles Bailey-Gates, and the fabulous performance of Rick Larrimore.

## Swinging the Lumber: Home Runs for Hope

GO SOX! For every home run our Boston team hit during the 2013 season, Jackson Lumber & Millwork, with locations in Lawrence, North Andover and Amesbury, MA as well as Raymond, NH, donated \$25 to Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity! The donation was matched with another \$25 by TimberTech Decking, a long standing business partner of Jackson Lumber.

We couldn't be more excited. Jackson Lumber has been a long time supporter of Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity as we've teamed together to build safe and decent homes for the families of Merrimack Valley. Imagine how delighted we were that they "stepped up to the plate" with this generous donation. And with the Red Sox in the World Series, the possibilities were "out of the park!"

It's just incredible what a winning team can do! Thank you, Jackson Lumber!

Be sure to mark your calendar: Saturday, November 16!

ReStore ReLocation Grand ReOpening  
10am to 4pm

Refreshments, activities for the kids, repurposing workshops, tours of the new space...and the best ReStore we can bring to you!

## ReStore on the Move

Yes, it's true. We're experiencing growing pains! After two+ terrific years at our 4 Union Street location, the time has come for us to move. While we will miss what has been a terrific home to us, we have simply outgrown the space - thanks to you, our terrific customers and our terrific donors!

On October 10, we closed the store at our 4 Union Street location in order to make the move into our new space at 647 Andover Street, Lawrence, MA. With more parking and more retail space, we've been busy preparing the nearly 16,000 square feet of space, moving our substantial inventory and making a new, better ReStore.

As always, many of you have been instrumental in making this possibility a reality. Corporate groups, including Charles River Labs, Philips Healthcare, VMware, Fujitsu, Converse and MediaTek have devoted countless hours helping us clean, build, organize, move, and generally get the store ready for business. New Balance and Fred Glore with Boulevard Transportation Systems donated trucks to facilitate moving the ReStore merchandise to our new location. Everyone has pulled together and we know you'll be as excited as we are at the result!

ReStore sales of new and gently used building materials, appliances, furniture and home improvement items at greatly reduced prices helps fund the building of affordable homes for low income families in the 22 towns and cities we serve. It's a great way to dispose of unwanted goods while promoting re-use of items that may otherwise end up in landfills. Hours at our new location will be Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 10am - 6pm and Saturday, 10am - 5pm.

Thank you for your support. See you at the ReStore!

## Fall is in the Air



Sunday, September 22 was the Autumnal Equinox - that time occurring only twice per year when the plane of the earth's equator passes the center of the sun. What it also means is SHORTER days and WARMER clothes. As you start pulling out your jeans & sweaters, don't forget to donate your used summer clothing in the Recycle That collection box at our NEW ReStore location, 647 Andover Street, Lawrence. Proceeds from the donations made through this program will benefit our affiliate, helping turn unwanted soft goods into wanted safe homes.





# Thank you!

## Building Houses Building Hope

You make the life-changing work we do possible. The following reflects gifts received between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013. We sincerely thank every individual and organization listed here for their generosity and commitment to helping deserving families buy decent, affordable homes. Thank you!

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 Hyannis Whale Watcher Cruises  
 I & G Tailoring & Designs  
 iFarm LLC

Image Tec  
 INAKA Restaurant  
 Allen Incollingo  
 Indra Salon  
 Island Commuter Corp.  
 Carol Israel  
 Amy Janovsky  
 Albert R. Jardine  
 Paul Jarowiewicz  
 Nancy Jarvis  
 S. Kay Jarvis  
 Joseph Jelson  
 Andres Jerez  
 Chris and Vicky Johnston  
 Bonnie Jordan  
 Eric Jordan  
 Susan Juknavorian  
 Catherine Garth  
 Gaspari, Inc.  
 Carol Gates  
 Stephen and Joan Gates  
 Christine Gaudette  
 Joseph F. Geary and Ann O'Connor Geary  
 David L. Gerlach  
 Reverend Jeffrey and Carolyn Gill  
 Karen Girard  
 John Giudice  
 Steven Golden and Carol Tanski  
 Rose Gonzalez  
 Connie Goodwin  
 Edwin and Judith Goonyep  
 Mark Gotobed  
 Anthony and Debbie Grasso  
 Emily Grasso  
 Donna Graves  
 Joanne Gray  
 Warren Greenstein  
 Amy Gribbel  
 Kathleen C. Grieco  
 Robert Grodzicki  
 Tom Grondine  
 Jennifer Gross  
 Robert Grower  
 Ed Gundrum  
 Jan Gustison  
 Brendon and Kristen Guthrie  
 Jean Guyer  
 Paula Haas  
 Hallkeen Management  
 Michael and Sonya Hamori  
 Brian Hamrahan  
 Joan Handstad  
 Mark Hanson  
 Michael Hardgrove  
 Amy Harley  
 Tammy Harrington  
 Catherine Harrison  
 Jay and Deb Hartigan  
 Cyndi Hastings  
 Micheal Lavoie  
 Russell LeBlanc  
 Jackie Ledet  
 Ann Lee  
 \* Janet Lees  
 Sharon Legendne  
 Likam Lie  
 Paul Leone  
 Les Fleurs  
 Elizabeth Levine  
 Greg Lewis  
 David Lindquist  
 Steve Lisauskas  
 Lobster Tail  
 Kirsten Lovett  
 Lowes  
 Deborah Lucas  
 Judy Luciano  
 Robert and Frances Ludwig  
 John Lugus  
 Fabienne Lundy  
 Lynn Evans-Potpourri Designs  
 Philip MacKenzie, Jr.  
 Judy Mackie  
 Bonnie MacLeod

