

'THIS ONE IS HOME'

Family settles in at the first Habitat house in Booth Woods

Habitat for Humanity of Addison County dedicated its 13th home on August 6 with a ceremony outside the new Vergennes home of Kameron Gutierrez and Keisha Thompson and their children.

“We welcome you into the Habitat family,” Muffin Carothers, longtime HfHAC volunteer, told Kameron, Keisha and their children. “You’ve been a pleasure to work with from the start.”

Kameron thanked the Habitat board, the volunteers who worked on construction of the home, and the Middlebury College students who designed the structure. “I don’t think we can express how grateful we are,” he said. “We’ve been in many houses, but this one is home.”

Along with moving into their new home, Kameron also recently started a new job at Collins Aerospace in Vergennes after years of working on a dairy farm. And the couple welcomed their fourth child, daughter Credence, in mid-August, joining Reinah, Olivia and Malcolm. Keisha said it was a great relief to be settled into their new home before the baby arrived.

HfHAC Board President Dave Furney told the family that Habitat remains ready to support them as they get to know their new home. “We will be here for you,” he said.

The three-bedroom, 1,200-square-foot



home is the first of four planned Habitat homes to be built in the Booth Woods neighborhood of Vergennes. The home features a metal exterior, rooftop solar panels, and concrete flooring.

For information on applying for future Habitat for Humanity of Addison County homes, visit www.addisonhabitat.org or call 802-388-0400.

Kameron and Keisha and dog Sophie in the kitchen of their new Habitat home in Booth Woods.

WHAT THEY LOVE ABOUT THE NEW HOUSE

Keisha: “I really love the cedar wood. It looks so fancy.”

Kameron: “I love the net zero part of the house. We were told our electric bill will probably be in the negatives. That sounds good to me.”

Reina: “Riding a hoverboard on the cement floors.”



Olivia: “Everything.”

Malcolm (above): “He runs around with his little truck and slides across the floor.”

It takes a vision: Team work, design and determination go into every home

It's hard work bringing a Habitat house to life. And lucky for us, Habitat for Humanity of Addison County has always enjoyed the enviable position of having skilled, determined and loyal volunteers.

Among those hardy souls, we now have the stellar construction leadership of Alex Carver, owner of Northern Timbers Construction. Alex brings professionalism and a sharp eye to every house he oversees. Also working closely with our building committee is the incredible local asset of Middlebury College's architectural design program.

Developed and taught by John McLeod—who leads the firm McLeod Kredell Architects as well as being an associate professor of architecture at Middlebury—the program partners with Habitat for Humanity of Addison County for the design and realization of high-quality and energy-efficient affordable housing.

For the students, the courses provide real-world experiences with an actual client, budget and schedule. For Habitat families, they get a beautifully designed and professionally built home they can afford.

A perfect example of this synergy is the first of four completed homes in the Booth Woods neighborhood of Vergennes, now home sweet home to Kameron Gutierrez, Keisha Thompson, and their four children.

High-Performance

Like all recent Habitat houses in Addison County, #14 Booth Woods is built to Efficiency Vermont's High-Performance standards—well above Vermont's standard energy code, which is one of the highest in the country, along with only California and Oregon.

It takes deliberation and vision to design and build homes that can meet these strict requirements. The shape and size of the house, its orientation on the land, and its



At the dedication of the first Vergennes home, Dave Furney, right, HFHAC president, told the owners, 'We will be here for you.'

structure and materials are all essential considerations. That attention to detail allows our Habitat homes to qualify for rebates and grants that help lower the entry costs of home ownership, as well as long-term costs like electricity, heating and cooling.

The Gutierrez-Thompson home, for example, is planned and shaped to benefit from the passive solar southern exposure. There's an overhanging roof above the deck, designed specifically

to keep the higher summer sun out and allow the lower winter sun in. The windows are triple glazed and strategically placed (i.e. fewer facing north). The perfectly proportioned 1,200-square-foot interior is designed so the large open living space and three bedrooms provide the spatial flow and aesthetic that best reflect the way families live comfortably together.

