

# A TINY NEWSLETTER

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## Big Things at Bellevue



When Syracuse Model Neighborhood donated an empty lot on Bellevue Avenue to A Tiny Home for Good in 2017, there was a lot of work to be done. THG broke ground on phase one of project in the beginning of September 2017. Fast forward to March 2018 and the empty lot had been transformed into four new beautiful tiny homes and a laundry facility. This Fall, we've been busy wrapping up phase two: an additional two homes on Bellevue Ave. The Bellevue Ave homes are 300 sq feet, slightly larger than our previous builds. They boast a roomier bathroom, more kitchen counter space, and a small foyer space. Every new unit still has all of the amenities of a "regular" home - a bed, fully equipped kitchen, closet, shower, and living room.

Long-time THG volunteers, students from SUNY ESF, SUNY Oswego, Le Moyne College, and Syracuse University, and many many other hands have been responsible for the homes on Bellevue Ave. THG had extensive help from tenants Dale and James. Dale continues to be an invaluable source of dedication, enthusiasm, and knowledge. At the ribbon cutting ceremony for Phase One, Syracuse Mayor Ben Walsh spoke, reminding everyone that there are signs of hope springing up in Syracuse and that organizations like A Tiny Home for Good are partly responsible for realizing that hope. Syracuse is a beautiful city with lots of pride, and it's wonderful that organizations like A Tiny Home for Good can help people see all of it's extraordinary qualities. Bellevue Ave was THG's largest project to date, but we're only getting bigger and bolder. We can't wait to see what's next, and we hope you can join us every step of the way! Stay tuned for more exciting projects coming soon.

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## From the Executive Director

From day one, since we opened up our very first homes on Rose Ave, I've been asked, "When are you going to go solar?" "Wouldn't solar be the answer?" "Why not solar??" And I agree with the sentiment! I researched. I talked to solar companies. I crunched numbers. But it was just too costly to outfit out homes with panels...on our own.

But almost two years ago I was approached by the Young Entrepreneurs with a Social Conscience Club, a group of ambitious middle school students from the Jordan-Elbridge School District. Moved by our mission and direct contact with some of our tenants, they proposed raising the funds necessary to outfit one of our units with enough panels to power it 100% from the sun. I was, of course, excited; but I shared with the students the necessary cost to make it happen. They were undeterred.

For a year and a half, the students worked. They did the research, connected with the solar companies, got the necessary costs, and then they hustled. They shared our mission with their communities and how their involvement would benefit our cause. Their research allowed them to speak articulately about the capabilities of solar and their energy got people and companies involved. After a year and half, they did it. Thanks to hundreds of donors and significant in-kind support from CNY Solar, the Young Entrepreneurs with a Social Conscience Club did exactly what they set out to do. They provided us with enough panels to power one of our homes 100% from the sun.

I love the solar panels. I love the look and I am excited to see the financial benefit they afford us. But this is even better: young people, unshaken by significant obstacles, sharing their vision and energy in the pursuit of a project much larger than themselves. It has taken a lot of hands to breathe life into A Tiny Home for Good, but one of our largest donations to date was thanks to the vision and energy of four middle school students. Pretty neat. Incredibly inspiring.



Jordan-Elbridge teacher Raymond Panek, Director Andrew Lunetta, and students from the Young Entrepreneurs with a Social Conscience Club stand in front of the home recently outfitted with solar panels.

## An Interview with our Resident Ted

Question 1: What are you most proud of?  
Family, family, family!

Question 2: How do you stay busy?

On Fridays I give out sandwiches at Perseverance Park. I've done this for six years now. On Tuesday and Thursday mornings I go to Road to Emmaus Ministry, and on Wednesdays I go to the community dinner at Atonement Lutheran Church. Sometimes I go to Pedal to Possibilities. On Tuesday nights I watch NCIS at Gary's, and Thursdays nights we watch Big Bang Theory. My new thing on Mondays is going to the VA community center for the whole health facilitated group.

Question 3: What keeps you up at night?

Nightmares every once in a while, but it seems less and less. I talked to Arnie about it, and he took me to his place for dinner after I went to a talk by Sean Kirst at St. Stephans Church (which was excellent). My friend Bob Dougherty was there and Arnie's pad thai was excellent. We talked about PTSD, depression, grieving, and fathers - his dad was involved in D Day, and my dad had an adventure in Italy at Anzio Beach...two adventures on two different beaches. I told Arnie that my PTSD claim was denied and showed my army papers...it was never about getting a check monthly from them, it was about getting better and healthier and more positive. Well, anyway, the nightmares are less frequent now. They happen about every four to five months, which is better than every day.

Question 4: What people, communities, and organizations have contributed to your happiness?  
The Atonement Lutheran Church, Isaiah's Table, and Clear Path for Veterans.



