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Green Homes Reviving Urban Neighborhood



A neighborhood on the east side of Detroit is making a comeback and getting national attention. New houses are going up in the Jefferson-Chalmers area, and they are good for the new homeowners and the environment.

A crane delicately lowers a brand new modular home onto its foundation. It is the first affordable, green home put together by Community 1st, a real estate company dedicated to urban renewal,

Sherman and Angie Reynolds and their three children, ages seven, nine and ten, are getting set to move into their new house within a month. "We're excited about the neighborhood. We've met some of the neighbors that were actually excited and happy to see things going up in the neighborhood. Near the waterfront, we like the location," said Sherman Reynolds.

The family is buying the 1,400 square foot home with three bedrooms, two baths and an attached garage for \$168,000. They will get financial help in the form of a \$60,000 grant and an \$8,000 first-time home buyer tax credit.

The family will also save money on utilities. "You have high-energy efficient appliances, tankless hot water heaters, dual flush toilets... (and) low flow faucets," said Shawn Torrence of Community 1st.

A number of agencies came together to make this project happen. NBA star and Detroit native Willie Burton was on the team. "I think my being a former basketball player and really caring and doing a lot of the work myself... showed that I had a drive to want better for the citizens of Detroit," he said.

The effort even caught the attention of The Discovery Channel's "Renovation Nation," which came to document the big event and meet the new homeowners. "He's 6'8" and it's a house that he can fit in. The kids are really cute. They're really excited to get their own room. For \$168,000... it's a heck of a value," said "Renovation Nation" host Steve Thomas.

Affordable, energy efficient, sustainable housing is the hope for rebuilding urban neighborhoods for a greener future.

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