

A Miracle Leads to an Early Christmas Gift for Lower Richland Family

What was to be an extensive rehabilitation activity for Richland County Community Development in 2008 was brought to a halt when the property went into foreclosure and a family of 7 was displaced and scattered among family members. As fate would have it a miracle happened. Through a public private partnership, the family returned to their home that is now affectionately called the Christmas House at Pincushion.

In 2011, Morris Morgan of Morris Morgan Realty became aware of the property and after seeing the poor condition, they were instrumental in the bank giving the house to Community Assistance Provider, Inc. (CAP), a Richland County CHDO. CAP took ownership and immediately contacted Richland County Community Development for financial assistance. The address familiar to County staff, brought sad memories of a family that we could not help. The County was more than eager to help and leveraged HOME Investment Partnership Funds with a financial investment from CAP and the Pincushion property was redeveloped.

The house originally built in 1950 was transformed from 880 sq ft to 1,450 sq ft. The end result is a four bedrooms/2 bath with a master suite and laundry facilities. The matriarch of the family is of poor health and confined to a wheelchair. The home was redesigned for handicapped accessibility and energy efficiency. With the help of Carolina Imports, The Salvation Army, Brookland-West Columbia CDC, Sherwood Furniture Warehouse and two private donors, Community Development staff was successful in furnishing the home.

On December 20, 2012 a ribbon cutting ceremony was held and more than 25 family members and project partners attended. Not only did the family receive the keys to a new home, but CAP gave the family a life estate to their family homestead.

