

Sandtown Habitat for Humanity

Fall 2005

1300 North Fulton Avenue ❖ Baltimore, Maryland 21217 ❖ 410.669.3309 Fax 410.523.3015 ❖ www.sandtownhabitat.org

CATHEDRAL OF THE INCARNATION COMPLETES 13TH HOUSE!



On the Saturday afternoon of July 16, 2005, well over 100 individuals congregated outside of the newly-rehabbed three-story home at 1418 Presstman Street. The intermittent light rain did not dampen our enthusiasm. We prayed fervently, sang enthusiastically as Darryl Jordan and Patty Prasada-Rao led us, shed tears of joy as the keys were handed over and new homeowner Martha Griffin shared such moving words, and then thoroughly enjoyed a time of fellowship and food as we toured the beautiful new home together.

For the sponsor of this home, Cathedral of the Incarnation, this kind of deeply moving experience has occurred time and time again, for this was the 13th home this Episcopal congregation has completed! Beginning in 1992 with 1600 North Calhoun Street, Cathedral has provided the funding and volunteers needed to complete all 13 of these Habitat homes in Sandtown.

“This is such a blessing for our congregation,” said Van Gardner, the Dean of the Cathedral. “We love the entire process, especially handing over the keys to the family we work alongside in building the home.”



While various members of Cathedral have served as House Leaders over the years, Don and Sarah Stevens-Rayburn have served as the leaders on 11 homes and have worked on many more. According to Don, “We come to Sandtown because the people in Sandtown love us. They keep asking us to come back, they keep letting us come back, which is amazing. We have a lot of fun and we have a lot of friends here.”

According to Mark Rust from Cathedral, who has worked on many Habitat homes and served as House Leader and has facilitated a substantial amount of funding through the Rust Foundation, “I have thoroughly enjoyed my involvement with Habitat which provides such a great opportunity to make a tangible difference in the life of a family and a community.”



The involvement of Cathedral of the Incarnation is a primary reason that Sandtown Habitat has been able to complete so many homes for so many families. And since Cathedral began their first house in 1992, more than 14 Episcopal congregations have sponsored 48 homes in Sandtown, including St. Thomas Garrison Forest and Church of the Good Shepherd who together have completed 7 homes, the most recent being 1332 North Mount Street in April with Diane Watford and her daughter Tarray Bonaparte.



So after more than 13 years of working on homes in Sandtown, investing nearly \$250,000 and thousands of volunteer hours, what's next for Cathedral? Why, another house, of course! Cathedral began their 14th house in October, 1804 Baker Street, under the leadership of Sarah, who says "We're ready! We look forward to the challenge of another house!"

In Loving Memory...

Excerpt from reading by Sarah Stevens-Rayburn at dedication of 1418 Presstman Street July 16, 2005

**When I think of the goodness of Jesus,
And all He's done for me.
My soul cries out hallelujah,
I thank God for saving me!**