Donna MacMillan  
 Patricia MacPhee  
 Elizabeth Mallon  
 Oren Mamet  
 Manchester Hardware  
 Maureen Mangiaglia  
 Joanne Manville  
 Santina Marcello  
 Ann Marino  
 Marissa Michaels Hair Salon  
 Christine Marsh  
 Brian Marshall  
 John Marshall  
 Betsy Martin  
 James Martinoli  
 James and Angelita Martinoli  
 Peter and Noreen Marton  
 Michael and Nanette Masi  
 Tara Masih  
 Massachusetts Bible Society  
 Lynn Mather  
 Jordan and Paul Maue  
 Thomas Mayo  
 Martha Maysek  
 Alexander Mazor  
 Tshibamba and Melanie Mbiye  
 Frank and Tricia McCall  
 Kevin McCann  
 Sue McKittrick  
 John and Stella McClintock  
 Michael McDade  
 Tom McDonald  
 Colleen McElhinney  
 Jean McGondel  
 Diane McGovern  
 William McGovern  
 Shelly McGuiggan  
 William McIlhargey  
 Karen McInnis  
 McLays Florist and Garden Center  
 Kevin McLellan  
 David Meehan  
 Martin T. and Ellen Murphy Meehan  
 Mary Meehan  
 Michael Muhlfelder  
 Oscar and Martha Mendoza  
 Peter and Diana Merriam  
 Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce  
 Merrimack Valley YMCA  
 Annelise Mesler  
 Marie Lamb  
 Hanh Lambers  
 John Lamoureux  
 Kristin Landgraf  
 Mark and Sue Laplante  
 Peter Laquidava  
 Ardith LaRochelle  
 Edward Laubinger  
 Kevin and Nancy Lavin  
 Micheal Lavoie  
 Russell LeBlanc  
 Jackie Ledet  
 Ann Lee  
 \* Duane and Barbara Montopoli  
 John Montrone  
 Phyllis Moody  
 Robert Moody  
 Kathleen Moore  
 Nicole Moore  
 Joann Moran  
 Veronica Morgan  
 Anne Morin  
 Nicole Morin  
 Terry Morin  
 Peter and Danette Morris  
 Susan Morrison  
 Jennifer Morrow  
 Christina Mossey  
 Kyle Murphy  
 Michael Murphy  
 Stephen Murphy  
 Justin Nance  
 Jeff and Deborah Nazarian  
 Eric Nelson  
 Lisa Nelson

Stuart Newman  
 Thanh Nguyen  
 Lisa and Verne Nolet  
 Robert Nordstrom  
 North Andover Music Academy  
 Northern Outdoors  
 \* Norton and Patricia Peet  
 Judith Nowinski  
 Amanda Noyes  
 Bert and Debora Noyes  
 Melissa and Scott Nussbaum  
 Nancy Nygard  
 Jodi Oberto  
 Edward O'Callaghan  
 Robert and Carol Ann O'Handley  
 Kevin O'Hara  
 Leandro Oliveira  
 Kevin O'Meara  
 On An Inhale  
 One to One Strength, Inc.  
 Megan O'Neill  
 Robin O'Neill  
 Orange Leaf Yogurt  
 Cheryl Ordway  
 Matt Ornes  
 Vincent O'Roarke  
 Socorro Ortiz  
 Orzo's Trattoria Restaurant  
 Jeff Osterman  
 Felipe Ovalie  
 Joe Ozer  
 John Pallone  
 Palmer's Restaurant  
 Janice Palumbo  
 Susan Parigian  
 Matthew Paris  
 Parksite  
 Parrelli Optical  
 Cathy Partridge  
 Madhuri and Jasmine Patel  
 Paul Lyden Photography  
 Douglas Pearson  
 Marjorie A. Peraza  
 Danielle Perry  
 Theresa Peterson  
 Nancy Pfeiffer  
 David and Pam Piehl  
 Mark D. Pietro  
 Thelma Pike  
 Kathleen Pikus  
 Paula Pinkney  
 Jacqueline Pitts  
 Planet Color  
 Laszlo Pokorny  
 Robert and Adelel Polizzotti  
 Joseph Ponte  
 Ronald Pouliot  
 Premier Commercial Properties  
 Aaron Preston  
 David Price  
 Gurney Profit  
 Kenneth R. Proposki  
 Paul Puglise  
 Troy Purington  
 Quiet Pleasures Jewelry  
 Jim and Antonette Quinlan  
 Christine Quinn  
 Hal Rabbino  
 Bonnie Radke  
 Raggs  
 Ron and Patty Ramsden  
 Sherry Ranta  
 Elsa Rao  
 Mary Raymond  
 Rebuilding Together Greater Haverhill, Inc.  
 Paul and Marjorie Recinos  
 Joan Regan  
 Donna Marie Reid  
 James and Eileen Reilly  
 Wanda Reines  
 Dorie Resnik  
 Marsha E. Rich, Esq.  
 Nancy Richard  
 Anna Richards

