



Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Bethany Miller
Director of Community Development
(301) 698-2449 ext: 12
bethany.miller@frederickhabitat.org

"Habitat for Humanity of Frederick County" hosts Mortgage Burning Ceremony for Homeowner

FREDERICK, June 17, 2015

On Sunday, June 14, 2015, community members gathered at the home of Daphne Weedon, located at 107B South Bentz Street, for a Mortgage Burning Ceremony presented by Habitat for Humanity of Frederick County. The ceremony honored Ms. Weedon, a homeowner through the Habitat for Humanity program, who recently paid off her 20 year mortgage in full.

The Frederick County affiliate of Habitat for Humanity was founded in 1993, and broke ground on Ms. Weedon's home in April of 1995. This was the first home constructed by the affiliate and in a November 1995 Dedication Ceremony the keys to the home were turned over to Ms. Weedon, making her the first Habitat Homeowner in Frederick. Several of the volunteers and Habitat staff that were present at that 1995 ceremony, were also in attendance at her Mortgage Burning Ceremony on Sunday. Ms. Weedon had been chosen as a Habitat Homeowner based upon her income and financial qualifications for the program. Additionally, a memo from the 1995 Family Selection Committee to the Habitat Board of Directors, states that Ms. Weedon was recommended to receive a home as "she has overcome some unfortunate life experiences and is determined to make a better life for herself and her son."

20 years later at her Mortgage Burning Ceremony Ms. Weedon shared insights into her journey of being accepted as a Habitat Homeowner, including how she followed the advice of her pastor to come to the property each day for a week to walk around it and pray that it would become hers, following the biblical story of the Israelites march around Jericho. Ms. Weedon also offered a tearful tribute to her mother, who passed away in December of 2014, for co-signing the loan on the house and her constant familial support. Ms. Weedon used inheritance money received after her mother's death to pay the remaining balance on her mortgage, stating that it was her mother's way of continuing to care for her from beyond the grave. Ms. Weedon also encouraged others to consider applying for a home through Habitat, emphasizing the great need for affordable housing options in Frederick and Habitat's efforts to fill that need.

About Habitat for Humanity of Frederick County:

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit ecumenical Christian housing ministry, who invite people of all backgrounds, races and religions to build houses together in partnership with families in need. Habitat seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world, and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. For more information about Habitat for Humanity, please visit our website at www.frederickhabitat.org or call (301) 698-2449.

2 East Church Street, 3rd Floor, Frederick, MD 21701
Tel. (301) 698.2449 Fax. (301) 698.1697
info@frederickhabitat.org~~www.frederickhabitat.org