



**A Better Way to Build**

6 Blackjack Crossing, Walpole, NH 03608 · (603) 756-3600 · [unityhomes.com](http://unityhomes.com)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Unity Homes “Nano” Client Receives Small Home Hero Award  
Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity honors Janet Obermann for her innovative small home**

Janet Obermann, a client of [Unity Homes](http://UnityHomes.com), received a 2019 Small Home Hero Award highlighting her new [Nano](#) home as a model for what individuals can do to build affordable new homes in urban centers while also living sustainably.

Obermann, along with the City of Northampton, received the award from [Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity](#) as part of their [Big Enough Project](#). The Big Enough Project aims to increase access to homeownership by promoting policies, financing, design and zoning that support the construction of small houses in Hampshire and Franklin Counties.

“The key here for me on this particular award is one, how do individuals take actions that make small home living work? And the second is how do you create policies that encourage people to think more sustainably about the housing they are living in, and reward people for land use that is favorable to living in a smaller footprint?” said 2019 Awards Committee member Mary Clare Higgins, Executive Director, Community Action Pioneer Valley.

A recently retired nurse, Obermann built her Nano in Greenfield, MA in hopes of enjoying a slower, more self-sufficient lifestyle. To make the construction more affordable, Obermann opted for a high performance shell package from Unity, and she did much of the finish work herself.

“You can do a lot yourself, if you have the fortitude,” said Obermann. “It’s challenging, but it’s very rewarding...I hope to be able to encourage other retirees—and particularly women—to follow their dreams, and to dream ‘small!’”

Unity COO Andrew Dey said, “We’re delighted that Janet and her project are being recognized with this award. Janet shares Unity’s commitment to turning the tide on climate change by living more lightly on the earth. And she’s doing this with a wonderful DIY spirit!”

Watch a video about the award.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RXOIDE011n4&authuser=1>

**Contact:**

Andrew Dey

COO Unity Homes

[andrew@unityhomes.com](mailto:andrew@unityhomes.com)

603-756-3600, ext. 135

**UNITY HOMES** builds high performance homes throughout the Northeast. Unity takes advantage of traditions and technologies from all over the world to create homes that are comfortable, healthy, quiet and energy efficient. Unity's "Montage" construction system is based on precisely manufacturing building components in the controlled conditions of a shop, and then assembling them rapidly on site into a weathertight shell. This process results in homes that are extremely energy-efficient, with heating and cooling costs that are predictably low. A healthy indoor environment is ensured by the use of non-toxic materials and a ventilation system that provides continuous fresh air. Learn more about comfortable, healthy living in a Unity Home at [www.unityhomes.com](http://www.unityhomes.com).