

Whitney Center Joins Forces with Habitat for Humanity and Sleeping Giant Build

BY STAFF ♦ DEC 02, 2011

Whitney Center Residents and Staff Volunteer in Hamden

On Saturday, November 19, a group of Whitney Center residents and staff members partnered with Sleeping Giant Build to help renovate and refurbish a house located at 390 Gilbert Ave. in Hamden.

Whitney Center, a not-for-profit Continuing Care Retirement Community, located at 200 Leeder Hill Drive, volunteered to work with the Habitat for Humanity group as a way to show support for the town by helping to rebuild and restore the vacant house that was built in 1892.

"As a member of the Hamden community, it's our responsibility to give back and this was a great way to do that," said Michael Rambarose, Senior Vice President for Administration. "As a corporate sponsor of Sleeping Giant Build, we're excited about having a house in Hamden to work on this year."

Many residents living at Whitney Center are involved with volunteer organizations and community projects. Being able to contribute to this atmosphere through continued engagement is very important to the resident volunteers of this not-for-profit community.

Richard and Nancy Beals, who will move to Whitney Center in January, have been working with Habitat for Humanity since 2003. "I was feeling I needed to do hands on work that would change peoples' lives," said Nancy Beals. "When my husband retired, we both started [volunteering] once a week and have been since then."

New resident Carolyn Malmborg has volunteered before, but never worked with Habitat for Humanity. She said it was something she has always wanted to do. "It is very impressive to me the way the people work and how the work is handled. It is a learning experience. I admire people that can do things and I like to be hands on," said Malmborg. "Real work gets done – it really does."

The residents and staff members hope to work with Sleeping Giant Build again in January, at this same property, and possibly once more in the spring, to help get the project completed. For many staff members, this was their first experience volunteering with Habitat for Humanity.

*Since opening in 1979, **Whitney Center** has served thousands of seniors and their families, from Hamden and well beyond, by offering Independent Living apartments, Assisted Living services, and nursing care in a setting that emphasizes continued social engagement, active lifestyles and lifelong learning. As a nationally accredited Continuing Care Retirement Community, Whitney Center serves as a beacon for non-profit communities in terms of its ongoing successful operations while upholding its unwavering mission to offer excellence in senior living through a continuum of care that promotes independence while meeting housing, social, cultural, health care, and security needs.*

Sleeping Giant Build is a community-based organization partnering with local businesses, religious organizations, civic groups, individuals, and our partner families to eliminate poverty housing in the greater New Haven area.

Through volunteer labor and donations of money and materials, ***Habitat for Humanity*** builds and rehabilitates simple, decent houses with the help of the homeowner (partner) families. Habitat is not a giveaway program. Habitat houses are sold to partner families at no profit and financed with affordable loans. In addition to a down payment and the monthly mortgage payments, homeowners are required to invest hundreds of hours of their own labor — sweat equity — into building their Habitat house and the houses of others.