



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Eastern Pre-Release Inmates Nearing Completion of Third Habitat For Humanity House in Federalsburg

Partnership Fits in With Secretary Maynard's Expanded Public Safety Works Campaign

TOWSON, MD (May 15, 2009)---Adding to a dizzying array of inmate labor projects that are benefiting Marylanders from the mountains to the Shore, inmates at Eastern Pre-Release Unit are nearing completion of their third Habitat For Humanity house in Federalsburg.

Eight men have performed everything from landscaping to cabinet-installation to tile-laying and drywall work---basically, everything that's involved in building a new house from the ground up. The men work two days a week, approximately six hours a day. Upon completion of the five houses originally planned by Habitat for Humanity, the inmates are likely to be involved in as many as seven more homes in the area.

"This is a wonderful restorative justice opportunity," says Gary Maynard, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, whose Public Safety Works initiative has inmates performing cemetery restoration, caring for retired racehorses, clearing state park visitor centers, growing Bay grasses, and doing countless other projects. "Inmates are not only paying back society, but doing work that will benefit those in society who need it most: people chosen to receive Habitat for Humanity housing."

EPRU Facility Administrator and Eastern Shore native Buster Blackiston has provided inmate labor for dozens of invaluable projects. His men have laid sod for a new park with multiple athletic fields in Centreville; planted literally thousands of trees across the upper and mid-Shore, and helped towns finish projects they never could have begun without the inmate labor. "These men want to pay something back," says Blackiston. "And we're proud and happy to help our neighbors improve the already wonderful quality of life on the Eastern Shore."

---photos are on the page below---

DPSCS NEWS RELEASE
EPRU Habitat for Humanity
Federalsburg Houses
5/15/09
Page 2

