

Update of Last Year's Disciples for Habitat Build

Dana Stefaniak, Resource Development Director of Lexington Habitat for Humanity gave us an update of the Trina Burroughs family, whose home the Disciples for Habitat built last year.

When she leaves home in the morning for her commute to work, the last thing Trina Burroughs expects to hear is a gunshot. Instead, she hears birds chirping, greetings from her neighbors and the swish of traffic.

Tucked into a quiet subdivision off Georgetown Street, her cozy four-bedroom home is surrounded by friendly, hard-working neighbors who greet each other by name, look out for one another's kids and chat about the news and the weather.

But things haven't always been this way for Trina, a single mother of three who moved to Lexington a few years ago after a shooting near her old home in Flint, Michigan.

"It was horrible, just very scary," she said. "We stayed with my mother for two weeks because I was afraid the shooter might have seen me." A short time later, Trina moved to Lexington to start a new life. She had no idea that she would soon be signing a mortgage for a brand-new home. With the help of Lexington Habitat for Humanity and her sponsor, the Disciples for Habitat, Trina now has a safe home in a great neighborhood. "It's beautiful," she said. "I'm so grateful."

Long-time supporters of Lexington Habitat, the Disciples for Habitat has sponsored 27 homes. In 2010, the group contributed more than 2,000 hours of volunteer work on Trina's home. Made up of members from twelve Lexington Disciple congregations, Disciples for Habitat on June 4th will receive the 2010 Governor's Award for Volunteerism and Service for its dedication to Lexington Habitat's mission to provide simple, decent, affordable housing for some of the area's poorest citizens.

Trina worked with Lexington Habitat to pay off her debt and put in 250 hours of homeownership training and volunteer labor with the organization. She worked alongside Disciples for Habitat volunteers to build her home, one of the few Lexington Habitat homes built with a garage and brick front. She is happy that she can now raise her three children in a safe environment. In fact, Trina loves the area so much that she encouraged some of her family members to relocate to Lexington from Michigan. Her older sister, her younger brother, her aunt and two of her cousins now live in Lexington.

Her children are thriving in their new home. Her son Paris, 15, plays football at Dunbar High School. Her oldest daughter, Diamond, 12, a student at Leestown Middle School, is a typical pre-teen who likes texting her friends. Her youngest, 3-year-old Tiara, is crazy about SpongeBob. "They are very happy," said Trina. "It feels good to have a safe place for them to grow up. Sometimes they say how boring it is here, but I tell them it's better to be bored and safe than always having to worry about your safety."