

# LET ONE GIFT DO THE WORK OF TWO

In this holiday season many of us want to remember friends and relatives in a meaningful way—one that emphasizes relationships rather than material goods, one that helps build in a time of far too much destruction.

A contribution to Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity will help us construct a home for a family in need *and* honor the ones you wish to remember. We will send a card to the people you designate, noting the materials you have provided by your gift:

- Three studs (\$10)
- Four Sheets of Sheetrock (\$25)
- Five Gallons of Paint (\$50)
- A Kitchen Cabinet (\$100)
- Fifty Square Feet Vinyl Flooring (\$150)



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## THE GIFT THAT GIVES TWICE. Order Form

Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_ (name)

\_\_\_\_\_ (address)

\_\_\_\_\_ (phone)

Please make checks & credit card payments to  
Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity  
P.O. Box 60642  
Florence, MA 01062

We accept credit card payments from Visa & Master Card (\$25 minimum, please).

Credit card number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Your signature \_\_\_\_\_

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Please list the name and address of each of the persons you are honoring with a gift:

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# Crafts Fair Provides a Way to Help PVH

The annual Amherst Artisans Crafts Fair will take place on Saturday, December 6th from 9 to 4 at the **Amherst College Alumni House**, in Amherst Center. Eleven participating artisans sell their work collectively and they will tithe to PVH a percentage of their sales as a charitable donation. They represent a wide range of crafts, including jewelry-making, designer clothing, woodworking, herbal confections, marbled papers, pottery, and fiber arts. What's more, they urge visitors to contribute to Habitat in lieu of paying an entry fee to the show.

This local event is now in its eighth year and recognized as an important social occasion of the holiday season. It was started by Mary Knightly, an artist from Amherst. The photo here, typical of her stylized floral patterns, shows how she gained the title of "the Iris Lady."

Ms. Knightly was raised in a family of school teachers who believed in giving back, and that is what she has always done. Every year she donates to Habitat half the proceeds on each mug she sells. That adds up to a sizeable yearly contribution.

Ms Knightly, herself an elementary school teacher, took up pottery as a hobby some 30 years ago, while moving with her mathematician husband from one university campus to another. At the University of Colorado, she took a year-long course working with high-fire and low-fire kilns to make delicate porcelains and tougher majolicas. After her family settled in the Pioneer Valley, she found a gas-fired kiln on the Pelham Road and organized a co-op with five other potters to work there. They sold their wares at crafts fairs such as Deerfield and beyond. Her sons helped out with odd jobs, and soon she was hiring local high-school students to work part-time as apprentices after classes and during vacations. Now working independently as **Creative Clay**, she continues to give back.



*An example of Mary Knightly's work for sale to benefit PVH at the Amherst Artisans sale, December 6.*

## Care-A-Vanners Break New Ground in the Valley

Care-A-Vanners are volunteers from all over the country who travel in recreational vehicles and live in them as they visit Habitat sites around the country and spend two weeks helping build. Mostly retired couples, they learn from a Habitat national newsletter just where they are needed for a new build. For two weeks this summer, Care-A-Vanners came to the PVH site on Westhampton Road in Northampton and joined local volunteer builders.

A gray summer morning was brightened by some 25 yellow hard hats, 17 of them worn by Care-A-Vanners. The building lot, given to Habitat by the **City of Northampton**, was full of promise. It already had a street number: 840. The land, surrounded by tall pines, was cleared. The cellar for the first of three duplexes was excavated. And there were plans for two more duplexes and also for a playground at the back of the lot. The planners had borne in mind the needs of children: the four partner families chosen for the site so far are headed by single mothers.

A fine rain kept falling. No matter. Thanks to very sandy

soil there was no puddle in the cellar excavation. Building would go on unless there was a thunderstorm or serious downpour. This morning's task was to prepare for the pouring of the concrete foundation. Several people were using precision instruments (borrowed at no cost from **Kohl Construction**) to level the floor of the excavation. Above ground others sawed and hammered wooden forms for the concrete footings that would hold the structure's steel supports. Below ground four men dug deep holes for the forms.

At the end of the day's work Care-A-Vanners can come together for a meeting. Their RVs are parked in a row on the Three County Fair Camp Ground. They can gather for a pot-luck supper, or try out a local restaurant.

Since 1997 **Ken and Dottie Shipe**, from Denver, have worked on Habitat projects in Florida, Georgia, Arizona, Wyoming, Texas, and Alabama. **Nancy and Ken Offan** sold their house in Hampton Roads, Virginia, to buy an RV and give most of their time to building homes for others.

## An Invitation to Winter Work

Habitat building doesn't stop for the winter. Many readers won't have had the pleasure of getting this email that Executive Director, MJ Adams, sent out to active members last February:

Call to Hammer

Ahh, it's frosty out there! But we keep building! Major outside work continues. We are looking for individuals to work at various sites.

Plan to work outside unless the weather is snowy or wet. Wear warm clothing! Bring water and lunch and hand tools if you have them. We provide the fun, work and fellowship! If you can volunteer for one or more of these days, please reply by email or by calling the office and leaving a message (413-586-5430, ext. 4), or sign up at a site.

**Current work sites.** At **Montague City Road**, work continues, now focusing on the interior work necessary to get the house ready for occupancy by next spring: kitchen cabinet installation, painting, interior doors, heating system, finish plumbing, bathrooms, lighting fixtures. At **Westhampton Road**, major outside work like framing continues. The goal is to get the building envelope constructed and buttoned up before heavy winter weather.