

Cold Weather Did Not Chill The Enthusiasm for Their New Homes

(Newark, New Jersey, December 13, 2008). It was a frigid Saturday morning, even for December. But there was enough excitement to warm everybody up at the new home dedication by Habitat for Humanity Newark.

Two new homes were dedicated; and two new Partner Families became Homeowners just in time to enjoy the holidays in their brand new homes.



A good sized crowd was on hand to help the families celebrate. There were appropriate prayers and speeches and of course the all important ribbon cuttings. Included in the gathering were City officials from Newark, representatives of the sponsors and a few dozen people involved in building the homes in one way or another.



Walter R. Bryant, Chief of Staff for City Council President Mildred Crump was on hand to celebrate.



Reverend Paul Valerius, Chair of Family Support Committee, led the group in prayer to thank God for the occasion.



Cutting the ribbon on their new home, which is sponsored by the McCarter & English law firm of Newark, are Tewolde Ghebremedhin and his wife Zufan as well as their children Selam 17 and Rahw 19. The family immigrated to the United States from Eritrea in Africa. Reverend Paul Valerius helps cut the ribbon and Dave Zurheide, HFHN Executive Director, (in background) looks on.



Soon to enjoy Christmas in the first home they ever owned are Joy Nkenke and her three children; Jennifer, Maribel (Mimi)) and Brian. Their new home is sponsored by Exit Lucky Realty, and officials from the firm were on hand for the dedication.

Both of these new homeowners worked far more than the 400 sweat equity hours required of them.

After the new homes were dedicated, the families, many volunteers, the staff and other Habitat Homeowners and Partner Families gathered at a nearby church to continue the celebration and fellowship with a great meal! The follow-up event included Christmas Carols and gifts for the children.