

BENNINGTON AREA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Bennington Area Habitat for Humanity, with support from many towns in the area and support from many individuals, finished its tenth house this fall. The house was dedicated on November 15.

Bennington Area Habitat for Humanity is the local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, an organization aimed at eliminating sub-standard housing worldwide. In its less than thirty years of existence, Habitat has built over 325,000 houses, housing more than a million people. BAHFH is working in all of Bennington County to provide decent, affordable housing in partnership with families who otherwise would not be able to afford home ownership. Partner families are selected based on their need for housing, their income (30-60% of the area median income), their credit rating (the family must pay back a 0% mortgage to Habitat, a mortgage tailored so their mortgage and tax payments are never more than 30% of their income), and finally--the secret of Habitat's success--each person in the family, over 18, must commit to 250 hours of sweat equity.

BAHFH is a locally run and locally funded operation. Ninety percent of the money that we raise goes directly into building affordable housing in Bennington County. We are a totally volunteer organization – no paid employees. Volunteers from all the towns in Bennington County help with building, donating materials and financial support. On the house just completed in North Bennington, more than two hundred people worked at least one day. Please visit our work site on a Wednesday or Saturday morning and see for yourself the inspiring work being done by people of all ages, backgrounds, races, and religions. Hopefully you will be inspired to join in this project. Visit our web site at www.benningtonareahabitat.com.

Construction on the eleventh house will start in April, 2010, at 310 Silver Street in Bennington. Following that, there are plans for building several houses on Jennifer Lane in Manchester.

Thank you for your past support, and I hope that we can count on your support in the future. Together we can do a small part to provide affordable housing in our area.

Respectfully submitted

William W. Hoyt, Development Chair