Diane Riddell  
 Cindy Ringer  
 Alexsandra Rivera  
 Pam Roach  
 Marianne Roberts  
 Lawrence Robertson  
 Carolyn Robinson  
 Rockport Music  
 Rocky's Ace Hardware  
 Jane Rodgers  
 David, William and Laurel Roebuck  
 Douglas and Margaret Roeck  
 Rolling Ridge Retreat & Conference Center  
 Marta Romero  
 Carolyn Rondino  
 Rose and Dove Specialty Gift Shop  
 George Rose  
 Lois Rosenbloom  
 Michael Rosengard  
 David Ross  
 Cheryl Rossi  
 Rounds True Value Hardware  
 Karen Rouse  
 Julie Rutland  
 Robert Ryan  
 Stephen and Eileen Rys  
 Tara Salvi  
 Mary Sanchez  
 Lynda Saracusa  
 Paul Savage  
 Linda Sayach  
 Nicole Schena  
 Jana Schulson  
 Francis Jean Scurto  
 Sedlers Antique Village  
 Diane Serley  
 Shawsheen Village Liquors  
 Edward Sheehan  
 Amanda Shipley  
 Mr. and Mrs. Shipley  
 Michael Shirley  
 Chester Shuman  
 Heddi Siebel  
 Luis Silva  
 Nancy Simili  
 Maria Simonetti  
 Doris Sirois  
 Raymond and Ginni Sirois  
 Susan Sisson  
 Kurt Slevoski  
 Franklin and Stafania Small  
 Dixie Smetana  
 Chris Smith  
 Derek and Rebecca Smith  
 Jennifer Smith  
 Beth Smithson  
 Mary Jane Smyth  
 Linda Sneldon  
 Soiree Andover  
 Janet Solomon  
 Judy Southard  
 Eilya Spencer  
 Donna Sprague  
 SpringHill Suites Boston- Andover  
 Phyllis Staffier  
 Starbucks  
 Kim Steele  
 Marilyn Stella  
 Stephens Custom Flooring  
 Linda Stewart  
 Don Stidsen  
 Ross Stinson  
 Stone One  
 Stoneham Theatre  
 Dawn Stowers  
 Richard Stuart  
 Barbara Sullivan  
 Jim Sullivan  
 Martin Sullivan  
 Eric Swanson  
 Michael Sweeney  
 Sweet Mimi's Chocolates  
 William Sweet  
 Stanley Swiniarski

Agnes Takvorian  
 Chris Tavares  
 Madeline Terranova  
 Texas Roadhouse  
 Thomas Tamara  
 Melissa Thatcher  
 David and Beverly Therkelsen  
 Mary Thibodeau  
 Patricia Thome  
 Sally Thomson  
 Dan Tiber  
 Allen Tile  
 John Tilton  
 Francis and Charlene Titone  
 Toll Brothers  
 Arthur and Robin Tomasino  
 Leslie Toner  
 Carlos Torres  
 Town of Yarmouth  
 Charles Trainor  
 Susan Trippi  
 Robert Trott  
 Michael Trovato  
 Steve Tryder  
 Jody Turin  
 Meg Turner  
 Garrett Upson  
 John VanSchalkwyk  
 Megan Vanvliet  
 Margarita Vega  
 Isidoro Velazquez  
 Paul Veligor  
 George Verrette  
 Laura Verrette  
 Volvo Rents  
 Edward Wadbrook  
 Al Walker  
 Chris Wallace  
 Frank Walsh  
 Frank and Linda Walsh  
 Michael Walsh  
 \* Ellen Waszak  
 John Webber  
 Linda Webber  
 Jerold Weiner  
 Jack Welch  
 Beth Westcott  
 Cheryl Weston  
 Mary Whinery  
 White Dog Productions LLC  
 Kris White  
 Richard Whitney  
 Whole Foods Market  
 Elizabeth Wilder  
 Natalie Wiles  
 Lynda Williams  
 Andrew and Nicole Wilson  
 The Wine Connexion  
 Christine Winfrey  
 Jean and Jay Smith  
 Ronald Wybranowski  
 Yarmouth House Restaurant  
 David York  
 Rob Zduunczyk  
 Ron Zehab  
 Deb Zoltai  
 Johnathan Zsitnik

