

## From sleeping on the couch to having her own room... You've helped this immigrant family achieve the American Dream

If you attended our American Dream Awards Breakfast last spring, you may remember the Volmar family...

Originally from Haiti, Jean-Alix and Elisemene Volmar live in Mattapan with their two kids and Elisemene's mother Vierge. Their two-bedroom apartment is so small that Vierge sleeps on the couch in the living room.

But your generosity means this 76-year-old grandmother will have her own bedroom by the end of the year!

Even though Jean-Alix and Elisemene work three jobs, each year their rent increases more than their income. They never would have been able to afford a home of their own without you. But with you, as you've shown time and again, so much is possible.

You've changed the future for the Volmar family. They will soon be living in a newly renovated Habitat home in Dorchester. And Elisemene's mother will have her own bedroom on the first floor as well as a private bathroom, all thanks to you! 🌱



*Elisemene Volmar is hard at work doing her sweat equity. Like all Habitat homeowners, the Volmar family put in 300 hours on the construction site.*



Vierge Firmin

**You've made sure this 76-year-old grandmother will sleep in a real bed in a room of her own by the end of the year.**

# What's better than one new family becoming a homeowner? How about *three* families?



**August 6, 2017... that's the day you changed the lives of three families forever.**

Because of your generosity, the Lawsons, the Toutou-Houzes, and the Baez-Silvas, each pictured above, are now homeowners at Red Rose Condominiums in Roslindale. All three families were welcomed into their new homes at a celebration held the first Sunday in August.

As you can see in these family photos, homes provide so much more than shelter from the elements. Owning your own home means strength, stability, and self-reliance. It's a game changer, especially for the next generation. And it's only possible because of you...

**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**



*New neighbors Jacques (6) and Isabella (4) chilling in the backyard*



*Katania England's selfie with her new neighbors Jacques, Junia, Amanda, and Pamela*



*Isabella's off to pre-school*

# Financing a Habitat home for families?!



*Hailey's home from school*



## *Happily ever after because of you...* **Habitat homeowner makes final mortgage payment**

**M**ore than sixteen years ago, Maria Figueroa became a Habitat homeowner. She was determined to pay off her mortgage as soon as possible so she paid a little extra each month. And on September 7, 2017, Maria made her final mortgage payment!

When she's ready, Maria can retire with the comfort of knowing her Habitat home is paid for. These are the fairy tale endings you make possible as a Habitat supporter.

Maria first applied for a Habitat home in 1997, four years after moving to Boston from Puerto Rico. Her three children (Noelia, 18; Javier, 14; and Michael, 12) and her grandchild (Felix, 15 months) were living with her at the time. Maria worked two jobs—at Burger King and Sky Chef—to make ends meet. She was 42 years old.

Supporters like you came together with funding to build a four-unit, two-building condominium on Quincy Street in Dorchester. Maria was approved for a three-bedroom unit in that development. The rest, as they say, is history.

When asked during the interview process in 1997, "How long do you intend to live in a Habitat home?" Maria responded, "For a very long time!"

Mission accomplished. Congratulations Maria! 🌱



*Maria Figueroa (shown with Lark Palermo, Habitat Greater Boston CEO, and Esther Powell, Director of Family Services) after paying her last mortgage payment. Your generosity sets all Habitat homeowners up for success with affordable, zero-interest mortgages. Without you, this type of financing would not be possible!*

# *You've done it again!* **Family of four will be homeowners in Dorchester, all thanks to you**

**T**he Cressy family is coming back to Dorchester—this time, as homeowners! And it's because of your generosity...

Parents of Abraham and his little sister Elsie, Ben and Liz Cressy were priced out of Codman Square—the Dorchester neighborhood they called home for ten years.

**Thanks to your generous heart, it will be their home once again come summertime!**

Ben and Liz have finished more than 200 of the 300 sweat equity hours Habitat requires of all homeowners. Ben has especially enjoyed being part of the construction process. Working in the home energy field, he's really impressed with how efficient their house is going to be—and that it will have solar panels!

The Cressys are also in the process of completing the series of ten homeownership classes needed to purchase their house.

Both these classes and the sweat equity hours ensure **the families who benefit from your generous donations are invested in their new homes and prepared for what it means to be homeowners.**

Because of your steadfast support, construction on the Cressy's future home is on track. The walls and floor joists for the second and third floors were completed this summer. Up next are the roof, windows, and doors so everything will be sealed up and ready for interior work this winter. With Mother Nature's cooperation, the Cressy family should be able to move in next summer! 🌿



*While a bit too young to help on the construction site, Elsie (1 ½) and her big brother Abraham (2 ½) are eager to learn the tools of the trade. Because of your kind heart, these two cuties will have their own space to play outside next year!*



*Ben Cressy helps install a window at his family's future home. Ben and his wife Liz both feel "so blessed by your generosity and the opportunity to be Habitat homeowners!"*