

Success stories, plea for more mark Habitat's celebration

By **CORY HOPKINS**
The Patriot Ledger

In 1985, a small group of parishioners met in front of the United Church of Christ in Norwell to come up with ideas for helping a local family living in their car.

A year later, the group affiliated itself with Habitat for Humanity International and became South Shore Habitat for Humanity.

More than 170 local and international homes later, South Shore Habitat for Humanity held its 21st annual board of directors meeting and celebrated its 20th anniversary last night at Lombardo's in Randolph.

Keynote speakers Pam Cross of Channel 5 and Marjorie Clapprod, executive director of One Family Inc., were thanked for co-chairing South Shore Habitat's

RANDOLPH

"Our goal is to remind us that we are all one family, we are all together."

Marjorie Clapprod,
keynote speaker

WomenBUILD program in Brockton, a home financed, organized and constructed largely by women.

Cross said the effort reminded her of her own family's move north during the Great Migration of African-Americans in the early to mid-20th century. Her family initially had to split up, with her sisters remaining in Florida while her mother and father moved north.

"My mother told me years later that 'I couldn't wait to get my family reunited in one house, under one roof, with a garden nearby,'" Cross recalled. "I know that six decades later, that spirit is still alive and well in places like right here."

Clapprod related a similar family story, recalling her plight after her

father died.

"We ended up in public housing, and we were damn

Please see **HABITAT** — Page 10

South Shore Habitat takes pride on 20th anniversary

■ **HABITAT**
Continued from Page 9

grateful for three rooms with cinder-block walls," she said.

Clapprod said her family persevered with help from the community.

"Our goal is to remind us that we are all one family, we are all together," she said.

John Galvin, president of the board of directors, reflected on the past 20 years and the fact that 42 homes have been built on the South Shore, five in Egypt and more than 120 in El Salvador because of South Shore Habitat's efforts.

"If you had told me that in 1986, I would have thought you'd been dreaming," Galvin said.

He said that while there has been much success in 20 years, obtaining land and licenses remains difficult, despite the efforts of volunteers in South Shore communities.

He contrasted the local situation with the situation in El Salvador. South Shore Habitat annually donates 10 percent of its proceeds to a Habitat affiliate there, to help it build homes.

Land in El Salvador is relatively plentiful and inexpensive, unlike in Massachusetts, but volunteers in the tropical nation are scarce. Galvin ended his remarks with a plea for volunteers for El Salvador Habitat.

"Our challenge is getting land, their challenge is getting volunteers," he said. "I am making a plea for volunteers, just like at Norwell United Church of Christ in 1985."

Habitat for Humanity sells its homes to chosen families at cost. The family receives a 20- or 25-year no-interest mortgage, with monthly payments usually in the vicinity of \$600.

Families also must put in at least 500 hours of "sweat equity" with Habitat for Humanity, working on their own home and others in the region on Saturdays.