

# Sandtown Habitat for Humanity

December 2004

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Ravens Stadium check presentation at Dallas game: (l to r) Kenny Abrams (Ravens), Bo Punnet, Orlando Mobuary and Leroy Smith (Sandtown Habitat), Bert Hash Jr. (Habitat Board President) and Melanie LeGrande (Ravens)

## The Ravens in Sandtown: “It’s a wonderful thing!”

Sandtown Habitat for Humanity was thrilled to host the NFL and United Way Hometown Huddle with the Baltimore Ravens for the fourth consecutive year. This year the event focused on completing 1422 Presstman Street for Robin Edwards and her family. Robin has worked hard on her Habitat home and is thrilled that the process is finally near completion and she can move into her new home!

The morning of November 16th was warm and sunny as a couple hundred of us gathered together in the 1400 block of Presstman Street to work together and to celebrate all that is going on. Members of the Baltimore Ravens joined with the Habitat staff and volunteers from the United Way, M&T Bank, and numerous other groups to continue the rehab work on several homes on the block including demolition, framing and painting on the inside

and landscaping and the planting of trees on the outside.

During a celebratory program, Rev. Thurman Williams encouraged us to continue on together in faith, the SANDTOWN choir sang with exuberance and joy, the president of the Ravens, Dick Cass, expressed his commitment to our work, and representatives from M&T Bank and the United Way expressed the ongoing commitments of their organizations. Mayor Martin O’Malley spoke of this being “another great day in the history of Baltimore,” bringing all of us words of encouragement and in turn being encouraged by the continued progress he observed in our neighborhood. And Robin Edwards expressed her thanks to God and to all the partners who joined with her in bringing to fruition her dream of homeownership.

Partnership is the key to rebuilding a neighborhood, and this event epitomized an effective partnership. The Mayor and City of Baltimore provided the vacant houses and lots we worked on, the Department of Recreation and Parks provided the trees and assisted us in planting them, the Ravens provided a check for \$25,000 and volunteered with us every Tuesday for six weeks, and hundreds of volunteers from the United Way, M&T Bank, Morgan State University, Civic Works, Living Classrooms Foundation and numerous other groups joined in the work. Glen-Gery Bricks donated the bricks to re-do the entire façade of 1422 Presstman, IKEA donated a set of new living room furniture, and Old Country Buffet donated an entire month of meals to the new homeowner and her family.

The Enterprise Foundation provided construction financing and grants, the Students Sharing Coalition and volunteers from RTKL invested hundreds of hours in rehab work on



1422 Presstman Street, and the Habitat construction staff oversaw all of the volunteers and construction. And Robin Edwards and her family invested more than 400 hours of sweat equity in working on her own home and other Habitat homes. “It was so spectacular,” she said. “The Ravens, Mayor O’Malley, the Habitat staff and other volunteers and my own family, it’s a wonderful thing!”

## Partnership with the City of Baltimore

One of the greatest challenges to rebuilding is the acquisition of vacant houses and lots throughout the neighborhood. Sandtown Habitat has acquired the majority of our units since 1989 by negotiating house by house with absentee landlords, a tedious process. Just when it seemed as if we may not be able to acquire the remaining vacant houses and lots needed to complete our 15-block focus area, the City of Baltimore stepped in and committed a contribution of 134 vacant houses and lots for our rebuilding effort, a \$1.1 million value!



So when the Mayor joined us for a house dedication with the Baltimore Ravens on the 1400 block of Presstman Street in November, Sandtown Habitat Co-Executive Director LaVerne Stokes presented him with a plaque of appreciation for the City of Baltimore’s generous contribution. The contribution, made through Habitat’s More Than Houses campaign, was featured in several full page ads in USA Today with other major national funders, and this ad is reproduced on the plaque.

Our deepest thanks to Mayor O’Malley and the City of Baltimore!

# Memories of Summer Building Week 2004...



## ...and some 2004 house dedications



*clockwise beginning top right:*

LaVerne Stokes presents Bible to DeVerne Stokes at 1613 Laurens; UMBC sponsored 1408 Presstman for Kim Tucker; Black & Decker/DeWalt, led by Habitat Board member Tom Kane, sponsored 1414 Presstman for LaKesha Brown



# New Song and Sandtown Habitat Honored by Annie E. Casey Foundation!

In November New Song and Sandtown Habitat were selected to receive an unrestricted award of \$500,000 (to be paid over five years) from the Annie E. Casey Foundation as a part of FAMILIES COUNT - MARYLAND. New Song was selected along with six other nonprofit organizations throughout Maryland to mark the tenth anniversary of the Casey Foundation in Maryland.

According to the press release, "FAMILIES COUNT - MARYLAND celebrates extraordinary organizations that improve the odds for our state's most vulnerable children...innovators that strengthen low-income families and communities...

The recipients are being recognized for their effectiveness in helping families acquire the confidence, capacity and opportunities they need to succeed. FAMILIES COUNT - MARYLAND embraces a simple principle: Children do well when their families do well, and families do better when they live in communities that support them. 'We will change the future of our most at-risk children only when we change the present for their parents,' says Douglas W. Nelson, president of the Casey Foundation."



## Welcome Aboard, Andre Campbell!

Sandtown Habitat is thrilled to add Mr. Andre Campbell to our staff as our new Senior Construction Manager. A man of faith and integrity with roots in Sandtown, Andre worked on more than 20 Habitat homes during the past 10 years as the construction manager for YouthBuild Sandtown, a program which trained young men and women of Sandtown in rehab construction. He will now lead our construction team as they oversee our entire construction process.



*l to r* - Leroy Smith, Andre Campbell, Ike Newman, Danny Waid, Orlando Mobuary, Bo Punnett; *front* - Denise Sample

### Miskelly Family Remembers Wayne

Wayne Miskelly was a faithful volunteer with Sandtown Habitat for many years. When he passed away in 2000, his wife, Rita, and family encouraged folks who wanted to honor him to send contributions to Sandtown Habitat; \$3,300 was given from 47 donors. When Wayne and Rita's daughter, Bethany, graduated in December 2003, she asked friends to give again, resulting in over \$600 in gifts to Sandtown Habitat. Then, in March 2004, Rita was married to Denny McMullin, and they invited their wedding guests to give to Sandtown Habitat in lieu of wedding presents. Their present to us resulted in over \$1,300 in gifts to the rebuilding of homes in Sandtown. Congratulations, Rita and Denny, and thank you for the privilege of honoring Wayne with you!