

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: NEW PRESIDENT FOR H4H

After spending his career building schools, shopping centers, and housing complexes with his family's construction business, Steve Ingram was naturally drawn to Habitat for Humanity of Addison County when looking for volunteer opportunities in retirement. The Leicester resident contributed his experience as a member of the Building and Site Selection committees before becoming board president two years ago.

In April, Ingram officially turned over the reins of the organization to Vice President Dave Furney of Bristol. He departed the position having achieved his goals of raising Habitat's profile in the community and ensuring that the organization is on solid footing. "I'm amazed at our growth," Ingram said.

"What Steve did was strengthen the organization financially and move along our association with Middlebury College architectural students," Furney said of Ingram's work as president. "We are building very nice homes that are winning awards and are energy-efficient."

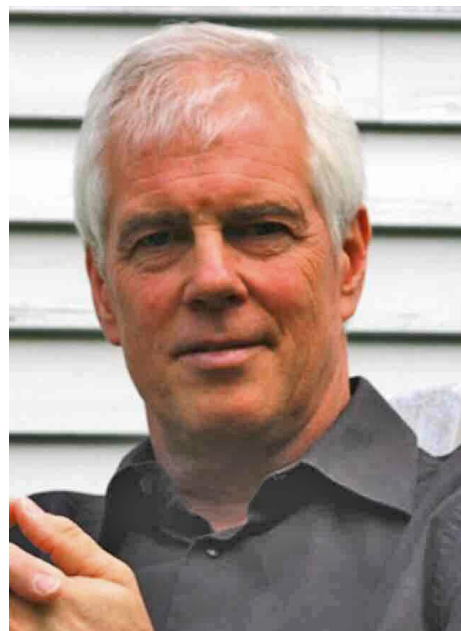
"So many thanks to Steve whose guidance on both the local and state level did so much to

strengthen Habitat's mission and accomplishments," Furney said. "He is a very tough act to follow. We look forward to continuing to rely on his talents after he steps down as president."

Habitat is poised to build four new homes in Vergennes over the next four years, each with energy-efficient innovative architecture designed by Middlebury College students.

Ingram, in turn, said he feels confident that Furney and incoming Vice President Gary Sarachan of Salisbury will keep Habitat on a successful path. "The next four years are going to be very dynamic," Ingram said. "We have a lot of people on the board who are just so competent."

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Dave Furney, above, moves up from vice president to president, succeeding Steve Ingram, below.



Habitat and HOPE: HfHAC is helping replenish the shelves at HOPE through a virtual food drive. Each board member has committed to donate \$50—what we might spend on a meal out—to help HOPE fill a generous bag of groceries for a local family in need.

To join us in this effort to help neighbors in need, you can make

a donation by visiting this website:
<https://tinyurl.com/ny82nww>

Thank you for your continued generosity, and please share this news with other local family and friends! With gratitude,

*The Board of Habitat for
Humanity of Addison County*

PRESIDENT

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All board members of HfHAC, including officers, are volunteers. The president and vice president are voted on each year by the board, and are able to serve no more than three years in those positions.

Furney seamlessly took over as acting president in the last couple months as Ingram faced health challenges. “He’s been great that way,” Ingram said. “Dave is a guy who can talk the talk and walk the walk. We’ll be in good hands going forward.”

Like Ingram, Furney found Habitat for Humanity of Addison County a natural outlet for his talents after retiring from a career as a real estate developer with an interest in affordable housing. The 1972 Middlebury College graduate said his goals as president include maintaining and fortifying the strong program already in place.

Furney said he doesn’t take for granted the organization’s financial stability, the network of volunteers who make the organization’s work possible, or the innovative, high-quality housing that’s being built. But he said Habitat also needs to do more outreach to make more potential homeowners aware of what is available to them.

“My biggest surprise is the challenge of finding qualified homeowners,” Furney said. “We can do a better job of educating people in the community to look for people who will qualify.”



Rendering of the Booth Woods home designed by John McLeod’s class at Middlebury College.

CONSTRUCTION WILL GET UNDER WAY SOON ON FIRST HOME IN VERGENNES

Habitat for Humanity of Addison County is beginning construction this spring on the first of four homes to be built in the Vergennes neighborhood of Booth Woods off Green Street.