Low-Maintenance

The entire exterior of the Gutierrez-Thompson home is practically maintenance free. The primary oxidized steel layer and the secondary white cedar skin require no sealants or care, and together create a naturally weather-resistant protective coating. The flat-roof design allowed the builders to create a structure of

inexpensive pre-fab trusses while also using the highest amount of insulation possible to moderate temperatures for both warm and cool months.

Like the roof, the walls are thickly insulated to have a high R-value, meaning the heat stays in when you need it and out when you don't. Think of the way your coffee container or water thermos keeps drinks the way you

want them. The interior floors are ground and sealed concrete, so there is no added flooring on top. And the entire space is ADA-compliant.

A Lasting Commitment

Habitat for Humanity is committed to building affordable homes that are well designed, high performing, and maintenance free. We don't simply want to help families like Kameron and Keisha to get into a home of their own, we want to help them stay in it for years to come.

With a combination of mindful design, hard work and ongoing determination, together we can do it.

Volunteer Spotlight: Rob Liotard has worn many Habitat hats



Rob Liotard says the best things he's been involved in his life were all his wife's idea. In 2006, Marcia Liotard spotted a notice about Habitat for Humanity of Addison County seeking volunteers to build houses. Rob has helped build every one of the organization's houses since then.

Along with hammering, measuring and sawing, Rob has answered many Habitat calls of duty. He served six years on the board of directors, is in charge of ordering some building materials from Habitat for Humanity International, and keeps the local

for the first time and see what's going to be their room. Just seeing their absolute wonderment and delight, it's a pretty good feeling."

Since retiring from the insurance business, Rob has also mentored youths and served as a guardian ad litem for a baby, among other volunteer duties.

While he has always considered himself handy at home improvement projects, he'd never built anything until he started working as a Habitat volunteer. "I've learned a lot," he

said. "I've done everything from framing to sheetrock."

Increasing HfFAC's presence on Facebook was also Marcia's idea. Sidelined this spring from working on the construction crew because of a shoulder injury, Rob still makes



Rob Liotard, at right, and Alex Carver at the first Booth Woods home in Vergennes. Says Rob, 'There really is a sense of accomplishment ... You built something permanent you can be proud of.'

the trip from his Starksboro home to the Vergennes home site regularly to take photos and catch up with his crew mates. His two German shepherds, Anya and Bruno, wait in the back seat of his pickup.

"Most of us are amateurs," Rob says of his crew mates, as he looks over the nearly completed Vergennes home, "but there really is a sense of accomplishment in creating something that's high quality that remains there. You built something permanent you can be proud of."

organization's Facebook page updated with construction photos.

"It's been terrific," Rob said of his 16 years volunteering with the organization. "Having the opportunity to experience things like when the kids are brought into their new house

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ARTIST JUDY ALBRIGHT DOES IT AGAIN!

Local artist and dedicated Habitat for Humanity fan Judy Albright is always thinking of ways to help our fundraising efforts. This winter she held a second Art for Humanity fundraiser in honor of Habitat.

From February 6-14, Judy posted a new original painting every day on her Facebook page, and then she encouraged the bidding to begin. The highest bidder at the end of the day pledged a donation to Habitat for Humanity in exchange for one of Judy's original paintings. In all she helped us raise \$1,175.

We're an all-volunteer organization, so all donations go toward building affordable homes in our community. Many thanks, as always, to Judy for her ongoing generosity.



Work on second Booth Woods home under way

Construction has begun on Habitat for Humanity of Addison County's second home in the Booth Woods neighborhood as we are simultaneously going through the application process for potential homeowners.

The 1,200-square-foot, one-story home will have three bedrooms and one-and-one-half bathrooms.

Above, a rendering of the second house to be built at Booth Woods.

Completion is tentatively slated for early spring.

This house, like others recently built by HfHAC, was designed by Middlebury College architecture students under the guidance of architect John McLeod.