



NSP is Committed to Leveraging Resources and Building a Legacy

The city of Phoenix is committed to environmental excellence and creating a positive legacy for both the city and future generations. The Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) embraces the city's commitment and incorporates green building practices, energy-efficiency and sustainability in all of its projects.

NSP partnered with Habitat for Humanity Central Arizona (HFHCAZ) and Wells Fargo to build a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), Certified Platinum home in the Village Center Neighborhood Initiative Area. LEED is a national certification system developed by the U.S. Green Building Council to encourage the construction of energy and resource-efficient homes that are healthy to live in based upon the materials and construction methods used, and energy efficiency.

The home's construction incorporates job training for disadvantaged and at-risk youth enrolled in YouthBuild Phoenix, a program that offers them job readiness skills, credit for a GED or high school diploma and hands-on construction experience. Wells Fargo is supporting the home's construction costs and volunteers within their organization will help construct the home and engage in beautification projects in the surrounding neighborhood.

NSP funding made it possible for the city to acquire and demolish a dilapidated, unsafe foreclosed property in the VillageCenter area and to be able to donate the land to Habitat for Humanity for this green neighborhood revitalization project. For more than a decade, the city has focused on revitalization efforts in the area to eliminate blight, improve property conditions and area aesthetics.

The collaboration with YouthBuild on this project is unique. The program places a strong emphasis on leadership development, job skills training and community service resulting in a large number of the students pursuing college, employment or both.

"YouthBuild builds students' confidence through increased knowledge and new skills sets while instilling the value and reward of hard work. They are making great strides toward their future by learning green construction techniques and receiving hands-on building instruction; skills to take with them into the



workforce,” stated Vice Mayor Bill Gates.

The home was pre-sold to a NSP eligible family; as part of the program they will receive homebuyer education, housing counseling and \$15,000 in down payment assistance. The family is working with Habitat for Humanity and will invest “sweat equity” in the construction of their home in exchange for affordable monthly mortgage payments and a zero-interest loan.

“Together, we are providing low-to-moderate income families with affordable housing solutions,” stated Chris Hallett, director of Neighborhood Services Department. “By working towards a common goal of strengthening the city by building green, sustainable homes, we minimize the impact on our environment and encourage others to support environmental sustainability.”

Through this unique collaboration, an unsafe property and neighborhood eyesore has been eliminated. A hard working family will achieve homeownership, an energy-efficient, sustainable home is being built, at-risk youth are being educated and equipped with skills for the workforce, surrounding neighborhoods are being beautified, and all involved benefit from the principles and rewards of volunteerism and community service.

This project exemplifies Phoenix’s commitment to the environment and dedication to build a legacy for future generations. Collaboration, public-private partnerships, teamwork and leveraging resources really can make a difference in the community.