The home’s foundation will be poured in late May and framing will begin in June, said Ashley Cadwell, chair of the organization’s Building Committee. He hopes the home will be finished by Christmas. Teams of six to eight volunteers are expected to work each Wednesday and Thursday, with other volunteers pitching in two Saturdays each month.

More volunteers are welcome, said Bob House, HfHAC’s volunteer coordinator. Cadwell added that skilled carpenter volunteers are particularly needed for the Wednesday-Thursday work days from May to October. To volunteer, please call 802.388.0400 or email hfhmiddvolunteer@gmail.com.

The home, designed by Middlebury College architecture students, will feature three bedrooms in 1,200 square feet. Habitat for Humanity of Addison County has just signed an agreement with a local family who will take ownership of the home when construction is complete. (*See back page.*) On average, homeowners must have the ability to make monthly house payments of about \$850 per month (including taxes and insurance).

We welcome inquiries from families interested in ownership of any of the other three homes to be built in the Booth Woods neighborhood, which may be made by calling 802.388.0400 or emailing HabitatApplicationsAC@gmail.com. The number of bedrooms for each home is dependent on the size of the family. Details on qualifying criteria are available at <https://addisonhabitat.org/apply-for-a-home/>. Please spread the word!

ART FOR HUMANITY

Sometimes the difference between a house and a home can be as simple as a cherished piece of artwork.

Local artist and friend of Habitat for Humanity Judy Albright knows that to be true. She notes that she is “drawn to paint of the comforts of home and community, so that the commonplace becomes present, active, and new again.”

With that in her heart, she took it upon herself to host a fundraiser this winter to raise money for Habitat for Humanity of Addison County. Every day for two weeks in February, Judy posted one her delightful paintings on her Facebook page. Whoever made the highest pledge donation to Habitat for Humanity of Addison County for the day received the painting. With a grand total of \$2,030, she brightened homes all over and helped us out as well!



“With each overlapping stroke of the colorful pastel stick, I’m working to bring a sense of place, purpose, and joy to everyday things,” she writes of her painting process, much the way that Habitat for Humanity strives to create affordable homes that bring joy to our community. Seems like we’ve got a lot in common! Thank you, Judy!

For more about Judy and her work, including the paintings that went to the lucky pledgers, visit www.judyalbrightfineart.com.

SECOND SEYMOUR STREET HOME COMPLETED

Colleen Norden and daughter Annaka moved into their new Habitat-built home on Seymour Street in Middlebury in late February. The house is the second of two constructed on the property. Norden said of the experience, “Being in such a beautiful space and knowing how many people’s hands and hearts touched this project gives you a lift every day. It is a constant reminder of how much good people can accomplish when they have the right agenda. We can’t wait to find ways we can help the next families.”



2021 Board of Directors

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Wayne Hall, *Orwell*
Terri Hallenbeck, *St. George*
Helmut Hietzker, *Middlebury*
Steve Ingram, *Leicester*
Michael Johnston, *Addison*
Blair Kloman, *Middlebury*
Priscilla Leng, *Middlebury*
Peter Markowski, *Vergennes*
Laura Napolitano, *Orwell*
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Karen Shackett, *Shoreham*
Erin Wollam-Berens, *New Haven*
Phil Yauch, *Cornwall*

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FAMILY SIGNS UP FOR VERGENNES HOME

Keisha Thompson, Kameron Gutierrez and their three children are excited to be the future owners of a three-bedroom home that Habitat for Humanity of Addison County is building in the Booth Woods neighborhood of Vergennes.

“Owning a home was never even on the radar for us,” Keisha said, until they learned that Habitat could make the option affordable for them.

The family’s application was approved by the Habitat for Humanity of Addison County Board of Directors at its April meeting. The family, which includes 9-year-old Reinah, 6-year-



A new Vergennes Habitat family: from left, Rainah, Keisha Thompson with Malcolm on her lap, Kameron Gutierrez and Olive.

old Olivia and 10-month-old Malcolm, currently lives in a house at the Kayhart Brothers Dairy in West Addison, where Kameron has worked for more than seven years.

They are looking forward to having a place to call their own, particularly one in a neighborhood within walking distance of school, shops and friends, Keisha said.

“The kids are super-excited to be in a new house and to be in town, where they can walk to school,” Keisha said.

The family will help the Habitat volunteer crews with construction. “Kameron and I both love getting our hands dirty,” Keisha said.