

Great Job! 1house at a time Volunteers

On Saturday March 27, 2010, 51 **1house at a time**[™] volunteers drastically changed the life of one southeast Dallas family.

1house at a time[™] is a program of A Nurtured World (www.NurturedWorld.org) a non-profit dedicated to helping individuals live environmentally sustainable, financially successful and satisfying lives. Through their **1house at a time**[™] program, A Nurtured World is committed to improving the quality of life of low-income homeowners while also creating a community of volunteer leaders who make measurable changes in their own lives as a result of participating in this program.

In perfect spring weather, our volunteers assembled to learn firsthand about energy efficiency and make a big difference in the homeowner's quality of life and her utility bills. The volunteers came from all parts of the Dallas area, some as far away as Justin, bringing expertise and great energy to the project.

Groups from the Center for Spiritual Living, GerdauAmeristeel, Applied Materials, Eastfield Community College, NextEra and many individuals worked on the house built in 1936. They installed insulation, replaced glass, caulked windows and doors, replaced window units a/cs, fixed plumbing and even put in a rain cistern. The rain catchment system was donated by The Rain Well, whose owner Greg Whitfield said "I'm just glad to be here to help". Above All Plumbing, Glidden Paint, Ingrem McDonald's, and Home Depot all pitched in to help with generous in-kind donations.

1house at a time[™] has been very successful in Austin since 2007 completing dozens of projects for low-income family homes. "It's the education piece that initially made me want to get involved" said Sharon Goddard, Program Coordinator. "We not only educate the homeowner about what we're doing and why so that that information ripples out to their family, neighbors and friends; we educate the volunteers and ask them to commit to taking something they've learned back to work on their own home. That way the ripple of energy efficiency, water conservation and just plain, saving money spread much further."

In 2009, we began documenting measurable results from our home-owners and our volunteers. As part of the renovation events, volunteers are making a commitment to change their own lives to reduce environmental impacts. In total we measured \$11,788 in savings, 4,438 KWhr of electricity conserved, 64,050 gallons of water conserved, and 7.05 tons of carbon dioxide reduced from the homes served in 2007 & 2008.

Everyone did an amazing job, bringing together much experience, cooperation and elbow-grease to create a new community of service. The originator of **1house at a time**[™], Mike Frisch, the Development Director of A Nurtured World, Elizabeth Frisch, and the Austin foreman, Marcel Montalvo, were on hand to insure a successful event. Susan Pahnke of CSL was the volunteer "foreman", making sure everyone had the tools they needed to complete the work.

If you would like to get involved with the next Work Event, please email sharon@1houseatatime.org. To contribute to the program or become a sponsor, go to www.1houseatatime.org.