

Neighbors Helping Neighbors



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

is a new parish-wide 90th Initiative intended to harness the energy, compassion, and generosity of the St. Clare community.

Through the collaborative efforts of Parish Council, Christian Service, St. Vincent de Paul, Finance Council and the 90th Committee, our parish is rallying behind a young family who lost everything in a house fire just blocks from our church.

Perhaps you read their story in the bulletin insert, or you've seen the GoFundMe page: (www.gofundme.com/from-dreams-to-devastation)

Latoria and Antonio were raising their 3 children, ages 10, 6 and 3 in a home they purchased from Fannie Mae in 2012. There have been a few bumps in the road; both Latoria and Antonio have weathered periods of unsteady or part-time employment. There have been financial challenges and family crises. And on September 22, Latoria and her 3 year old ran a quick errand to the corner store and returned to find their house on fire--the result of an electrical malfunction in the kitchen. Fortunately, nobody was injured; however almost all of their belongings were destroyed in the fire or from smoke and water damage.

But their faith and family kept them strong and focused. With minimal resources, they knew they could not manage all that would need to be done to get back into their house, yet they did not want to abandon their home, the charter school where their girls are thriving or the Morning-side neighborhood they love, so they contacted St. Vincent de Paul, which had assisted them in the past, and things just took off from there.

In mid-November, thanks to a lead from a St. Clare parishioner, Antonio started a new full-time job. Three weeks later, Latoria started her own full-time job. This family of five had been sharing a bed and one room at a relative's small west side house since the fire. But this week, the **Neighbors Helping Neighbors** team was able to move them to a temporary house on this side of town so they are more easily able to get to school, jobs, and work on restoring their home.

Our next step is to acquire the materials, supplies, labor and professional resources needed to make this house a home again. The St. Clare **Neighbors Helping Neighbors** team is helping to raise funds.

To commemorate 90 years of catholic commitment, the entire St. Clare community is invited to join this **Neighbors Helping Neighbors** initiative. There is much to be done, and a way for **everyone** to contribute to this parish service opportunity. In addition to raising money, the team will also be coordinating volunteers and facilitating the house re-construction.

There is something for everyone! Here are ways to get involved:

- Make a donation via www.GoFundMe.com/from-dreams-to-devastation or donate directly to St. Clare with a check payable to St. Clare of Montefalco and write Neighbors Helping Neighbors in the memo line.
- Share the GoFundMe page for Neighbors Helping Neighbors with family, friends and co-workers by emailing the link, and posting on your own social media sites.
- Volunteer your professional building expertise, trades experience and/or willingness to tackle construction tasks as directed--even on a limited basis. Contact Marty McMillan at martin.d.mcmillan@gmail.com or 313-550-9661.
- Donate household items, furniture, large or small appliances, supplies, and tools to the family as they get a fresh start. Contact Diane McCloskey at mcladydi@sbcglobal.net or 313-231-1108.
- Volunteer to provide food and drinks for the building volunteers when the home reconstruction begins and assist the family as needed with transportation and babysitting during this chaotic transitional time. Contact Barb Koster at Barbarakoster@comcast.net or 313-303-9151.
- Pray for Latoria, Antonio, their children and all the benefactors and volunteers.

