

## West Orange Ground Breaking

When the shovels broke ground at 112 Whittlesey Ave. in West Orange on November 23, 2010, it signaled more than hope for two special families waiting for homes; it also marked an important stride for Habitat for Humanity Newark. It was the groundbreaking for the first house to be built by the affiliate outside of Newark.



Pictured from left are: David R. Zurheide, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity Newark; West Orange Council President Susan McCartney; Jeffrey J. Farrell, President of the Board of Habitat for Humanity Newark, West Orange Mayor Robert Parisi, J Peter Simon, Co-Chair of the Board of Directors of the William E. Simon Foundation; and West Orange Councilman Joe Krakoviak.

The groundbreaking ceremony began with a blessing by

Reverend Rebecca Migliore, Pastor of United Presbyterian of West Orange. Other speakers included Board President of Habitat for Humanity, Newark (HFHN), Jeffrey Farrell, Executive Director, HFHN David Zurheide and Orange Mayor, Robert Parisi all echoing the community spirit and the hopeful sentiments the new building brings with it.

This two-family dwelling will be called the William E. Simon house, as it was made possible, in large part, by a grant from the William E. Simon Foundation with a subsidy from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. The home will be constructed to high quality standards and will be an energy-efficient building. Co-chair of the Foundation, J. Peter Simon spoke at the groundbreaking, noting the joy in being a part of the hopes and dreams for the two selected families.

Executive Director David Zurheide reminded those who attended the celebration that the home is, “not a giveaway.” The families chosen must put in four hundred hours of sweat equity helping at Habitat builds to become partner families.

While the location may be new, the groundbreaking continues Habitat for Humanity’s tradition of helping to provide affordable housing for hard-working families who would otherwise never know the dream of home ownership. And as Board President, Jeffrey Farrell stated, “The West Orange location helps to shine a spotlight on the need for affordable housing all throughout Essex County.”

The William E. Simon house is now well underway, and is expected to be ready this year as part of Habitat for Humanity Newark’s “11 in ‘11” building plan.