

# TOGETHER AS ONE

Neighbors helping Neighbors  
A Parish-Wide 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project

Our entire parish has been working together much like the first members of our parish - reaching out into the community to help a family rebuild their lives and home through the Neighbors helping Neighbors 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project. Here is a recap of where we are today and where our journey takes us next.

**From Dreams to Devastation:** A blink of an eye, that's all it

took for Latoria and Antonio to see their dream Detroit home and hopes for a solid future for their 3 children go up in smoke this past September from an electrical fire. Thankfully, no one was injured, but everything they had worked for since they purchased the home in 2012 and most of their belongings were severely damaged. The future looked bleak with limited financial resources (could not afford insurance, underpaid and underemployed). St. Vincent de Paul had sponsored the oldest daughter at summer camp, so Latoria reached out to our conference for friendship and support. As she shared their story, their positive spirit, faith, hope, and determination became contagious and as their story was shared among parish commissions, the **NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS** project was born.

## PHASE ONE: COMPLETE

*Through their own efforts and with the support of the parish...*

- Latoria and Antonio have full time jobs and are attending energy conservation, financial literacy, home ownership and maintenance training
- Just before Christmas, the family moved to temporary housing furnished with donations and received holiday gifts from St. Clare members
- We have raised 1/3 of our \$30,000 goal
- The family has completed work on the inside of the home to prepare for the rebuild
- Volunteers and skilled trades have assessed the damage to the home and prepared a plan

## PHASE TWO: IN PROGRESS

*We need to raise \$20,000 NOW*

Our team continues to apply for grant funds, request material donations, and promote our **GO FUND ME** campaign so that we can begin construction and get this family back into their home as soon as possible. This fund is managed by St. Clare and will purchase materials and pay professional contractors where needed.

## PHASE THREE: MAY AND JUNE

*The Resurrection Construction Team begins...*

Volunteer your building expertise or learn a new skill - all are welcome. Watch the church walls for the Construction Schedule in the next few weeks. Our goal is to have the family in their home by the end of June.



## EACH OF YOU CAN SHARE IN THIS RESURRECTION JOURNEY

1. **Pray** for the family and volunteers
2. **Spread the good news** with your family and friends about this project (emails, social media, phone calls) - consider making it a family/friend team effort and sponsor a line item in the budget (paint, flooring, plumbing, heating, drywall, windows and doors)
3. **Make a donation today** via [www.GoFundMe.com/from-dreams-to-devastation](http://www.GoFundMe.com/from-dreams-to-devastation) OR donate directly by writing a check to St. Clare of Montefalco - please note Neighbors helping Neighbors in memo line
4. Sign up for the **Resurrection Construction Team**: Watch for the schedule on the church wall OR contact Marty McMillan at [martin.d.mcmillan@gmail.com](mailto:martin.d.mcmillan@gmail.com) or (313) 550-9661
5. Sign up for **Support Crew** - provide refreshments for Construction team, childcare for family during construction, errands, etc. contact Barb Koster at [barbarakoster@comcast.net](mailto:barbarakoster@comcast.net) or (313) 303-1951
6. **For general questions, or to donate household items and appliances** contact Diane McCloskey at [mccladydi@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mccladydi@sbcglobal.net) or (313) 231-1108