

Greater Springfield
Habitat for Humanity

FREE
Financial Literacy workshop
"Keep it safe:
Protecting your identity"

Wednesday, October 23
6-7:30pm
Holyoke Public Library
Presented in both English and Spanish

To register:
bit.ly/3SL0066

Greater Springfield
Habitat for Humanity

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WANTED**

268 Cold Spring Ave, West Springfield
(413) 739-5503

Habitat for Humanity **AmeriCorps**

**VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITY!**

Volunteer Services Coordinator

For one year, you can get paid to build sustainable solutions in a community, gain valuable hands-on experience, and prepare for your future. This full-time AmeriCorps service position offers a great opportunity to make a real impact in the lives of others, while building your own knowledge and skill set.

[LEARN MORE](http://habitat.org/jobs)
habitat.org/jobs
3pm-6pm

**Pampered Chef
FUNraiser**
until Sunday, Dec. 15

10-15% of your order's proceeds will be donated to

Greater Springfield
Habitat for Humanity

Shop now: bit.ly/3APqHT2

Greater Springfield
Habitat for Humanity

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Greater Springfield
Habitat for Humanity

NEWS

**October
2024**



Habitat for Humanity International
Former United States President James Earl "Jimmy" Carter poses at a build site in Canada at the 2017 Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project.

Happy 100th Birthday to a living Habitat legend

On Oct. 1, 39th United States President James Earl "Jimmy" Carter celebrated his 100th birthday. Although he is not the founder of Habitat for Humanity, as many believe, he is often viewed as a champion for the nonprofit organization and its fight for affordable housing.

These days, President Carter is not active on build sites, but the namesake program "Carter Work Projects" established by him and his former wife Rosalynn lives on. In its 40 years, more than 106,100 volunteers have

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Welcome, Mason Lebron

Greater Springfield Habitat gains new board member

Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity's (GSHFH) Board of Directors recently welcomed its newest member: Springfield's own Mason Lebron. Mason comes to Habitat with a wealth of information about the culture and community within "The City of Homes" as he's a local insurance agent and previous GSHFH volunteer.

Born in Puerto Rico and raised in Springfield, Mason is bilingual and is passionate about Habitat's "hand-up not hand-out" philosophy.

"I feel so strongly about this organization and its mission because it provides affordable housing for the less-fortunate, hardworking families. Two, it provides financial literacy by offering programs on homeownership, financial management, and home maintenance. The list goes on," said Mason. "I assist a lot of new homeowners by educating on them on the importance of home insurance while finding them an affordable rate."

Mason said he was first introduced to Habitat a few years ago at its Fall Festival



Mason Lebron

fundraiser. Since then, he volunteered at different events and projects within the community. As a board member, he wants to contribute to the mission.

"I feel as an insurance agent, who offers home, auto, and commercial insurance, my mission connects with GSHFH in a sense where we're building community," Mason said. "I want to bring a mixture of my knowledge and involvement in the community that Habitat serves."

Greater Springfield Habitat Board President Ray Walsh asked Mason if he would like to join the board.

"Mason brings strong business acumen and his background in sales and marketing, which will help us further drive awareness and contributions to our organization," said Ray. "In his professional life, he is committed to serving the local community and is eager to give back and support those in need."

If you would like to be a part of the GSHFH board of directors, email support@habitatspringfield.org

Keep in touch with us.

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Follow us on social media



(Click QR code)

SPOTLIGHT ON Mason Lebron Board member of Springfield, MA

What's one thing you're willing to spend more money on to make sure you get the best quality? Home improvement projects

What's the best concert you've attended? Bad Bunny, Fenway Park 2022

Apple pie or pumpkin pie? Apple pie for sure!

In the evening, would you rather play a game, visit a relative, watch a movie, or read? Why? Pay a visit to my mom because everyone's always at her house.

Volunteers wanted

- No experience necessary
- Instruction and tools provided



(413) 739-5503

volunteer@habitatspringfield.org

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participated in 14 countries and built 4,417 Habitat homes in quick-turnaround construction projects.

Among those volunteers is Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) Executive Director Aimee Giroux. In 2017, she said she ventured to Edmonton, Canada, with two colleagues to participate in the weeklong project. Aimee and her team worked on flooring and interior finish work in multiple units in a mixed-income condominium complex. Additional build sites were in Winnipeg. In total, this effort helped 247 families.

"President and Mrs. Carter were great," Aimee said. "He spoke and he was very charismatic. They worked together and he was very sweet. He still held the door open for her and held her hand, and he was really into being out there."

In 1984, three years after President Carter, and his wife Rosalynn, left the White House,

the pair ventured to Americus, in their home state of Georgia, to work with Habitat for Humanity. The couple quickly realized Habitat's mission aligned closely with their own values and soon developed a strong relationship with the nonprofit to combat the affordable housing crisis.

"Habitat successfully removed the stigma of charity by substituting it with a sense of partnership," President Carter once said.

The first "Carter Work Project" was in September 1984 in New York City's Lower East Side to renovate a six-story abandoned building for affordable housing. The Carters led dozens of volunteers to work alongside 19 families.

"I think their involvement has made a significant contribution and raised Habitat's visibility to greater heights than Habitat could have done on its own," said Tina Mancuso, Greater Springfield Habitat supporter. "They were dedicated to making a difference and they truly did."

Trina Winans, GSHFH volunteer and supporter, agreed.

"President and Mrs. Carter are a powerful example of how individuals can make a significant difference," she said. "Their involvement in Habitat shows a deep commitment and genuine care for others. It highlights their integrity, dedication to service, and the value they play on follow-through and long-term involvement in causes they believe in."

Even though the Carters no longer participate in the work projects, Habitat for Humanity International continues them in honor of the Carters. This year's event took place in St. Paul, Minnesota, between Sept. 29 and Oct. 1. Habitat humanitarians and country music superstars Garth Brooks and Trisha Yearwood hosted the event.

To learn more about volunteering at Greater Springfield Habitat, visit habitatspringfield.org/volunteer

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Thursday, Nov. 7
6-9 pm



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Longmeadow**



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**Mini ad
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**1-column ad
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