\* This person also performed volunteer work for our affiliate.

## Business Buddies

Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity continues to build community by building homes. But we are also keenly aware that community extends well beyond the walls of our houses – and our corporate volunteers are a foundational member of that community. Mortgage Network, Inc. of Danvers knows exactly what we mean and they brought their commitment to affordable housing to bear – one nail at a time!

Last spring, twenty-four Mortgage Network, Inc. employees and their families and friends spent their day raising hammers, pounding nails and using saws as they worked to further our 100 Parker Street project. Some spent their day upstairs creating window frames and strapping ceilings. Others were busy framing what will one day be the kitchen of a three bedroom unit in the building.

“It is personally rewarding to be a part of this experience and the Mortgage Network team’s enthusiasm and commitment to Habitat for Humanity will help deserving families realize their dream of homeownership,” said Robert A. McInnes, President and co-owner of Mortgage Network, Inc.

Consider joining Mortgage Network and other area businesses like them. If you or your company would enjoy spending a day building community by

building homes, or are looking for a meaningful team building experience, give J.C. a call at 978-681-8858.



We have made every effort to verify the accuracy of this list, but if your name is missing, has been listed incorrectly, or should appear differently in the future, please contact Sharon Mason, director of development, at 978-681-8858 or [sharon@merrimackvalleyhabitat.org](mailto:sharon@merrimackvalleyhabitat.org).





## 4th Annual Brickman Triathlon A Terrific Success

The fog lifted just in time for the start of the fourth annual Brickman Triathlon race. Held Sunday, September 29 in Lawrence, more than 160 athletes participated to raise funds for Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity and the Merrimack Valley YMCA. The sprint triathlon consisted of a 250

yard pool swim, a 10 mile bike ride, and a 3 mile run. Individuals as well as 2 and 3 person teams participated. Completing the race in 49:45, Chris Poulos of Tewksbury was the overall 1st place male winner. Lauren Carratu of Methuen was the overall 1st place female winner with a final time of 1:06:14. More than 10 relay teams took part in this year's event, including the Generation Gangi team representing 3 generations! August Gangi, 45, of North Easton ran with his father, Bill, 70, and his

daughter, 13, placing first in the relay teams and 17th overall!

Kudos to race director Gerry Pouliot who organized the event with the help of the MV YMCA, MV Habitat, and nearly 100 volunteers including experienced athletes from Trifury, the local triathlon club. BNY Mellon was the presenting sponsor. Several BNY Mellon employees ran in the event as well, while Café Azteca, Cedars, Bagel Boy and LaFruteria provided delicious and nourishing post-race refreshments. With such a success – and with the race being both fun to run and a terrific way to end the triathlon season – plans are already underway for next year's event.

Want to help? Send us an email at [info@merrimackvalleyhabitat.org](mailto:info@merrimackvalleyhabitat.org) and we'll get right back to you as to how you can become part of the team!

LaRose who, over the last three years, served the organization above and beyond the call of duty. Many thanks to all of you who have contributed – and continue to contribute – to the strength of our board.

As the board makes many transitions, so, too, does our affiliate. The push is on to finish the project at 100 Parker by December 2014, completing 10 condominium style homes. The families have been selected – they've already begun volunteering, accumulating their sweat equity hours – the framing is nearly complete, and the building systems are being constructed. We have nearly finished the relocation of our ReStore to 647 Andover Street, Lawrence, a location that will accommodate more retail space, community events and better accessibility. The affiliate has embraced a new and ambitious strategic plan, which builds on the 2010 Strategic Plan and the organizational base built by countless volunteers and staff over the last 28 years.

Which brings me back to you, our volunteers and our supporters. Building our homes, mentoring our families, raising our funds, our mission relies on you. We have many new and exciting initiatives on our agenda. As we move ahead, I look forward to the opportunity given me to lead the organization into the future. We can only do it if we all work together. I look forward to doing it with your support.

Yours in service,  
Dick Sumberg