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.

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
Parker Street in Lawrence, MA, there were several compelling reasons to do just that: cutting the trees down. It may seem counter-intuitive, but for the Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity project at 100 Arbor Day to the Rescue success of our Builders Blitz 2012 where more than 300 Home Builders Blitz 2014 home of one's own. education and support her family and volunteers as part of the Lawrence Auxiliary Police Force. Meanwhile, Gisell is a full time student planning a career in Criminal Justice. She works part time to help pay for her 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. Board member Ken LaRose reached out to Retelle Tree Corp. who responded very generously and on a sunny Saturday in April, arrived in tow, to remove five trees, improving the health of the surrounding landscaping. Arbor Day to the Rescue What better way to honor Arbor Day than 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 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. 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. Fall is in the Air 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!
Roof Raisers

Cornerstone Club

Circle of Hope

$5,000 - $9,999

Bank of America United Way Campaign

$10,000 - $24,999

Joseph Ruma and Helaine Palmer

$250 - $999

Nathan and Leslie Levenson

$100 - $249

The Church of Our Redeemer

$1 - $99

John Bartlett

Building Hope

Roof Raisers $1,000 - $2,499

Atria Marland Place

Community Builders $250 - $999

Mr. Robert and Mrs. Joan M. Smart

Paul and Marilyn Guglielmo

Nancy Bateman

Emerson Dahmen and Janet Grover

Karen Schierle

Hope Builders

Anita L. Andrews

Jackie and John DeNardo

Kevin Walker

Caredo and Julie Pappas

Thomas and Geraldine O'Brien

D. Christopher Page

Nancy Johnson

Atria Garden Place

ExxonMobil

Avis Altena

Patricia Craft

Moore & Van Scyoc

First United Methodist Church

Marianne DeNardo

Pfizer Foundation

Brad A. Brown

Bridgwater

Mario Arreaza

Priscilla, Joanne and Jon Hennessey

Brenda C. Chapman

Budget Rent A Car

Mary Ann Catanzi

Theo and Donna Scribner

Kathy and Scott Colanar

Don and Linda Fassett

You make the living change we work so possible. The following reflections received gifts 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!
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 Azteta, 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 and we’ll get right back to you as to how you can become part of the team!