



Wayne County  
Department of  
Health, Veterans &  
Community Wellness

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FIVE FAMILIES RECEIVE NEWLY CONSTRUCTED HOMES IN HAMTRAMCK, WAYNE COUNTY, HABITAT FOR HUMANITY AND PARTNERS COMPLETE \$4.1 MILLION PROJECT TO HOUSE DISPLACED FAMILIES**

**DETROIT**— Five families are moving into new homes in Hamtramck, Michigan because Wayne County, Habitat for Humanity and their partners completed the final five of 25 homes the County committed to build to support families that were impacted by the historic federal court decision in *Garrett v. City of Hamtramck*.

Wayne County Executive Warren C. Evans took part in a “Passing of the Keys” dedication ceremony for two of the homes on Whalen Street today along with Habitat for Humanity Detroit Board President, Bishop Edgar Vann, Hamtramck City Manager Katrina Powell and members of the community.

Wayne County was not a part of the law suit, but the County used \$4.1 million of its HUD funds to build 25 homes, which is helping to bring closure to a several decade’s long effort to build 200 new homes for those affected by an unlawful urban renewal program that displaced families. The single-family, two-story homes are approximately 1,600 square feet and include four bedrooms, a two-car detached garage and Energy Star appliances.

“I am pleased my administration has successfully helped fulfill a promise Wayne County made many years ago to make these families and decedents whole with these new homes,” said County Executive Evans. “It is a testament to our team’s unyielding commitment to improve the lives of Wayne County’s residents. This initiative should serve as inspiration to other cities that collaboration and putting the interests of the people first can help breathe new life into communities.”

Over the years, in addition to the funds to build these 25 homes, Wayne County has contributed significantly to the entire project by providing technical assistance, grants, and loans for demolition and site remediation.

Diane Williams, a daughter of one of the original plaintiffs in the law suit, shared her joy about justice finally being served and the excitement of moving into her new home. “I am so grateful for this experience and the people who have helped along the way. This home has been a long time coming, but it was worth the wait. I’m most looking forward to celebrating the holidays in my new home surrounded by family and friends.”

Bishop Edgar Vann, Habitat Detroit Board President, added, "For over 40 years, this has been a stalled development for all of the wrong reasons. Judge Damon Keith has been a champion of this project and I am delighted that Habitat for Humanity Detroit has been able to partner in the advancement of justice, especially in view of the historical significance of this case."

### **Wayne County Partners**

In the time since Wayne County has been involved in the project, it has had many partners support its participation, including: the City of Hamtramck, Habitat for Humanity Detroit, Community 1st Mitchell, LLC, Wayne Metro Community Action Agency, National Faith Homebuyers, Kathy Makino-Leipsitz CEO of Shelborne Development, Al Bogdan, and Neighborhood Housing Solutions.

### **About Wayne County**

Situated in the heart of the Great Lakes region along the beautiful Detroit River, Wayne County is the 18th most populous county in the United States. With 43 distinct communities including the automotive capital of the world, Wayne County is rich in history, culture, arts, and world-class amenities. We take pride in being one of the most diverse counties in the United States; a place where different cultures come together to offer a truly cosmopolitan experience. For more information please visit [www.waynecounty.com](http://www.waynecounty.com)

### **About Habitat for Humanity Detroit**

Habitat for Humanity Detroit is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, a nonprofit ecumenical Christian housing ministry providing decent, safe and affordable housing to low-income families in Detroit. Since 1986, the Detroit affiliate has rehabilitated and/or built new houses in partnership with more than 350 families. Financial support, gift-in-kind donations and volunteer labor allow Habitat for Humanity Detroit to continue building affordable homes with those in need of improved housing. For more information please visit [www.habitatdetroit.org](http://www.habitatdetroit.org) or call (313) 521-6691.

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