



***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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**Christmas Comes Early in the Way of a New Home!**

**ROMULUS-MI. Dec. 2009--** “Santa” is giving an extra special Christmas gift to three Sumpter Township men this year; a newly constructed, affordable and barrier-free home!

Michael, Nate and Dwayne, who live in a group home for developmentally disabled adults, will move into their own home this month! Their new place is located in Romulus at the Fairways at Gateway development which is also situated on a beautiful 9-hole golf course.

“This project, which was funded by the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Michigan State Housing Development Authority and the Wayne County office of Economic Development, began 5 years ago,” said Liberty Hill Executive Director Peggy Frankie. “So we are very pleased to see the completion of this beautiful home with all of these wonderful features for people with disabilities. We are very proud and are grateful to all of our partners who were involved from the very beginning.”

All of the six Gateway homes were designed by architectural firm Fusco, Shaffer and Pappas and built by O’Brien and Pizzo Construction. Other partners include the Charter County of Wayne, the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation and Community Living Services.

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano attended the celebration. “We are pleased to see, despite the current economic climate, that companies are building in Wayne County and offering affordable and accessible housing. Congratulations to all partners involved.”

The three men moving in said they are happy to have a home in which they can freely move around in their wheelchairs.

Sally Harrison, Director of Rental Development and Homeless Initiatives of MSHDA, said, “We at MSHDA are thrilled to be a part of this project.”

Liberty Hill Housing Corporation is a 501c3 non-profit organization that purchases single-family homes and leases them to people with developmental disabilities as well as assists with new home purchases. LHHC currently owns and leases over 60 single-family homes located in communities across Wayne County. For more information, log onto: [www.libertyhillhousing.com](http://www.libertyhillhousing.com).

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Ribbon Cutting

From left: Peggy Frankie, Executive Director, LHHC; Sally Harrison, Director of Rental Development and Homeless Initiatives, MSHDA; Bob Shaffer, Architect, Fusco, Shaffer and Pappas; James Dehem, Executive Director, CLS; Robert Ficano, Wayne County Executive.

Front: Andre Robinson, Community Development Assistant, CLS.



From left: Michael, Nate and Dwayne, posing in front of the Christmas Tree in their newly built, barrier-free home!