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# Press Release

## Habitat for Humanity of Northwest CT Receives Donation of a Geothermal Heating System to Serve a Habitat Home for the Next 100 years

**North Canaan, CT February, 2014:** Only three short months ago Dawn Whalen, Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity of Northwest Connecticut, received a simple email from Pete Tavino, a member of the Connecticut Geothermal Association (CGA) and President of Litchfield Geothermal. The email stated CGA was looking for a community service project and would we (Habitat) have a suitable project. Whalen couldn't hit *Reply* quick enough! The small affiliate, in existence since 1990, was gearing up to begin the total rehabilitation of a three bedroom home in North Canaan. What a perfect opportunity to further help the family, and future families, who would occupy the house than with a low-cost, energy efficient heating and cooling system. CGA would also benefit from the association with Habitat to further advance the mission of the geothermal ground source energy industry in Connecticut. It was a win-win-win for everyone.

After about 1000 emails, 3 site visits, 2 meetings and an overwhelming approval from the Habitat Board of Directors, the project began on Wednesday, February 12, 2014 with the commencement of drilling a 400 foot borehole by Connecticut Valley Artesian Well Drilling Company, Inc. and a groundbreaking ceremony with all the pomp and circumstance one could muster on a day with temps under 20 degrees and a Nor'easter brewing just hours south of the Litchfield Hills area of CT.

The event opened with a welcome address by North Canaan First Selectman Doug Humes. Doug then introduced CGA President, John Sima, of Hydro-Dynamic Engineering. Sima emphasized the commitment their Association has to this project. "The work is being carried out by the [Connecticut Geothermal Association](#), a group of drillers, engineers and designers dedicated to promoting geothermal energy," said Sima during his remarks.

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This installation is a Geothermal Association Community Service Project completely funded by the generosity of its members. It is truly a cooperative effort, drawing upon the time, money and skills of at least 13 different contractors serving the entire state of Connecticut. Combined with the heat loss controls to be built in by Habitat, it is a gift to the many partners who will live in this home, providing a safe, reliable climate control system that will also reduce their heating and cooling costs.

“The wonderful thing for us is that each Habitat house will serve as a home for a number of Partner families over the many years to come,” said Bill Conklin, Habitat Board member and Building Committee Chair charged with overseeing the home rehabilitation. Each Habitat family who calls 9 New High Street home will benefit from this gift. Carrying a retail value of about \$40,000, the system was a gift from the Connecticut Geothermal Association to the [Habitat for Humanity of Northwest CT](#). “Although it costs a little bit of money to put it in, your return on investment is very quick,” said Tavino, the point person for the project. “As prices of gas and fuel oil go up, the price of geothermal never goes up.” Habitat’s George Massey says this is the first house the organization is not building from the ground up since it was founded in 1990. “We do try to build green and we try to have well-insulated houses,” Massey said. “Affordability is a key word for us. We’re not only interested in the houses’ mortgage payments being affordable, but in it being affordable to live in the house.”

Just as important, this geothermal system will be a gift to the environment, drawing heat from the ground, rather than burning a fossil fuel. This house will feature High-R insulation in walls and the attic, energy efficient windows and doors plus the new, sophisticated geothermal system installed by these members of the Connecticut Geothermal Association. In addition, **Peter Harding** from Home Energy Technologies has been hired as our HERS Rater for the CL&P incentive program, providing advice on how to make this house more energy conserving. The HERS incentive program is coordinated by **Enoch Lenge** of CL&P, who has been very supportive and helpful in our combined efforts to make this home as energy efficient as possible.

Joining the groundbreaking ceremony were the following members of the Connecticut Geothermal Association, all generous donors to this project:

WaterFurnace International Territory Manager for New England, New York and New Jersey, **Mr. James Sansoucy**. They are donating a three-ton horizontal Series Five water to air geothermal heat pump,

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the NDH038 with two stage heating and cooling capacity at 4.8 and 4.1 Coefficients of Performance. This house will heat for less than one quarter of the cost of electricity from a conventional electric baseboard heating system. This will have monitoring, intellistart and a desuperheater for hot water.

Blake Equipment Company represented by **Mr. Mark Henderson**. Blake is donating the loop pipe to be installed in the borehole, the necessary fittings, the circulator flow pump and a hot water tank.

The 400' borehole is being drilled by **Connecticut Valley Artesian Wells**. **Morris Industries** has donated the steel casing.

The loop will be installed by **Sima Drilling Company**. **Preferred Pump** has donated the bentonite grout and silica sand that Sima will mix and pump by tremie pipe into the 400 foot borehole tomorrow. Representing Sima and current Treasurer of the Connecticut Geothermal Association is **Mr. Ray Sima**.

