



Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity

Building Houses in Partnership with God's People in Need

June 2007

How Much Does a House Cost?

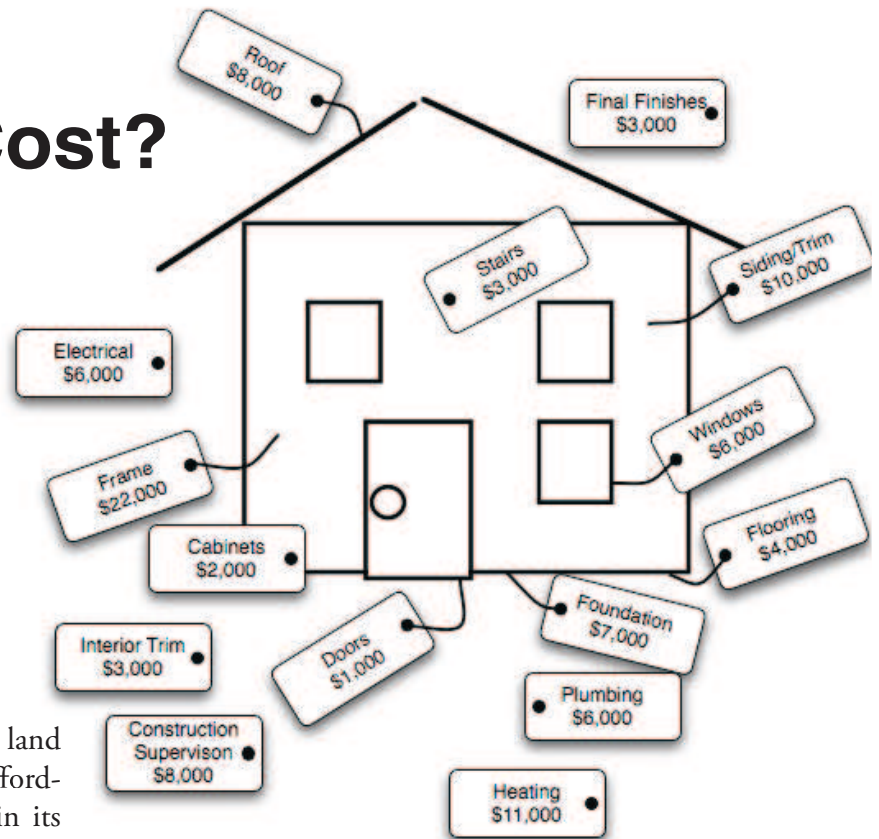
The short answer, in the Pioneer Valley, is "too much."

That's why our partner families have been unable to achieve homeownership without a hand up. But, in spite of the high costs all around us, Pioneer Valley Habitat strives to keep the price of a new Habitat home at about \$100,000. And because of the donated and discounted labor and materials, the cost in cash is actually more like \$85,000.

How do we do that?

- **GET LAND.** PVH has been blessed with land – primarily from towns addressing the affordable housing issue and Amherst College in its concern for offering students community service learning experience. We have building sites that will keep us busy for the next five years!
- **GET LABOR.** PVH is good at this – we have many eager volunteer from both community and college groups. In addition, we have partnerships with Franklin County Technical School and Smith Vocational High School. Plus relatively frequent offers from trades professionals who offer their services pro bono or at a discount.
- **GET MATERIALS.** We need a lot of those. We get some major donations (Dow rigid foam insulation, Whirlpool stoves and refrigerators, among others). We are especially grateful to Cowl's Building Supply in Amherst and Rugg Lumber in Greenfield for selling us whatever else we need at their cost. But we have to raise \$85,000 per house to purchase those items. (In 2003, that figure was closer to \$65,000.)

How do we get that \$85,000? Although we receive some grants, we rely primarily on donations (from folks like you, dear reader!!!) and special fund-raising events. And that's the bottom line.



Your donated labor, materials, and discounts from the community take \$15,000 off the cost of each house!

Construction Update

As summer begins, several Habitat projects are in their final stages. At Westhampton Road in Northampton, the last of the six houses is done! Landscaping and driveway installation will complete the project. At the Turners Falls house, only indoor painting and cabinet installation remain to be done. And at the Amherst house, the sheet rock is up on both floors, and painting will begin shortly. The contract for water and sewer is out for bid. Occupancy is expected before Thanksgiving.