

Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity will host a home dedication ceremony May 4

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BRISTOL – The Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity will host a home dedication ceremony May 4 celebrating the completion of two homes constructed on Haviland Street.

Karraine Moody, CEO of Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity, said that the homes will be created for the Corliss family, a family of six, and the Shehi family, a family of three. The families will be speaking at the May 4 ceremony, which will be held at 9 a.m., along with representatives from Arthur G. Russel and KBE.



The Bristol homes under construction -Habitat for Humanity

“The dedication is about the family,” said Moody. “It’s a good opportunity for them to share their stories and experiences and talk about what this next phase means for them.”

Moody emphasized that Habitat for Humanity offers “a hand-up, not a hand-out.”

“All homes are backed by a zero percent interest mortgage held by Habitat for Humanity,” she said. “Our families, a lot of whom are single mothers, make between \$45,000 and \$75,000 a year and would not qualify for conventional financing. For them, the dream of home ownership may seem out of reach, but through this program we are able to put a dent in statistics and provide them an opportunity to own their own home. By working with town officials and sponsors, Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity creates affordable homeownership for low-to-moderate-income families and builds stronger, viable communities. Homeownership also creates a stable platform for education attainment, improved quality of life and opens doors for economic advancement. We are building hope for this generation and the next.”

Habitat for Humanity has also assisted veterans and seniors with home building and repair projects.

Construction of the two Bristol homes began in July 2020. They were completed thanks to a partnership with Arthur G. Russell and KBE Building Corporation, the Barnes Group Foundation, ESPN and the Main Street Foundation.

“The houses are just about completed,” said Moody. “We were originally going to start in April but it was pushed out into July to give us time to get safety measures in place. Like the rest of the world at the start of the pandemic, we were watching and waiting. Thankfully, our sponsors and volunteers were eager and energetic and came out to build last year into this year. We’re just finishing up sidewalks and landscaping. Each home is four bedroom and two bath. We’re most pleased with the homes and happy to dedicate them to two working families we know will take good care of the property.”

Arthur G Russel has partnered with Habitat for Humanity since 2017.

“They are based in Bristol and wanted to sponsor a home in Bristol,” said Moody.

Jason Ensminger, executive vice president at Arthur G. Russell Company, said the company was glad to be part of the project.

“Our purpose at The Arthur G. Russell Company is to provide challenging, rewarding, and secure jobs for our team members as well as benefiting our community,” he said. “Partnering with Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity has allowed us to live our purpose and not just have it written on the wall. We were excited to help Hartford Habitat build homes in Bristol because this is our hometown and community. We provided a monetary donation for this project, but more importantly we had one day a month, for a year, where employees went to the job site and built. It is a wonderful feeling to be part of a company that is filled with so many great people who are willing to donate their time to help with such an amazing project.”

KBE, Moody said, has been involved with Habitat for Humanity for 5 to 6 years. For them, this gift was made in honor of recently retired vice president of operations Eric Brown.

“When I retired from KBE Building Corporation in 2019, KBE provided financial support to this build event in recognition of my years with the company and my personal commitment to Habitat as a Board member and volunteer,” said Brown. “I had the honor of working alongside the Habitat team, and my KBE friends and colleagues who turned out for this build. Congratulations to the new home owners.”

The construction of the two homes was started by female workers with the Women Build program.

“Every year we host Women Build, normally in May,” said Moody. “The first team to begin a build was all women. Women Build is about empowering women to know they can do non-traditional tasks such as framing, sheet rocking, or using a table saw or drill. It’s an opportunity for women from all walks of life to learn what they can do.”

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