

Habitat for Humanity International Congratulates Habitat Newark on Plans for '11 in 11'

Non-Profit Homebuilder Accelerates Level of Building during its 25th Anniversary Year

NEWARK, NJ – March 10, 2011 – Habitat for Humanity Newark (habitatnewark.org) has built 71 homes for hard-working, low-income families since its founding in 1986. Its goal is to build eleven more in 2011, the year it celebrates its 25th anniversary.

This planned increase in its rate of homebuilding was celebrated in a letter, sent recently from Jonathan T. M. Reckford, the CEO of Habitat for Humanity International, to David R. Zurheide, the Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity Newark. "I was pleased to hear that Habitat Newark will honor this milestone by increasing its rate of construction," wrote Reckford. "Building 11 homes in 2011 is a wonderful goal, and I look forward to hearing about its successful completion."

Among the homes slated for 2011 is Women Build III House, a single family home in Newark's West Ward, largely funded and constructed by Habitat Newark's Women Build Committee and scheduled for a dedication ceremony on March 26. Habitat Newark is also beginning work on the rehabilitation of a duplex in the Ironbound District of Newark, both its first project in the Ironbound District and its first under the Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 initiative, part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Also part of the '11 in 11' is a duplex in West Orange that will be the first home the organization has built outside of the City of Newark. Habitat Newark serves all of Essex County and is slated to begin build in Irvington this year and is seeking property elsewhere in the county.

Habitat Newark uses volunteer labor and low-cost or donated land to build safe, energy-efficient homes for partner families who put in at least 400 hours of 'sweat equity' to qualify for the home. The partner families make payments on zero-interest loans based on their income level. Incoming payments allow Habitat Newark to begin work on other homes.

Volunteers and donors can call Habitat for Humanity, Newark at 973-624-3330 or visit them online at www.habitatnewark.org.