

Home

Summer 2025



Craig Hatch, EMCC alum and owner of Hatch Electric, LLC, brings his expertise to new Habitat homes.

[Read more inside!](#)



Message from the Executive Director

Lately, there has been a heaviness in the air. Whether it's the stress of rising costs, political tension, or the sense that we're more disconnected from each other than ever, it's easy to feel isolated and overwhelmed.

Day-to-day life is putting a strain on many. For young people and families, homeownership feels out of reach, and financial stability often seems like a moving target. But even in the midst of all this, there's something powerful we can do: take action in our neighborhoods with the people around us.

At Habitat for Humanity of Greater Bangor, we believe that hope starts at home. When families have a stable, affordable place to live, everything changes. Children can focus in school. Parents can plan for the future. Communities grow stronger.

The Habitat mission isn't about politics, it's about people, and something we can all be a part of. With the help of our volunteers, donors, and community partners, we're giving families access to homeownership and helping to break the cycle of generational poverty. If you can swing a hammer, make a donation, or simply share your time or voice, you're helping create real, lasting change.

We don't have to solve everything at once, but together we can make a difference in our community immediately. When we build homes, we build so much more: connection, resilience, and a future where everyone has a chance to thrive.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa".

Melissa Huston, Executive Director
Habitat for Humanity of Greater Bangor

From Cold Winters to Warm Welcomes: A Family's New Beginning



*Owning my own home truly
feels like a breath of fresh air!*



Brianna and family members on the steps of her new home.

Families in our community are feeling the strain of a growing housing crisis. Safe, stable, and affordable homes are increasingly difficult to find, and too many people are being priced out of the opportunity to build a better future. At Habitat for Humanity of Greater Bangor, we believe that everyone deserves a decent place to live, and we're making that possible one home and one family at a time.

Meet Brianna and her two children, our latest partner homeowners. They moved into their new home during a Maine February snowstorm! They waited a long time to purchase just the right home and didn't want to wait a single day more. It had already been a long winter living in a rental that had no hot water and sporadic heat in the midst of the sub-zero temperatures we experienced in our area this past year. We spoke with Brianna recently to see how they were settling in,

"I can't get over how much light we get through all these windows that actually work! In our apartment, most of the windows were stuck shut or covered with insulation. It's so nice to open the windows and let the breeze in. Owning my own home truly feels like a breath of fresh air! We love the setting, and the children are outside all the time. My son loves to explore in the woods, and my daughter and I are planting a garden. We are all much more relaxed, and the kids are both doing really well in school."

Brianna shared that her daughter has a friend who lives on the same street, and they've started carpooling – something that has been a huge help for a busy mom! She adds, "The neighbors across the street have been so welcoming. They came right over after we moved in to tell the kids they were welcome to sled on their hill. It is so great to feel at home here."

Critical Home Repair

One powerful way to address the housing crisis is by helping individuals and families stay in their homes. Expensive repairs and deferred maintenance often make this challenging, especially on a fixed income.

Habitat's Critical Home Repair program aims to ensure the safety and accessibility of homes for area homeowners. We're proud to partner with students from the University of Maine's Construction, Engineering and Technology program, who volunteer to rebuild wheelchair ramps and steps for our neighbors, as they recently did for Glenburn homeowner William Abney, seen here.



Cars for Homes: A Double Donation with a Lifetime of Stories

Did you know your old car, truck, boat, or RV – running or not – can help build a better future for a family in your community? Through Habitat for Humanity's Cars for Homes program, it's easy to donate your vehicle and support affordable housing right where you live. Every donation helps fund Habitat's mission to build and repair homes for families in need. One recent story from a Bangor family shows the lasting impact a vehicle can have, even after its final trip.

Recently, we were the grateful recipient of not one, but two vehicle donations from long-time, loyal supporters. Although the donors chose to remain anonymous, they kindly shared the heartfelt story behind their gift:

"We recently became a one-driver family and decided it was time for a new vehicle. We had a 2003 Lincoln Town Car and a 1999 Chevrolet Suburban, both of which we've owned since new. The Lincoln traveled with us from Georgia to New Hampshire to Maine, journeying throughout the Southeast, as far south as South Carolina, and as far west as Niagara Falls. It faithfully delivered us to beloved family and friends over the years.

The white Suburban had an even more adventurous life. It made multiple trips to a duck camp in Manitoba, braved winter drives to a seasonal home in Wisconsin, and spent more than 20 years as a workhorse on a Maine land trust property.

We're committed to Habitat's mission, and we wanted the proceeds from our vehicle donations to benefit Habitat for Humanity of Greater Bangor. It felt like a meaningful way to give back to a community we care deeply about."



Donating is fast, free, and tax-deductible.

**To learn more or
start your donation, visit
habitat.org/carsforhomes
or call 1-877-277-4344**



We are proud of our ongoing collaboration with Eastern Maine Community College (EMCC), a partnership that continues to thrive well beyond graduation day. Craig Hatch, a graduate of EMCC's Electricians Technology program, first connected with Habitat while gaining hands-on experience during on-campus house build projects. That experience helped to lay the foundation for his career.

Today, Craig is the owner of his own business, Hatch Electric, LLC. We're thrilled to partner with Craig once again.

He has served as the electrical contractor on our last three homes and is currently working on our latest build on Thirteenth Street in Bangor. "I wanted to become an electrician because it's a busy trade that requires focus and dedication," Craig shares. Habitat has a great group of people working to build affordable housing. It's very satisfying to know I'm helping a good cause."

HFHGB is proud to support Craig in his growing business and deeply values the time and expertise he dedicates to our mission.



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HFHGB Awarded \$1M in ARPA Funds

Investing in affordable housing has become a top priority for municipalities nationwide. In the wake of the pandemic, the City of Bangor received funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to address the economic challenges facing the community. After gathering input from residents, affordable housing emerged as the number one concern.

Applicants for ARPA funding were encouraged to propose projects that would leverage existing resources and expand the city's capacity to serve more residents. Our organization eagerly embraced this opportunity to increase our housing production, particularly by addressing one of our biggest challenges: preconstruction costs. These costs include land acquisition, surveying, utility infrastructure, and permitting – expenses that we must cover before construction can even begin!



We're thrilled to share that the City of Bangor has awarded \$1 million in ARPA funding to Habitat for Humanity of Greater Bangor. With these funds, we have secured seven house lots, and site planning is already underway. Historically, our organization has benefited from donated land or tax-acquired properties acquired at below-market value. However, with the rise in real estate prices, we have had to purchase buildable sites at full-market rates, putting further strain on our already limited construction budget. We're proud that this funding will not only help create affordable housing but also improve these properties for the benefit of surrounding residents.