Photo of Ted taken by The Stand

## How Snow Haven Came To Be



The Snowman family has donated a house (called Snow Haven) in Larry's memory, and the following is a biography of Larry written by the family. Please enjoy!

Larry Snowman loved snow! He ran with his Labrador retriever every morning, rain or snow. He loved skiing, long hikes in the snow, camping, sledding, skating, and just gazing at the snow covered trees. Larry ran and swam every morning until he was 86 and went for long walks. And he loved being a Snowman. On snow days, little children would telephone and giggling little voices would ask, "Is Frosty home?" This wore thin as the years went on and I have to confess that sometimes I snapped, "NO! This is the home of the Abominable Snowman!" And so sometimes we'd get a call asking if they could speak to the Abominable Snowman. Our second birth announcement featured a hand drawn "abominable snowman and his abdominal wife." The first birth announcement was a mock newspaper article that featured the winning of a Snowman Making Contest. His Snowman name wasn't made up. His ancestor Christian Snowman came from England in 1712, sailing from London and arriving in Boston, then moving to Maine. Larry was born in Meridan, Connecticut and grew up in Connecticut, which unfortunately supplied very little snow.

We moved to Pennellville, north of Syracuse in the heart of the Snow Belt -- where we were greeted by the Blizzard of 1966.

Snowed in for four days, we called neighbors to be sure they had power and food and five couples wound up partying at a different house each day of the blizzard arriving on snow shoes, or skis or on a friend's snowmobile.

He often brought friends home to our cottage in the woods and had sledding parties down the steep hill behind our house or snow mobile rides in the moonlight. Hot chocolate and hot buttered rum would warm everyone up.

Larry joined the Navy near the end of WWII, where he served stateside and never was on a ship. He went to college on the GI bill, starting in mechanical engineering. He couldn't get excited about designing sewer pipes, so he dropped out and went to San Francisco to see the world. Later he went back to college in electrical engineering and received a master's degree. He worked for General Electric, and spent many years at GE's Electronics Laboratory. He worked on many top secret projects and any questions about his work would be met with "I can't say." At some points he couldn't even tell anyone if he was working on lasers or sonar.

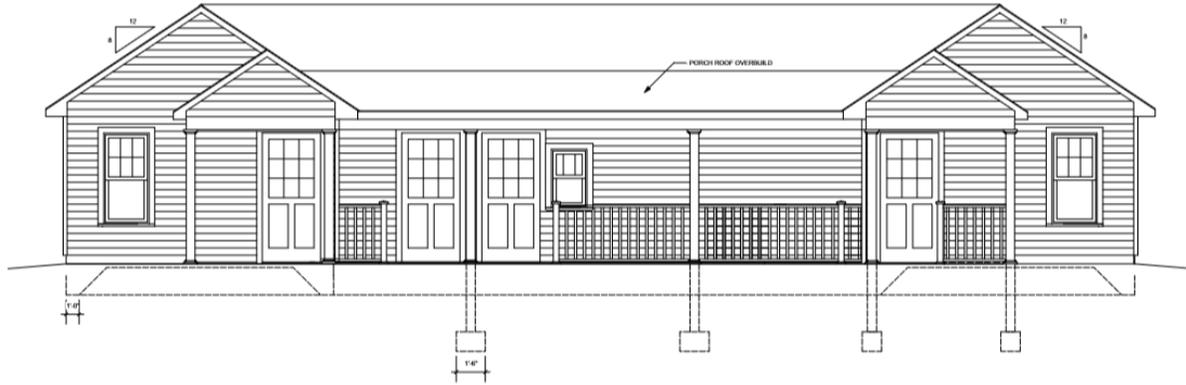
Several times when a Tom Clancy book featured some spy device which resembled his secret inventions he would say, "Well, I guess that's not top secret any more." I only learned about a few of his secret projects: a listening device where a laser beam aimed at a window could reveal whatever was going on inside and earlier a poison gas detector which he tested on a Navy ship.

Larry was a voracious reader and liked to write essays. His daughters collected a number of his essays and published them along with photographs as a Christmas gift for him, and the book is still available online.

I think Larry would be proud to know that Snow Haven is being built in his honor and that some veteran will have a safe, warm place of his own to stay during cold, snowy days and nights.

# An Update on Our Next Project

In early December we'll be breaking ground, or more likely ice, on four units on Syracuse's Nearwest side. The project will engage our volunteers and the builders from Hope 4 Us Housing, a nonprofit building organization that trains local Syracuse residents in the building trades and hires them to take on projects around the community. See below for drawings. While it will be a cold build season, we're hoping for a late Spring opening!



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[www.atinyhomeforgood.org](http://www.atinyhomeforgood.org)



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A Tiny Home for Good, Inc.  
 PO Box 69  
 Syracuse, NY 13205