

April 26, 2011 - RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY OPENS NEW HOME FOR RECONSTRUCTION RECIPIENT

The City of Shreveport's Department of Community Development in partnership with the Fuller Center for Housing has constructed a new home for Ms. Gennie V. Smith at 2018 Chester Street in Shreveport. As she moves into her new home, a ribbon cutting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 27, 2011, at 10 a.m. at 2018 Chester Street.

Ms. Smith applied to Community Development for Homeowner Occupied Rehabilitation but after a thorough inspection, it was determined that the repairs needed to the home would exceed the program's limit of \$35,000. Ms. Smith's home was in extreme disrepair and was finally placed on the list for complete reconstruction. Funded with HOME funds from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, in September 2010, Ms. Smith's home was demolished and rebuilt on the existing lot, with the assistance of the Fuller Center at a cost of approximately \$100,000.

"This is a nice house and I thank God first. Eyes have not seen, nor have ears heard what God has in store. I just love it," says an elated Gennie Smith. During demolition Ms. Smith videotaped the process and took a board for each one of her children's memories.

"This is a perfect example of the community's tax dollars at work," says Murphy Cheatham, Bureau Chief of Housing and Development. "This development took equally shared responsibility and a working partnership between the homeowner, the Fuller Center and the Department of Community Development. Today Ms. Smith is living in a home that is safe, energy efficient, up to code and completely livable."

For more information about the Homeowner Occupied Rehabilitation Program or the Reconstruction Program, contact Marcia Nelson or Robert Dumas at (318) 673.7503.

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