



New Song Urban Ministries

loving God, loving our neighbors

Fall 2006

GRACE FELLOWSHIP PARTNERS WITH NEW SONG!



New Song is pleased to announce a long term partnership with Grace Fellowship Church in Timonium. The cornerstone vision of this expanded commitment is “shalom” (wholeness) with the purpose of building relationships between these two communities, deepening a biblical worldview of how God views the city, team building and planning for the future. The 3,000 member Grace Fellowship has partnered over the years with Sandtown Habitat, New Song Community Learning Center, New Song Arts, EDEN Jobs and New Song Community Church and is looking to connect its members, ministries and resources more strategically with the work of New Song in Sandtown as together we seek to increasingly love God and love our neighbors.

BRUCE STREET PARK DEDICATED

September 16, 2006 may have been a cloudy day to some in Baltimore, but to those gathered in a long-abandoned lot (off Laurens Street, behind Fulton Avenue), it was a day full of “sunshine,” restoration, hard work and fun. The recently formed Resident Action Committee (RAC) of neighbors in Sandtown partnered with the Sandtown Habitat Homeowners Association, Enterprise Community Partners, Struever Bros Eccles & Rouse, and others along with 100 volunteers in transforming the lot into the now beautiful Bruce Street Park, with flower beds, picnic tables, a performance stage, walkways and freshly grown grass as part of the James W. Rouse Service Day. RAC envisions this new community gathering spot as the place to host parties, children’s events, concerts, neighborhood picnics and much more.



Patty Rouse, Bart Harvey, Clarence Snuggs from Enterprise with Allan Tibbels



RAC leaders (and Habitat homeowners) Antoine Bennett and Charles Johnson at park dedication sign and with Halloween party goers (can you find the grown-ups?!)

FROM NEW ORLEANS TO A BALTIMORE HABITAT HOME...with a little help from Garrison Forest School and the Baltimore Ravens...

In August 2005, when the family of Reynoud & Helen Duplessis lost everything they had in New Orleans to Hurricane Katrina, they had no idea that a little more than one year later they would be cutting the ribbon to a newly renovated Habitat home in Sandtown with faculty and students of the Garrison Forest School and members of the Baltimore Ravens football team along with a host of other partners. From the kick-off with Garrison Forest on October 8, 2005 to the joyous dedication on October 10, 2006, many individuals and volunteer groups worked with Sandtown Habitat for Humanity in the transformation of 1428 North Fulton into the new home for the Duplessis family.



Their joy was evident as the family shared a special song of thanks in anticipation of finally being able to settle into their new lives as neighbors in Sandtown. Welcome to Baltimore and to Sandtown!



NEW SONG STAFF IN PHILLY



Members of New Song staff attended this year's annual Christian Community Development Association conference "Cities of Love with Liberty and Justice for All" in Philadelphia. New Song Leaders LaVerne Stokes and Allan Tibbels presented the story of New Song during a morning plenary session, encouraging all present to press on and stay the course in reconciliation and community development as New Song has for 18 years. Our staff was inspired by other key speakers at this year's conference including Marian Wright Edelman, Tony Campolo and, of course, Dr. John Perkins, the "father of Christian Community Development," with his energetic and challenging morning Bible studies, and we enjoyed City of Brotherly Love specialties like Philly cheese steaks, Independence Hall and great jazz.

New Song **Urban Ministries** is ...

New Song Community Church • Sandtown Habitat for Humanity • New Song Community Learning Center • EDEN Jobs • New Song Family Health Services • New Song Arts • and in Partnership with Newborn Holistic Ministries

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