



**Habitat**  
for Humanity®  
Greater Boston

*Building  
houses  
building  
hope*

DATE

«First\_Name» «Last\_Name»

«Address»

«City\_State» «Zip\_Code»

Dear «Salutation»,

Welcome to Habitat!

With your first gift to Habitat Greater Boston, you're making the homeownership dreams of hardworking, low-income families come true. Thank you again for your generous support.

At Habitat, we believe homeownership is a vital step in breaking the cycle of poverty and bringing pride to communities. Because you are a new supporter, I wanted to send you some materials to give you a better sense of what you make possible as a donor.

I hope the enclosed welcome packet conveys the impact you have on so many families and how grateful Habitat homeowners are for people like you. Included you will find:

- Our most recent newsletter
- The story of Jamal and his family
- A photo introduction to some Habitat families
- A brief survey where you can share what you expect from us and a stamped return envelope for mailing the completed survey back to me

Please don't hesitate to contact me by phone or email with any questions, thoughts, or concerns. For your convenience, I've included my business card with all my contact information. I'd also be happy to talk more about our upcoming projects, the new families who have applied for homes with Habitat, and volunteer opportunities, if you're interested.

Thank you again for giving families in the Greater Boston area the American Dream of homeownership. We couldn't do it without you!

All the best,

Peter Trainor  
Individual Giving Coordinator

## *You can make this dream a reality...* **Priced out of Dorchester after ten years, this family has the chance to return — as Habitat homeowners**

Meet the Cressy family... Liz and Ben Cressy lived, worked, worshipped, and played in the Codman Square area of Dorchester for a decade. They met and married while employed at The Boston Project Ministries. They were passionate about their neighborhood and saw it as their home long-term.

Liz remembers, “I had fallen in love with the community... Some days after work it [could] take me an hour to get home even though I was around the corner [because I was] stopping to talk to my neighbors.”

After learning their son Abraham would become a big brother in 2016, Liz and Ben needed a larger apartment for their growing family. That’s when they found themselves priced out of Dorchester.

They made the heartbreaking decision to move to Lynn. The family now lives in a two-bedroom apartment on a very busy main street. There is no outdoor space for their kids to play.

Liz and Ben have been unable to qualify for a traditional mortgage. When they heard Habitat was seeking applications from families for the newest development you are funding in Codman Square, it seemed like fate.

In their personal statement, Liz and Ben wrote, “Habitat’s values resonate with our family; we would be excited to own a home that we invested sweat equity in and that was constructed in a way that respects the environment... We hope to be considered for this great opportunity that we know will benefit a community we love.”



*Ben and Liz Cressy with their two children, Abraham (almost two) and Elsie (ten months). The family was priced out of Dorchester in 2016, after making Codman Square their home for ten years. You can help them move back — as homeowners!*

***Owning their own home anywhere would be a blessing for the Cressy family. But owning a home in Codman Square... that would truly be a dream.***

***And it’s a dream you can make come true!***

## A Statement from Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI)

*In these times, we at Habitat Greater Boston echo the sentiments of Jonathan Reckford, CEO of HFHI...*

Wherever we work, Habitat for Humanity has always sought inclusivity and has often served as a place where people holding disparate views can come together in common cause... We have a particular heart for the marginalized in our world. Let us never forget that Habitat was born in a place marked by its fierce commitment to the equality of all people and its unfailing devotion to the creation of opportunity for all.

The way we approach our work has been a vehicle for reconciliation and has broken down barriers between people. We work alongside those willing to partner with us, no matter their background or walk of life, and that will always be true. We firmly believe that no matter who we are or where we come from, we all deserve to have a decent life, to feel strength and stability day after day, and to know that we have the power to help build our own futures...

We embrace the notion that we are all humans, and that every single one of us deserves an opportunity for a better future. ♡



Please  
Join Us!

