



September 24, 2004

## **Denark and the Knoxville Habitat for Humanity building first-ever historically-designed habitat home**

Denark and the Knoxville Habitat for Humanity are building the first-ever historically-designed habitat home for Alician Batts and her two young daughters. The first build day "blitz" was held on October 9, with over 70 volunteers working with Ms. Batts to make her dream of owning her own home a reality.



Denark takes an active role in the community, as a corporate presence and through individual employee participation. In fact, one of the five points of our mission statement is "Caring – Never forget that we are a part of this community."

To support this mission point, Denark has again volunteered to build a house for the local Habitat for Humanity. This organization seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from each community, as well as make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. Habitat invites people of all backgrounds, races, and religions to build houses together in partnership with families in need.

Ms. Batts was familiar with Denark Construction because of the company's work in renovating the Knox Area Rescue Ministries facilities where she has worked for eight years. When receiving word that her application for a Habitat house had been approved and that Denark would be helping her build it, she was extremely happy.

As part of the homeownership program, Ms. Batts will attend budgeting, construction, and home maintenance classes; invest 500 hours of "sweat equity;" and build her own home with the help of Denark Construction and Habitat for Humanity.

The home, designed by local architect and historic preservationist Randall DeFord, will be located in the historic Park Ridge community. Mr. DeFord designed the home to meet the requirements of a Habitat home and be visually acceptable in a historic community.

Denark and Habitat volunteers will work a total of nine Saturdays to make the home ready for Ms. Batts and her family in time for the holidays.