

## **Family gives generous donation**

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Monday, April 5, 2010

High Point Enterprise

HIGH POINT – Local historian Glenn Chavis and members of his family decided recently to make a tangible contribution to the cause of a new church addressing the needs of the homeless.

Chavis, a retired sales representative, and his relatives donated a vacant house along Pearson Place less than a block from Monument of Praise Ministries. The house, once home to decorated World War II hero Carl Chavis, had been in the family for decades.

Members of Monument of Praise, which established the High Point sanctuary last month, plan to convert their first donated home into a refuge for the homeless. Monument of Praise, affiliated with a Greensboro congregation dating back to the 1970s, wants to secure vacated houses in the neighborhood around the church and convert them to residences, shifting boarded-up structures to properties with purpose.

“We liked the message they have for this community. They want to rekindle a sense of neighborhood, of ownership,” Chavis said in explaining why his family made the donation.

The community near the intersection of Leonard Avenue and College Drive had its heyday from the 1930s to 1950s as a vibrant neighborhood in the black community, Chavis said. The church wants to revive that heritage.

Monument of Praise Pastor the Rev. Kevin Williams said the Chavis family donation fits with the church’s approach of taking down the mountain of homelessness one rock at a time.

“We have so many boarded-up houses, not just in this neighborhood, but across High Point. Why not find a way to reuse them?” he said.

Monument of Praise is seeking other donations of abandoned homes from owners who can make a difference through giving.

“When you renovate a home, you are building a mind, reviving a mind,” Williams said.

“We are going to change this community one house at a time, one person at a time.”

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