

Generosity House Becomes Katina Leake's House of Prayer by Carol Manning

Just in time for Christmas 2010, Habitat for Humanity Newark dedicated its 71st new house in Newark for another hard-working family of four. At the dedication, the new homeowner, Katina Leake, described her new home as a House of Prayer—with her prayers for everyone at Habitat Newark who helped make possible her dream of homeownership: the staff, the many construction volunteers and the proud sponsors of the home, and the John W. Scott family.

Up until the day of the dedication, the house was known as Generosity House with an unknown sponsor. Few knew that the house had been funded by the John Scott family. John W. Scott PhD of Upper Montclair NJ is an active Habitat Newark volunteer, who at last agreed to reveal his families sponsorship. In addition to contributing funds, Scott and his family spent numerous hours building the home, located in Newark's West Ward. "I often get asked why I spend all of the time, and in this case, the money on these projects, and I always give the same answer," Scott said. "It's because I get more out of it than I put in." At the dedication many members of Scott's immediate family (see photo) joined the celebration of the new home their funds and labor had made possible.



If you have participated in just about any volunteer activity at Habitat Newark, you may have encountered John Scott in one of his numerous roles. Scott regularly volunteers to build and is always ready to share his expertise via handy building tips for newer construction volunteers. Scott has served on the affiliate's Board of Directors as its president. His Habitat volunteer work is not confined to New Jersey. Beyond the Newark area, recently John has helped build Habitat homes in Thailand with the Habitat for Humanity International Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter Work Project; built twice along the hurricane-devastated Gulf Coast; built in the flooded city of Cedar Rapids, IA, and builds in Guatemala with Houses to Homes Guatemala each year.

Mayor Cory Booker, Councilman Donald Payne, Jr. and a group of Habitat for Humanity supporters to attended the dedication ceremony. The house has become the home of Katina Leake, a school bus driver, and her three children, who put in more than 400 hours of 'sweat equity' to qualify for the home.

After the ceremony, Leake gave Mayor Booker a tour of the home. "I'm blown away by what love and

God can do,” said Mayor Booker. “This is an incredible day for such a wonderful family. “We are happy to have helped Habitat for Humanity Newark reach this important milestone in bettering communities across the country and right here in Newark,” said the mayor.

“With the support of our sponsors and volunteers, we will redouble our efforts to address affordable housing needs in Essex County” said David R. Zurheide, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity Newark

“I knew I had to be here,” said Councilman Payne at the ceremony. “It’s always very rewarding to see the smiles on the family and to congratulate you. We are with Habitat 100%.”