

SUPPORT THE ST. PAUL'S GIVING TREE AND HELP A GENTILLY FAMILY TURN THEIR HOUSE INTO A HOME.

St. Paul's Church and Homecoming Center are hosting a House Warming Shower and Blessing for a Gentilly couple finally able to move back into their home since the storm.

Structurally, their house is almost complete, now what they need are the things that will make it a home.



Their Story...

Sylvia and Anthony Blanchard are a Gentilly couple that have endured a lot of pain and heartbreak since Hurricane Katrina. Before the storm Sylvia worked and maintained a stable income as a secretary with a city official. Anthony enjoyed life as a retired military Veteran, having served as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army, honored with 3 Purple Hearts.

Life has changed drastically for the couple since the Storm. The couple evacuated to Baton Rouge and stayed there for a year and a half. In December of 2006, the couple returned to New Orleans and have been living in a FEMA trailer ever since. Due to the stress of dealing with FEMA and Road Home, Anthony's diabetes got out of control causing him to have a massive stroke, later losing his leg to the disease. Anthony is now bedridden, unable to talk, walk, or feed himself, and requires 24-hour care. Sylvia, is no longer able to work because she serves as his full-time caregiver.

In July, 2008 their situation started to improve when Sylvia met Connie Uddo, Director of St. Paul's Homecoming Center. Connie was so moved by Sylvia's story that she purchased a lawn mower the following day so that Sylvia's grass could be cut and maintained around the couple's trailer and damaged home.

Next Connie connected Sylvia to Cathy, a Case Manager with Episcopal Community Services of Louisiana. She conducted home visits and provided support and advocacy work for the couple. Then, EDOLA Rebuild Program Coordinators along with a cadre of volunteers from all over the world, began to rebuild Sylvia's damaged home.

Her home has been gutted, demolded and treated for termites. The house has also received a new roof, new plumbing, new kitchen cabinets, and complete insulation with sheet rock. Now, they need all the things to help make it truly a home for which they can live and enjoy!

Please participate in the Operation Pay it Forward Giving Tree and help to give the Blanchard's all the comforts of a *real* home.

*Please join us for
The Blanchard Family
House Blessing &
House Warming Shower
Sunday, May 16th
11:45 a.m.
5230 Lafayette Street
New Orleans
Family registered at
Bed, Bath, & Beyond*

***Please have your gifts returned to the tree by Friday, May 14th. For more information contact Jennifer at 488-1319**