

BLUEPRINT

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MEMPHIS HABITAT CELEBRATES 300TH HOME MILESTONE HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INTERNATIONAL CEO JOINS FESTIVITIES

Julie Clary

“Por que esta aqui?” “Why are you here?”

The question came to Jonathan Reckford, Habitat for Humanity International’s CEO from a fifteen-year-old girl named Haylim whom he worked alongside, building a home for her and her mother in the village of Amecameca, outside of Mexico City. Though he had asked himself the question many times, Reckford found it difficult to explain to a young girl why strangers from around the world were there to help her family realize their dream.

In the end, Reckford gave Haylim three reasons: “First, because I believe that we are all one in God’s eyes and that God cares passionately for every single person in the world. Second, because I believe that everyone should have the opportunity to live in a safe, decent affordable home. And third, because every time I have the privilege of working alongside someone like you, it gives me a glimpse of the kind of person I aspire to be and the kind of community we are called to create.”

Memphis Habitat echoes these sentiments, and proof is in the numbers. This fall, the affiliate constructed 12 new homes, including its 300th in Memphis and surrounding areas, for local families in need. That’s nearly the same number of homes that were built all of last year and the largest building blitz in Memphis Habitat history.

“It was a remarkable accomplishment for us,” says Dwayne Spencer, Habitat’s executive director. “It’s certainly an exciting time for Habitat as we celebrate this milestone and mark our 25th year in Memphis in 2008.”

While thousands of volunteers were giving their time to help 12 new families build their homes, Habitat staff members focused on making plans for the 300th home celebration.



Memphis Habitat’s 300th home was built in the Nehemiah neighborhood in South Memphis. In all, six homes were built there this fall with plans for returning to the area in the future.

New homeowner Twana Coleman and Habitat for Humanity International CEO Jonathan Reckford celebrate the completion of Memphis Habitat’s 300th home in Memphis.



Months of planning culminated on November 13-14 when Reckford joined hundreds of donors, sponsors, volunteers and homeowners in Memphis to dedicate the home of Twana Coleman and her son, Jordan, in the Nehemiah neighborhood of South Memphis.

Coleman was all smiles when she learned her house would be Habitat’s 300th in Memphis. “I was sitting in the conference room working on my thank you letters to the volunteers who worked on my home when I was told the news,” says Coleman. “I was extremely shocked and taken aback, but very delighted. I’m so thankful for Habitat.”

Coleman, along with 11 other homeowners, worked tirelessly throughout the fall to build their new homes. Homeowners are
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