

December 16, 2014 10:03AM

## Norwell builder gives back to Habitat for Humanity

You never know where a simple act of kindness can lead.

Norwell land developer and builder Eugene Mattie was standing in line at a Starbucks with his 17-year-old son who was recovering from a severe leg injury. A friendly woman, also standing in line, asked his son about the injury and suggested a good physical therapist.

Mattie was touched by her kindness and they struck up a conversation. Turns out, that friendly woman was Evelyn Nelson, vice president of development for South Shore Habitat for Humanity.

Mattie decided he would return the simple act of kindness with some generosity of his own.

His company, Eugene Mattie and Associates, is building a New England colonial home at 95 Jacobs Lane in Norwell, which broke ground on "Giving Tuesday," Dec. 2. Once complete, he agreed to open up the state-of-the-art home to tours, with the profits to benefit South Shore Habitat.

"I love to build homes and I believe in giving back to the community. What better way to give back than by doing something you love," Mattie said. "It's the best of both worlds."

South Shore Habitat for Humanity will receive 100 percent of the proceeds that are raised during the three weeks of public tours, Mattie said. The tours will cost \$10 per person.

During a groundbreaking ceremony Dec. 2, when those involved with the project gathered on the construction site, Nelson said she was appreciative of Mattie's giving spirit and was looking forward to the partnership.

"It's wonderful that we're here on 'Giving Tuesday' to come together," Nelson said. "Everyone benefits from a collaborative effort like this."

Construction is currently underway and the home should be complete by the summer, with tours beginning in June.

As the 2015 Home of Distinction by Eugene Mattie and Associates, the home will have the "finest and most innovative materials and services," Mattie said.

"It will feature everything that today's home buyer seeks," he said.

The New England colonial will include large granite and stainless steel kitchen with a separate morning room, a first floor office, second floor laundry, a massive walk-up attic, an irrigation system and a three-car attached garage.

This is the first year that Eugene Mattie Associates will build a Home of Distinction, but Mattie said he hopes to do at least one every year.

"I think it's a wonderful way to highlight a community and a local nonprofit," he said.

Mattie said he was looking forward to the tours, especially because Habitat volunteers will be staffing the event.

This will be the second time Mattie has done home tours. He also held them when the home he built a home on Cowings Cove in Norwell was featured as the 2012 Boston Magazine Design Home.

"When you are doing these tours, you need multiple staff members and because Habitat has such a great pool of volunteers, they will take part and volunteer at the tours," Mattie said. "It's really amazing to see just how many volunteers this organization has."

South Shore Habitat Executive Director Martine Taylor said she, too, was excited for the Habitat volunteers to staff the event.

"This whole project is such a great example of what can happen through community partnerships," she said.

Mattie also wanted to thank Norwell town officials for "embracing the project."

"I've received overwhelming support," he said.

The home is listed at \$1.32 million. Mattie said landowners who are interested in owning a Home of Distinction can fill out an application online at [homeofdistinction.com/15Boston.com](http://homeofdistinction.com/15Boston.com). The applications are not posted yet, but are coming soon to the website, he said.

For more information, visit <http://www.eugenemattieassociates.com>.

Follow Caitlin on Twitter @MarinerCaitlin.



Vice President for Development for South Shore Habitat for Humanity Evelyn Nelson presents a Habitat shirt to Eugene Mattie, of Eugene Mattie Associates, who is building the home on Jacobs Pond Lane. Wicked Local Staff Photo/ Robin Chan