

Upper Valley Habitat for Humanity:

1. Nears completion of major house rehab on Pearl Street

2. Plans to start dedicated Claremont Chapter of Habitat for Humanity, expands eligibility area

3. Beginning lead paint abatement program

1. Friday August 17 will mark a major milestone in Habitat for Humanity's home repair work in Claremont. Chimney Savers Inc., of Randolph, Vt will be rebuilding two brick chimneys and installing stainless steel liners for both. Chimney Savers owner Paul Bianco has offered to perform the work pro-bono. In addition he has arranged a free of charge donation of the liners from National Chimney Supply.

The chimney work will be one of the last activities of the home upgrade project, which included major work on plumbing and heating, roofing, structural repairs, storm window replacement, kitchen and bath, and painting. We were also able to provide materials and equipment for the homeowner to carry out significant work on his own.

This work was made possible by the financial support of New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority of Bedford, NH.

2. Upper Valley Habitat, based in White River Junction, Vermont feels that the continuation of the house repair and upgrade program can be even more effective with local leadership, guidance, outreach, and advice. To that end, Habitat is looking to start a Claremont sub chapter, with a steering committee of 6 to 8 Claremont residents. Upper Valley Habitat has had significant success with a similar setup based in the Northeast Kingdom area near St. Johnsbury Vermont.

Habitat has additional funds available, and is looking for additional homeowners who would like to investigate catching up on some deferred maintenance. Initially the eligible area was limited to a few blocks either side of Pearl Street. With the new sub chapter, the eligible area will now encompass the entire city.

People who are interested in seeing how they might help do some significant good for their community and their fellow citizens are encouraged to contact project manager Don Derrick at don.derrick@uppervalleyhabitat.org, or (603) 277-9135.

3. Working with Southwest Community Services, Healthy Vibrant Claremont, and the Sullivan County manager, Habitat is starting to put together a team which would become certified, licensed, and capable of dealing with the issues of lead paint in older dwellings. The Habitat Claremont sub chapter will provide an organizational structure from which this work could be supported. People interested in this aspect of helping their community are encouraged to consider joining the now forming steering committee.

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