

Habitat Newark Dedicates EXIT Realty International House

Mother of Four puts in 400 Hours of "Sweat Equity" - will be in her New Home for Christmas

NEWARK, NJ – December 7, 2009 – Habitat for Humanity Newark welcomed Newark Municipal Council Members and executives from EXIT Realty Corp. International to the dedication of the latest Habitat for Humanity house in Newark on Saturday, December 5.

The EXIT Realty Corp. International House has become a reality due to a full corporate sponsorship from EXIT Realty Corp. International and the hard work of Habitat Newark volunteers including the new homeowner, Precious Kwia.

Kwia, who traveled to America seven years ago to escape war in her native country of Liberia, put in more than 400 hours of labor on the home and will make payments on a zero interest loan which will go towards funding future Habitat Newark houses.

Kwia supports her four children by working full time as a nursing assistant in a group home for people with disabilities and part time as a nursing assistant in a home for the elderly in addition to taking classes toward earning her LPN license. As hard as she works, she never missed a Saturday, the day she was scheduled to work with Habitat Newark volunteers building her future home. "I took my vacation days to help them out sometimes on Thursday and Friday" she said, "because I wanted to show them how much I appreciated what they were doing."

"I'm so grateful to Habitat Newark and EXIT Realty that I don't know how to express it," added Kwia. "I want to send them a whole lot of thankful thoughts for providing me with a place where my kids can play outside and they don't have to be afraid to look out the window."

Officials and volunteers for Habitat Newark were extremely impressed with Kwia's work ethic and agreed that she is exactly the type of person they are trying to assist.

"She came from Liberia where she and her children lived a dangerous existence and sometimes it was difficult to find food for her family" explained David Zurheide, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity, Newark. "Today she's leading a productive life and helping other people every day. She is setting a great example for her children and we expect them to thrive in this home, thanks to EXIT Realty, our hard-working volunteers and especially thanks to her own drive to find a better future."

Christine Ireborg, EXIT Realty's Corporate Habitat for Humanity Representative agrees wholeheartedly. "EXIT Realty couldn't be more proud to partner with the Newark chapter of Habitat for Humanity to help make the dream of home ownership come true for Precious and her family," Ireborg said. "She is a wonderful example of Habitat Newark's theme of providing 'a hand up, not a hand-out' because of her hard work and dedication to helping others. All of us at EXIT Realty are humbled when we hear her story and we couldn't be happier than we are today as we dedicate this new home."



Habitat for Humanity Newark dedicated a home sponsored by EXIT Realty Corp. International on Saturday, December 5. Pictured from left are; Jeff Farrell, President of the Board of Directors of Habitat for Humanity Newark; Tami Bonnell, President of the US Organization of EXIT Realty Corp. International; Christine Ireborg, EXIT Realty's Corporate Habitat for Humanity representative and David Zurheide, Executive Director of Habitat Newark.



Tami Bonnell, President of the US Organization of EXIT Realty Corp. International, hands the keys of a Habitat for Humanity Newark home sponsored by EXIT Realty to Precious Kwia and her children. Kwia, who put in more than 400 hours of 'sweat equity' and will make payments on a zero interest loan on the home, fled war in her home country of Liberia to seek a better life for her children in America.

EXIT Realty Corp. International has donated \$1.67 million to Habitat for Humanity International, from a charitable fund derived from a portion of every transaction fee. Earlier in the year, Ireborg and other EXIT Realty employees from Toronto as well as local EXIT Realty offices in Newark pitched in on the home, swinging hammers and sawing 2x4s to turn a pile of hopes and lumber into a house that will be a home for Precious Kiwa and her four children in time for them to have a joyous Christmas celebration this year.

EXIT Realty Corp. International House is the 69th home Habitat for Humanity has built in Newark. The organization has plans to build several more homes in Newark and West Orange in the coming year.