

By design: The Midd-HfHAC collaboration

As the spring 2023 semester came to an end last month, the students in John McLeod's architecture class at Middlebury College gathered around a model of the two homes they had just finished designing for Habitat for Humanity of Addison County to show their work to the organization's board members.

The students were tasked with designing two new homes to be built alongside two homes that last year's class had designed on a parcel the College donated to Habitat for Humanity of Addison County on Gorham Lane in Middlebury. Through a months-long process, the students came up with a two-story four-bedroom home and a one-story, three-bedroom house, which will bookend the two previously designed single-story homes.

Bea Parr '25 pointed to an open area in the middle of the property. "We found the best use of this space is to create a kind of amphitheater in the middle," she said. The four homes will form a semi-circle around the amphitheater. The students took into account neighbors' concerns, HfHAC's needs, town regulations, and the parcel's natural elements, producing designs that show slanted roofs, discreet parking areas, and landscaping of varying heights. "We looked at how the sunrise and sunset affect each home and tried to maximize the shade," said Diana Cortez '24.

Before they began their design work this winter, the students surveyed all 14 of the homes Habitat for Humanity



John McLeod explains the designs his Middlebury class came up with for Habitat homes on Gorham Lane in Middlebury.

of Addison County has built, assessing everything from the homes' heating systems to their access to public transportation. They learned that by and large families were very happy with their homes, but Charlotte Shapiro '24 said they gained valuable insights they took into account in the Gorham Lane design—including homeowners' desire for porches and storage space.

The collaboration between Middlebury students and Habitat for Humanity of Addison County has been going on for six years. Led by John McLeod, an associate professor of Architecture and principal of the Middlebury firm McLeod Kredell Architects, students have now planned and designed 10 homes that the organization has built or plans to build in the coming years.

The projects offer students hands-on experience using sophisticated architecture software, applying for

permits from local governments, and adjusting the project to meet the client's needs and regulatory requirements. "This project will be super valuable down the road when I apply to architecture school or find a job in the architecture field," said Lawrence Chen '25, an

Architecture Studies major who plans a career as an architect.

Four of the students from the spring semester class will continue to work on the Gorham Lane project in the fall semester, honing the design to its final form. "It's professional practice," McLeod said of the level of work the students put in.

For the all-volunteer HfHAC, the collaboration provides award-winning, innovative ready-to-build home designs.

"We are grateful to the students and to John McLeod for the home designs they've produced these last six years," said Ashley Cadwell chair of the HfHAC Building Committee, who works closely with the students throughout the semester. "Not only have they given their time and talent, thus saving us considerable fees, but their careful studies have resulted in innovative, energy-efficient, functional and beautiful homes. Our partnership with the Middlebury College architecture design studios has upped our game to an award-winning level."

HfHAC landscaping partnership is a growing success

Habitat for Humanity of Addison County recently benefited from the innovative foresight and professional generosity of the Vermont Nursery & Landscape Association/ Green Works.

VNLA/Green Works is a non-profit professional organization, representing a broad spectrum of Vermont's green industry professionals including growers, garden centers, landscape designers and contractors, and many other landscape experts and specialists, as well as allied trades-people, students, and educators.

In 2018, VNLA/Green Works established the Volunteer Project/ Outreach Committee to collaborate with organizations like HfHAC and Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity based in Williston. Last fall, VPOC and HfHAC joined forces to landscape the first of our four homes in the Booth Woods neighborhood of Vergennes.

All materials needed for the project were donated by VNLA members and associates, and hardy group of volunteers gathered on Saturday, October 15, to complete the landscape installation.

Many thanks to everyone involved!

Project Donors

American Meadows (compost and bark mulch)
Cobble Creek Nursery (shrubs, delivery)
Greenleaf Design, LLC, (landscape design/drawings)
Evergreen Gardens of VT (shrubs, delivery)
Greenhaven Gardens & Nursery (shrubs)
Horsford Gardens & Nursery (trees, shrubs, delivery)



Members of VNLA/Green Works work on the Habitat homes in Booth Woods, Vergennes.

Panoramic Landscaping & Excavation (Panton stone curbing)
Rocky Dale Gardens (shrubs, delivery)
Van Berkum Nursery (shrubs, delivery)

Installation Day Volunteers

Ashley Robinson, *Landscape Designer*
David Furney, *Habitat for Humanity of Addison County*
Steven Ingram, *HfHAC*
Michael Johnston, *HfHAC*
Gary Sarachan, *HfHAC*
John Padua, *Cobble Creek Nursery*

Gabe Bushey, *Crafted Landscapes, LLC*

Jake Ringer, *Crafted Landscapes, LLC*
Natalie Dedon, *Gardener's Supply Co.*
Hillary Ballek, *Gardener's Supply Co.*
Holly Greenleaf, *Greenleaf Design, LLC*

2022 VNLA/Volunteer Project/Outreach Committee

Ashley Robinson, *Landscape Designer, chair*
Gabe Bushey, *Crafted Landscapes, LLC*
Holly Greenleaf, *Greenleaf Design, LLC*
Ralph Fitz-Gerald, *Horsford Gardens & Nursery*
Linzy Vos, *VNLA*

Judy Albright's artwork auction supports HfHCA

Judy Albright has long been a friend to Habitat for Humanity of Addison County. Whether donating funds from her art lessons or drumming up interest through her beautiful paintings, the local artist is always thinking of new ways to help our fundraising efforts.