THURSDAY  
MAY 4, 2017

7:30-9:30AM

SEAPORT BOSTON HOTEL



HONORING

**MAURA HEALEY**

Attorney General of Massachusetts

**Make the dream of homeownership a reality  
for low-income families.**

Tickets are \$150 each. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

**To learn more, visit [habitatboston.org/adab](http://habitatboston.org/adab)**

or contact Theresa Lakin at

[theresalakin@habitatboston.org](mailto:theresalakin@habitatboston.org) or 617-423-2223 x24.

LEAD SPONSOR



**Habitat  
for Humanity**  
Greater Boston

# ReStore

## MORE SPACE MEANS MORE SAVINGS!

With tons of additional space, Habitat Greater Boston's home improvement outlet has more appliances, furniture, building supplies, and home furnishings than ever.



Come visit our new space –  
just five doors down from the old location

**Bring this ad and receive  
10% off your purchase.**

Offer expires 12/31/17

Open Tue-Sat 10am-5pm • 1580 VFW Parkway, West Roxbury  
617-327-1170 • [habitatbostonrestore.org](http://habitatbostonrestore.org)

All proceeds benefit Habitat for Humanity Greater Boston

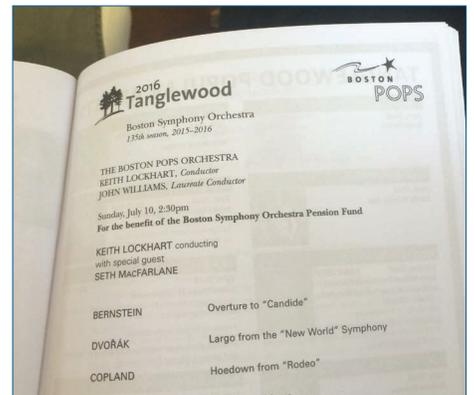
# Habitat Families Experience the Symphony for the First Time



Whether it was the symphony or the Holiday Pops, you've likely heard a live orchestra perform. Now, Habitat families are able to share in this experience — free of charge!

As part of the Boston Symphony Orchestra's "Symphony for Our City" program, Habitat families are eligible for complimentary tickets to three performances each year — two concerts at Symphony Hall and one at Tanglewood.

Thanks to your support and the generosity of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, we are opening doors for low-income families to experience all the cultural opportunities Boston has to offer! 🌈



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## Your past support means a new home for the Baez-Silva family!

For years, Hailey and her family have been living in an apartment polluted by their neighbors' smoking. But, those days will soon be behind them — all thanks to you!

Your generous response to our year-end campaign means a home of their own is within reach for Emilio Baez and Maria Silva and their two girls.

Their 3-bedroom unit at Red Rose Condominiums in Roslindale should be ready for them in late spring. Remaining construction includes finishing work on the electrical and plumbing as well as cosmetics like painting.

If everything remains on schedule, the Baez-Silva family will be in their new home and having barbecues in the backyard come summertime.

So many of the people who benefit from your kindness and generosity are immigrants like Emilio Baez and Maria Silva. Some have emigrated from unstable and impoverished countries. They come to the United States dreaming of a better life for their families. You are keeping those dreams alive — thank you! 🌿



*Remember Hailey? Because of you, she's going to grow up in a home with clean air and outdoor space to play with her younger sister!*



*All parents want a healthy home for their kids. You've made that a reality for Emilio and Maria!*

**Yes!**

I want to help **Habitat for Humanity Greater Boston** build decent, affordable homes in partnership with low-income families.

Please accept my gift of:

\$35  \$50  \$100  \$250  \$500  \$1000  Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check payable to *Habitat for Humanity Greater Boston*

Please charge my credit card (Visa or Mastercard)

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



240 Commercial Street  
4th Floor  
Boston, MA 02109  
617-423-2223

You can also give online at  
[www.habitatboston.org](http://www.habitatboston.org).

*Thank you for your generosity!*

# My name is Jamal Fiin.

I've lived in a Habitat house since I was 11 years old.



Having a permanent home has made a big difference for my whole family—my parents, my younger sister, my three younger brothers, and me.

**My family moved into our Habitat home on Algonquin Street in Dorchester in 2009. But my story starts before that...**

In 1991, my father left Mogadishu, Somalia after the civil war broke out. He was 28 years old.

