

In November of 1984, a group of community activists and religious leaders met to express their concern about cuts in government spending and the growing problem of sub-standard housing in York County. The result of that meeting was the formation of York Habitat for Humanity Inc., the local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International.

In January of 1985, York Habitat for Humanity was incorporated. In June of that year, with the help of the York Area Development Corporation and the City of York, work was begun on two properties; 225 and 227 S. Penn Street. Both required extensive rehabilitation. In 1987, Habitat volunteers completed both homes and sold them to families of low income, on 20-year, no interest mortgages. By York Habitat's tenth anniversary, twenty-five families, who otherwise were unable to apply for traditional mortgages, had a home to call their own.

Over the years, York Habitat has worked with countless organizations, corporations, faith groups, and individuals. For instance, generous house sponsors include: The Rotary Club of York, the Wal-Mart Corporation, Harley-Davidson, York International Corporation, Glatfelter Insurance Group, Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Columbia Energy Group, Coldwell Banker, St. Onge, Wolf Organization, Bon Ton, Wells Fargo, and York Technical Institute.

By 2005, as York Habitat further developed its resources, it became possible to complete 9 homes in a single year! Not only is York Habitat equipped to complete single homes; entire communities have been reconstructed or built anew. For instance, Oak Lane now contains thirteen Habitat homes, Thomas Street features seven, Spring Valley Manor in Dover will have a whopping sixteen by the end of 2008, and eventually East Prospect Street will contain six rehabilitated townhouses (by 2009).

Today, York Habitat for Humanity, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)3 volunteer organization dedicated to helping lower income families become owners of modest, affordable homes by committing to rehabilitate older homes or construct new ones. To date we have reconstructed 29 homes and constructed 56, leading to a total of 85 homes (63 of which are in York City) for 299 men, women and children. Having completed this many, York Habitat has contributed over \$5.5 million in real estate to York County! But, York Habitat is not in the "home building business". Our history is not really a history of houses; it is a **history of families**. The real story is one of **transformed lives**; the lives of the families and of the volunteers. The ingredients of York Habitat for Humanity are: families, volunteers, donors, no profit, and no interest.