In February, she held her third Art for Humanity fundraiser and reeled in an impressive \$2,800! The seven-day online event was hosted this year on

BiddingOwl (www.biddingowl.com), which provides free online auction software for nonprofit fundraising. Each day, Judy featured an original painting and then let the bidding to begin! The highest bidder at the end of the day pledged a donation to Habitat for Humanity in exchange for Judy's featured painting.

Our organization is 100 percent volunteer, so 100 percent of all donations go toward the building of affordable homes for our friends and neighbors in the community. Many thanks, as always, to Judy for her ongoing generosity.

Torch passed: HfHAC elects new president and vice president



At its April annual reorganizational meeting, the Habitat for Humanity of Addison County board elected Gary Sarachan of Salisbury to a two-year term as president. Sarachan succeeds Dave Furney of Bristol, who will remain on HfHAC's Executive Committee.

Sarachan, a retired attorney, has been the chapter's vice president the last two years. He and his wife, Margaret Fox, moved to Addison County from St. Louis, Missouri, in 2017. He joined the HfHAC board the next year.

Sarachan said he plans to continue HfHAC's recipe for success, which he describes as:

“One part: a strong board
One part: an Alex Carver-led team of dedicated volunteers
One part: John McLeod-designed homes
One part: community support
Add a dash of spirit
Mix, and enjoy the results.”

Carver, co-owner of Northern Timbers Construction, directs the organization's volunteer construction crew. McLeod is the Middlebury-based architect who teaches architecture at Middlebury College,



HfHAC President Gary Sarachen.

and leads students in designing HfHAC homes (*see related story in this edition*).

The HfHAC board also:

- Elected Laura Krahn of Vergennes as vice president;
- Re-elected Phil Yauch of Cornwall as treasurer;
- Re-elected Steve Ingram of Leicester as secretary;
- Welcomed two new board members: Robin Bentley of Middlebury and Ken Remsen of Vergennes. Robin is a HfHAC homeowner. Remsen is a volunteer on the work crew.

HfHAC Board | Summer 2023

Gary Sarachan, *Salisbury, President*

Laura Krahn, *Vergennes, Vice President*

Steve Ingram, *Leicester, Secretary*
Phil Yauch, *Cornwall, Treasurer*

Robin Bentley, *Middlebury*

Beth Buckman, *Warren*

Ashley Cadwell, *Weybridge*

Poppy Cunningham, *Vergennes*

Sherry DeGray, *Bridport*

David Furney, *Bristol*

Terri Hallenbeck, *St. George*

Michael Johnston, *Addison*

Blair Kloman, *Middlebury*

Priscilla Leng, *Middlebury*

Peter Markowski, *Vergennes*

Laura Napolitano, *Orwell*

Jeff Rehbach, *Middlebury*

Ken Remsen, *Vergennes*

Karen Shackett, *Shoreham*

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founded 1999**

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Facebook: Find us, and like us, by searching facebook.com for Habitat for Humanity of Addison County

YOU CAN HELP!

As our volunteers start work in earnest on our third home in the Booth Woods neighborhood of Vergennes, you can help with some of the heavy lifting by making a gift to Habitat for Humanity of Addison County.

You can make a donation easily online at:
<https://addisonhabitat.org>.

Help pay for a window, a toilet, a door, for making a family's dream come true!

Thank you!



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Post Office Box 1217
Middlebury, Vermont 05753

Building high-performance affordable homes ▲ www.addisonhabitat.org

St. Stephen's Church grant will help build four homes

Habitat for Humanity of Addison County has received a generous \$25,000 grant from St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Middlebury to help the organization build four homes on Gorham Lane in Middlebury.

The church invited HfHAC to apply for the grant to address the availability of affordable housing in Addison County. Ryan Nevius, grant coordinator for St. Stephen's Outreach Committee, informed HfHAC in late December 2022 that the grant had been approved to assist with the foundations of one or more homes at Gorham Lane. Church members are also interested in volunteering with the construction of the Middlebury homes.

"We are so grateful to have St. Stephen's support and to partner with the church in creating new, affordable homes in Middlebury," said Steve Ingram, HfHAC board member. "Thank you to the congregation for recognizing the need and stepping up in such a generous way."

Habitat for Humanity of Addison County's volunteer work crews are nearing completion on one house in the Booth Woods neighborhood of Vergennes and have started work on the next.

The nearly finished home is our second house in the neighborhood. The future homeowners—Janet Brunet and her daughter, Elizabeth Poquette (*below*)—have been working with the Wednesday volunteer construction crew. They will be moving into the three-bedroom home with Elizabeth's son, Thatcher. Closing is anticipated in early July.

Meanwhile, the HfHAC board has approved new homeowners for the next home, a three-bedroom home on the same street, and construction is under way. We look forward to sharing more information in our fall newsletter.