My father says that at that time, you had three choices if you were living in Mogadishu—kill to protect yourself and your family, be killed, or leave the country.

He was offered a chance to leave and he took it.

My father traveled 500 miles in a small boat to a port in Kenya. These boats often capsize and many people don't survive the trip.

He came to the United States seeking a safe place to live. He says it was a privilege to be able to leave, despite the dangerous journey to escape.

**My father was part of the first group of Somali immigrants sponsored to come to Boston as refugees.**

My mother is also from Mogadishu and left Somalia at the age of 17, two years after my father. But they didn't meet until they were both in Boston. Friends introduced them and they got married in 1995.

When my mother heard about the Habitat program, **we were all crowded into a small, 3-bedroom apartment at the McCormick Housing Project in Southie.**

We had a playground across the street but I wasn't allowed to go outside because my parents

*Jamal's story continues...*



Jamal Fiin, age 11 in 2009, shows off the keys to his family's new Habitat home. In 2015, he took the podium to share his story at our annual breakfast. This past spring, he graduated from Boston Latin and is now a pre-law student at Suffolk where he's taking pre-law classes.

When you give homeownership opportunities to low-income families like the Fiins, you're offering more than just a place to live. You're offering safety, stability, and self-reliance. The result – stronger families, stronger communities, and stronger futures for children like Jamal.

said it wasn't safe. I didn't really have any friends in the neighborhood.

My parents were accepted into the Habitat program in December of 2008.

At the time, my father worked for a civil engineering firm. But he didn't have work because the ground was covered in snow and you couldn't survey the land.

So in January and February, my father worked full-time at the Habitat construction site. He wanted to finish the 300 hours of what Habitat calls "sweat equity" before my little brother was born. Sweat equity is the down payment each Habitat family puts into their home.

I've heard my parents completed their sweat equity hours faster than any other family in Boston!

Our Habitat home is spacious and comfortable. There are four bedrooms—one for me, one for my sister, one for my brothers, and my parents have the fourth bedroom.

**My parents were much calmer after we moved. The house is in a quiet neighborhood and they let me go outside more.**

My parents also welcome having my friends over and invite their friends to visit too.

**It was not like this before.**

We have a lot of pride in our home and our family.

My parents sacrificed a lot to create a better life for all of us. And, having a permanent home that my family helped build has made a big difference in my life. That wouldn't have been possible without Habitat for Humanity Greater Boston.

# Thank you!



Jamal's father, Hussean Fiin, receives a round of applause after his son's speech at Habitat's American Dream Awards Breakfast. Jamal's father was one of the first refugees to seek safety in Boston after civil war broke out in Somalia.



Jamal's home is in a quiet neighborhood in Dorchester. Before Habitat, the family was living in a crowded apartment at the McCormick Housing Project in South Boston.

See all these smiles? That's what you make possible! And this is just a small sample of the many happy faces of Habitat's families. These hardworking, low-income families have achieved their dream of homeownership all because of your support. We couldn't do it without you!

*Thank you!*







# Welcome Survey for New Friends

1. Why did you recently give to Habitat Greater Boston?

2. Please check your response to each statement below:

*I am a committed Habitat Greater Boston donor.*

Strongly Agree       Agree       Neutral       Disagree       Strongly Disagree

*I feel a sense of loyalty to Habitat Greater Boston.*

Strongly Agree       Agree       Neutral       Disagree       Strongly Disagree

*I trust Habitat Greater Boston to use my donation responsibly.*

Strongly Agree       Agree       Neutral       Disagree       Strongly Disagree

3. Please check what, if anything, you would like to learn more about.

- Volunteer opportunities       Homes under construction  
 Stories of Habitat families       Other \_\_\_\_\_

4. What do you want or expect from the charities you support?

5. Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

6. Please confirm, correct, or update to your contact information below:

«First\_Name» «Last\_Name»

«Address»

«City\_State» «Zip\_Code»

Phone: «Phone»

E-mail: «Email»