

St. Cassian Parishioners Celebrate Success of New Habitat Homes They Helped Build

MONTCLAIR, NJ – March 8, 2010 – Parishioners from St. Cassian Church in Upper Montclair, who had raised enough funds to build two homes for Habitat for Humanity Newark (HFHN), celebrated their efforts with a plaque dedication ceremony on Sunday, March 7.

The plaque lists the names of nearly 350 people who donated funds and volunteered their time to help build the two homes for hard-working, low-income families in Essex County.

Lisa Nelson, one of the homeowners, was on hand to thank the church and its parishioners for their generous support. “It’s been such a great experience having my own home,” Nelson said. “I really appreciate the help of this parish. These wonderful people have changed my life.”

Nelson, who has worked as a kindergarten teacher for 17 years, put in 400 hours of sweat equity and is making payments on a zero-interest mortgage.



Parishioners from St. Cassian Church raised funds and volunteered their time to build two homes for Habitat for Humanity Newark and celebrated their efforts with a plaque dedication ceremony on Sunday, March 7. From left: The Reverend John Judge, Habitat for Humanity homeowner Lisa Nelson, Habitat for Humanity Newark Deputy Executive Director Don Blaessner and St. Cassian Hearts for Habitat Committee Chair Lynn DeLuca.

“We all enjoyed rolling up our sleeves and working with the partner families,” said Lynn DeLuca, Chair of the St. Cassian Hearts for Habitat Committee, noting a large portion of the parish was engaged in the effort “spiritually, financially and physically.”

HFHN Deputy Executive Director Don Blaessner thanked DeLuca, the Reverend John Judge and the rest of the parishioners who participated in the effort. “Not only did they build houses for two families and help to strengthen a community; in doing so they brought their own community together,” Blaessner said, “If we don’t have people like St. Cassian’s parishioners helping Habitat, there is no Habitat.”

HFHN, which serves all of Essex County, has built 69 homes in Newark and has plans to build additional homes in Newark, West Orange and other municipalities in Essex County. If you are interested in helping to raise funds to build affordable housing for low-income families in Essex County, contact Habitat Newark’s main office at 298 South Orange Avenue, Newark, NJ 07103-2436 or visit them online at habitatnewark.org.