The mechanical permit is being approved under licensee **Guy Wanegar of A & B Cooling and Heating Corp**. They will heat fuse and run the trench loop into the foundation and set the heat pump, with necessary connections up to start up. Representing A&B is CT GEO past President **Mr. Guy Wanegar**.

The geothermal loop will be flushed of all air, and biodegradable propylene glycol antifreeze will be donated and introduced by **Hydro-Dynamic Engineering**. Representing HDE is current CT Geothermal Association president **Mr. John Sima**.

Nutmeg Mechanical Services, Inc. has designed and will aero-seal the supply and return air ducts. Representing Nutmeg is **Steve Wierzbicki**, the newly elected **vice president of CT GEO**.

**Stafford Mechanical Services Inc.** will connect the interior plumbing from the outside ground loop to the circulator pump and the heat pump. Representing Stafford is its president **Mr. Bob Polmatier**.

Thermostats will be installed and the heat pump "Verification of Installed Performance" will be tested by **Geo Source Systems, LLC**. Representing Geo Source Systems is **CT GEO Public Relations and Community Outreach Chairman Mr. Bill Seguin**.

Volunteer excavator **John Considine** will dig a trench supervised by contractor coordinator and Habitat Liaison **Litchfield Geothermal**, represented by **Mr. Peter Tavino**. Peter has been the moving force to bring together this project, working continuously with Habitat and CGA members.

Representing Habitat at the ceremony was President Tracy Atwood, Vice President Serena Granbery, Communications Director George Massey, Board members Judi Moore and John Pogue, Executive Director Dawn Whalen, and John Heissenbuttel, who is one of our site supervisors on this job. Mike Chapell, who is both a Habitat partner and also a site supervisor for this job, was unable to attend the ceremony.

Worth noting, Habitat is currently accepting applications for a family interested in becoming the first Habitat home owner for this house. For more information and to determine if you qualify to be a Habitat home owner, contact Dawn Whalen @ [habitatforhumanitynwc@gmail.com](mailto:habitatforhumanitynwc@gmail.com), call 860-435-4747 or visit our website: <http://www.habitatnwct.org/index.html> Application deadline is Friday, March 5, 2014.

#### **ABOUT HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF NORTHWEST CT:**

Habitat for Humanity of Northwest Connecticut is a locally run affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing organization. Habitat for Humanity works in partnership with people of limited means to build and renovate decent, affordable housing. The houses then are sold to our partners at no profit and with no interest charged. Volunteers provide most of the labor, and individual and corporate donors provide money and materials to build Habitat houses. Partner families are required to work 400 hundred hours - "sweat equity"- in building their homes and the homes of others. Their mortgage payments go into a revolving fund that is used to help build more houses.

Habitat for Humanity of Northwest Connecticut works with volunteers to promote home ownership by building houses in partnership with residents in need of adequate housing. Our affiliate dedicated its ninth and tenth home located in North Canaan and Norfolk respectively; and we just purchased an eleventh home located in North Canaan - rehabilitation of this home will occur over the winter. We serve the six-town area of Canaan/Falls Village, Cornwall, Norfolk, North Canaan, Salisbury, and Sharon.

#### **ABOUT THE CONNECTICUT GEOTHERMAL ASSOCIATION**

The mission of the Connecticut Geothermal Association and its membership is to promote public awareness and use of ground source heat pump technology in Connecticut through education and communication. We promote the growth of Connecticut's ground source (also known as geothermal) industry by:

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1. Improving public awareness and education
2. Training installers, builders and designers
3. Establishing an information exchange database including but not limited to performance data, case studies and rebate information
4. Representing the industry in relevant local and state legislative affairs



9 New High Street, North Canaan, CT  
Geothermal Installation Groundbreaking  
Ceremony  
Gold shovels- Courtesy of John Pogue



Start of borehole drilling by CT Valley  
Artesian Well Co, Inc.



Doug Humes, North Canaan First Selectman opens the ceremony



John Sima, CGA President, representing Hydro-Dynamic Engineering commits CGA to the installation of the geothermal system.



Area reporters cover the event



Habitat friends, board members and staff attending ceremony



Bill Conklin, Habitat Board of Directors, welcomes and thanks all the donors





Pictured Left to Right: Bill Conklin; Peter Tavino, Bill Seguin, John Sima, Guy Wanegar, Ray Sima, Joe Dilk, Mark Henderson, and Carlos Martinez



George Massey, Habitat Board of Directors, offers gratitude and appreciation to CGA and all who have blessed Habitat with this gift.