

For Immediate Release

From Inner City Christian Federation (ICCF)

Grand Rapids, MI

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For the Lowell Ledger and the GR Press, Lowell News section

Lowell Church Celebrates Completion of Three New Homes

On Sunday, May 3 at 11:15P.M., the Calvary Christian Reformed Church in Lowell is hosting a blessing ceremony for three houses built by a partnership of the Inner City Christian Federation (ICCF) and Calvary Church. The house construction was underwritten in large part by Kent County Home Funds from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. Additional funds were provided by Calvary Church and St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church of Lowell. Down payment support will make the homes affordable to families whose income fits within the designated guidelines of 40% - 80% of the area median income.

While ICCF provided site supervision for the volunteer labor, Calvary member and builder Wayne Scheeringa was instrumental in setting up contractors and volunteers to work on the project. The blessing will take place at the house located on 172 West Street. All three homes are close to the fair grounds and the Stony Lakeside Park on the river. Each of the raised ranch style homes has 3 bedrooms and 2 ½ baths with an average of 1500 square feet. Constructed to Energy Star and Green Built Michigan standards, these attractive and efficient homes are available by direct sale through ICCF. Interested persons should contact Housing & Family Services at ICCF, #336.9333 x305.

The blessing ceremony celebrates the completion of work begun last fall. Church members will walk to the home site at 172 West Street for a brief service, coffee and donuts. Each member is encouraged to take a stone back from the site and return to the Calvary church site. A commemorative structure will be made from the stones in the future. Rev. Randy Meyers from Calvary Church and Fr. Eugene from St. Mary's church will take leadership roles in the blessing ceremony and offer prayers for the families who will soon occupy the homes. The general public is invited to attend to participate in the celebration.

ICCF is the oldest non-profit affordable housing provider in the state of Michigan. Active in the Grand Rapids area since 1974, the agency serves more than 2500 families a year through its programs and services. Program offerings include the Family Haven emergency shelter at 701 Prospect SE (Grand Rapids), 96 units of affordable rental housing, newly constructed homes for purchase, home ownership education and financial counseling. All services are provided in Spanish and English. A variety of mortgage options is available through Providence Home Mortgage, Inc., a subsidiary of ICCF. See www.iccf.org for more information.