

WEST INDIANAPOLIS COMMUNITY NEWS

The Voice of the Great West Side

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Building Community with Hearts & Hands

by Sarah Hampton

How often do you think about becoming a home owner? Maybe it crosses your mind once in a while, or maybe it's never been an option. Today's economy doesn't help the situation, either. But what if you were given the support and assistance necessary to help you buy a house you could afford? This is the mission at Hearts & Hands of Indiana: to help families and individuals obtain affordable long-term home ownership on the near west side of Indianapolis by providing education, mentoring and quality rehabilitated homes.

I've only been with Hearts & Hands for five months — I am serving as an AmeriCorps

VISTA — but in these few months I have come to truly believe in the mission and work of this organization. I knew I wanted to work with Hearts & Hands after meeting with the two gentlemen who founded the organization three years ago. Their passion for rebuilding the community and the mission of Hearts & Hands was infectious: I was inspired to help rejuvenate a neighborhood in desperate need of attention.

Hearts & Hands started by providing the basic human necessity of housing. Safe, affordable housing, which seems like a straightforward, simple goal, actually touches on all aspects of community development.

By focusing on rehabilitating

abandoned houses, we clean up the neighborhood and remove eyesores that might also be centers for crime. Families are given a stable, healthy environment — especially for children — without the worry of lead-based paint or other dangers that come with an older house. Most important, we are providing an opportunity for those who want to own a home but might otherwise never get the chance. With a fully renovated home and post-purchase support and education, we provide families with a chance to stabilize their situation and become active community members. I have completed half of my time with Hearts & Hands and I am continually in-

spired by those who founded the group. Not only that, but the accomplishments we have achieved — two completed homes with two families enjoying them — reinforces the need for Hearts & Hands in the community.

If you've thought about becoming a home owner, I urge you to contact our offices and help us revitalize the community here on the west side. For more information, send an e-mail to info@heartsandhandsindy.com, visit heartsandhandsindy.com or stop by the offices located at 337 N. Warman Avenue.

We look forward to hearing from you.



Hearts & Hands
OF INDIANA

Our Mission:
To help families and individuals attain affordable long-term home ownership on the near west side of Indianapolis by providing education, mentoring and quality rehabilitated homes.

Contact Sarah Hampton
337 N. Warman Avenue • (317) 353-3768
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