



A New Home for Newark Volunteers

METUCHEN, NJ (September 24, 2012) – With the help of Build with Purpose, Jesuit Volunteers in Newark, NJ began their placement year in a new home—the *Newark Volunteer House*. Since the 1970’s, Newark has been fortunate to have a Jesuit Volunteer (JV) community house, and each year the house is home to 5-6 young men and women who spend a year volunteering full-time at various Newark-based agencies that offer direct service to low-income individuals.

However, the house that had been home to the volunteers for the past 30 years was in disrepair, unsafe and no longer habitable. The city of Newark, the nonprofits and individuals served by the JVs were at risk of losing the JV program. With very limited resources, the Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC) turned to Build with Purpose (Build), a national leader in nonprofit real estate development, to help secure a new home for the JVs. After an extensive search, Build found and purchased a home in time for the start of the JVs placement year.

“The JVC has been an important part of Newark, NJ for decades. The volunteers provide a vital resource to organizations that could not otherwise afford to staff these positions. Imagine all the good Jesuit volunteers have done over the years and the compound effect their work will have on others for generations to come.” said Brian Keenan, Director and President of Build with Purpose. “How could we not help? This is exactly what Build with Purpose was created to do—to help other organizations with their real estate needs so that together we can build stronger and healthier communities. There is no better example of this than the JV house.”

With financing from New Jersey Community Capital, a nonprofit bank, Build purchased the home at 655 Parker Street for \$225,000. The four bedroom home, located in the Forest Hill section of Newark, provides a location that is safe, close to public transportation and features a layout that has a community feel with ample gathering space as well as a backyard. With a commitment to social justice, simple living, community and spirituality, the five Jesuit Volunteers in residence spend their days working as teachers, social workers and community organizers. At home they share their faith and modest stipends (\$100 per month per volunteer after living expenses) and live together as a community. “We are so happy that the JVC has a new home and that they can now remain in Newark for the foreseeable future. Having a safe place to call home is critical to everyone. Without Build with Purpose’s help, I don’t think this would have happened,” said Rose Grummer-Strawn, a former Jesuit Volunteer.

Build was started in 2003 and its mission is to build sustainable organizations and healthy, vibrant communities. Since its inception, the organization has helped dozens of organizations with their facilities, including 20 charter schools. Build has secured over \$150 million in real estate financing and assisted more than 5,000 people. While charter schools have been the bulk of its business, the organization has also developed 300 units of housing in Delaware and New Jersey. Now in its tenth year of operations, the organization has expanded its work to the

development of private schools and senior housing. For more information on Build with Purpose go to www.bwpurpose.org.

Based in four core values—social justice, simple living, community, and spirituality—the Jesuit Volunteer Corps offers women and men an opportunity to work full-time for justice and peace. Living simply in intentional communities of fellow JVs, they work in education, advocacy, direct service, and community service in 39 US cities and in six other countries. For more information on the JVC go to www.jesuitvolunteers.org.