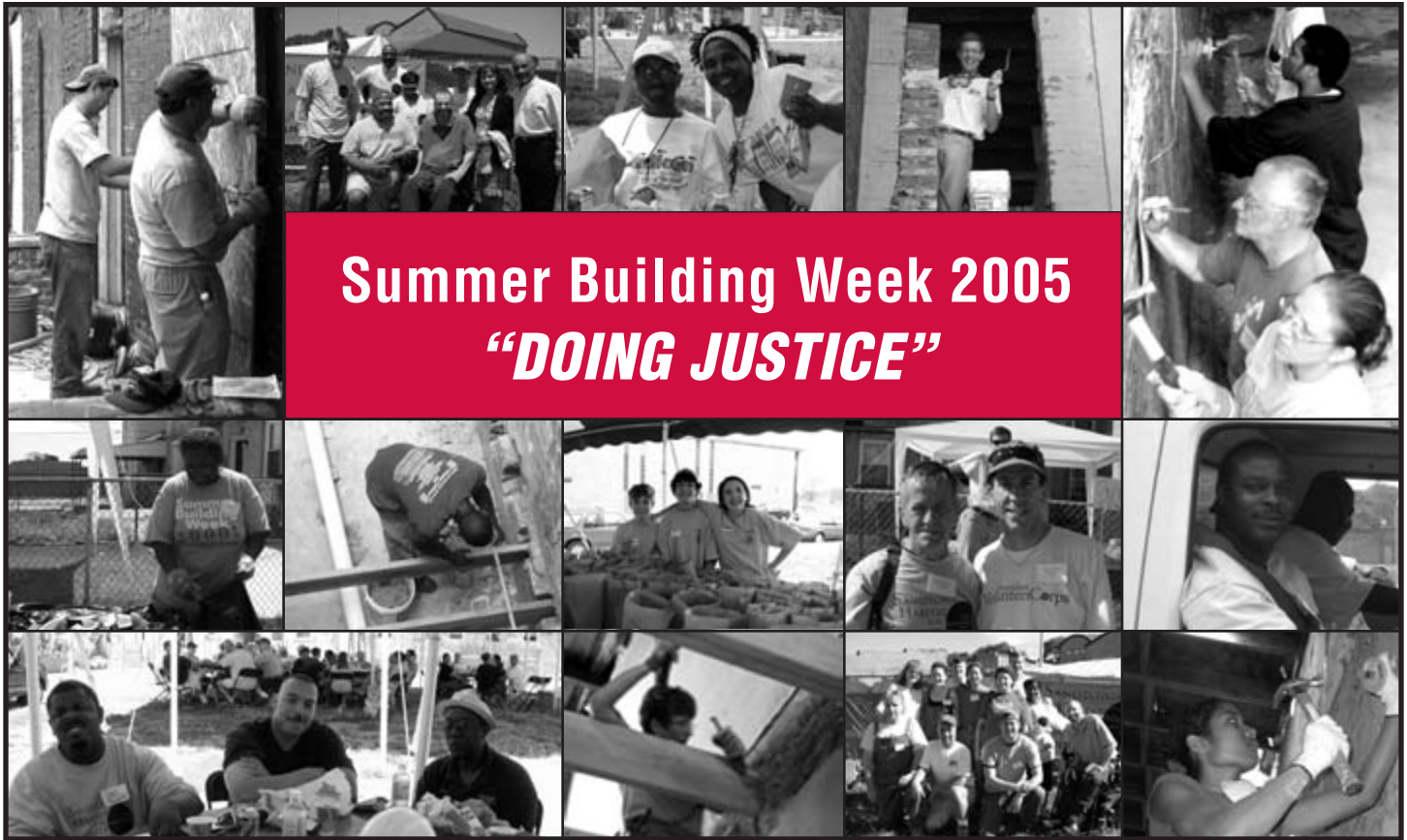


Over the past ten months of work on 1418, our feet, our hands, our heads have all cried out at one time or another, though it wasn't always "hallelujah" we shouted, especially not at the end of a long workday or when the rain or snow kept us humble. But we were ever conscious of the

goodness of Jesus; of that goodness that called us to help rebuild together, not just Martha's home, though that's certainly an important part of it, but also to rebuild our humanity; to see ourselves and those around us as all being beloved children of God. We built walls for Martha and community among the volunteers and the neighborhood as each got to know and perhaps understand the other a little better. We have learned something about

the importance of building bridges based on the goodness of Jesus instead of fear based on what we read in the paper or see on television.

During the work on Martha's home, just 11 days ago in fact, we got a vivid reminder of how important it is to not postpone accepting God's call to us, the call to be his hands in this place. Bob Becker has been one of our most dependable volunteers over the past four or five years, and he gave us much more than just his presence on fourth Saturdays. He showed us perseverance (which we sometimes called his stubbornness) and faithfulness and always good humor. He worked regularly on Martha's home up until a couple months ago when he was diagnosed with the illness that would take him on July 5th. But as his body weakened, his faith remained strong. He knew to Whom he belonged and Who it was that would accompany him on his journey home.



**Summer Building Week 2005
"DOING JUSTICE"**

***Farewell,
Friend...***



Shirley Plummer, fondly known around Sandtown as Ms Shirley, moved to the neighborhood in 1992 when her husband Wy became a pastor of New Song Community Church. She has faithfully served on staff here at Habitat for the past 11 years. She was a bookkeeper by profession, but her roles as counselor, advisor, candy provider, office mom and friend will be sorely missed. Though Shirley and Wy have moved to Birmingham, Alabama, they will always have a home here in Sandtown. Good-bye Ms Shirley, we'll miss you!

House Dedications...



Morris Brown with Les Graef

Congratulations to Morris Brown who celebrated the completion of his house, 1609 North Gilmor Street, on May 14th, with house sponsor Divinity Lutheran Church and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans!

On September 3rd we celebrated with Mamie Shaw as her new home at 1320 North Fulton Avenue was dedicated. Thanks to house sponsors Glen Mar and Bethany United Methodist Churches for partnering with Mamie to make her dream a reality!



Mamie Shaw sharing a bug of joy with LaVerne Stokes.

Sandtown Habitat for Humanity
1300 North Fulton Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21217

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BALTIMORE, MD
PERMIT NO. 6436

Address Service Requested

CORPORATE MATCHING GIFTS



Many corporations provide matching gift programs as a benefit to their employees, enabling them to double their contributions to qualified organizations. To find out if your company offers this benefit, contact your Human Resource Department. *Please consider giving through your corporate match program to help build more houses in Sandtown.*

Please cut along dotted line

Sandtown Habitat for Humanity

Yes, I want to join in building homes with the residents of the Sandtown Community!

By making a financial contribution:

\$50 \$100 \$500 other

Having my church/business sponsor a house

Providing in-kind services and/or materials

Volunteering to work on a house

Volunteering with administrative tasks or on a committee

Praying for the work and ministry of Sandtown Habitat for Humanity

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____