

Demolition: The First Step Toward Making a Way for Affordable Housing



On a rainy November 4, 2010, AmeriCorps members of the Partnership to End Homelessness joined with George, the AmeriCorps member serving with *Housing Greensboro*, to knock down and haul out the interior walls of 1615 Oak. This 816 square foot house was built in 1952. *Housing Greensboro* acquired the house in September and drew up a new floor plan to expand it to 1,176 square feet. Before anything could happen on the new design, the old walls had to be removed. These walls were tough! A sledgehammer could bounce off of them. Chris, the *Housing Greensboro* staff, provided tools and directions. The members donned face masks to protect themselves from the dust that was flying everywhere and went to work pounding away. Wall after wall was demolished and hauled outside to the dumpster. After 2 ½ hours, most of the walls were gone and in the dumpster. The ceilings still need to be done but the team gave *Housing Greensboro* a jump start on getting through the demolition process. When members felt they needed to be able to breathe, they took a break outside pulling weeds in the backyard.



The members of the AmeriCorps Partnership to End Homelessness serve at agencies throughout Greensboro helping to restore hope to those people who are struggling with homelessness. During this service project, they got an opportunity to help increase the availability of affordable

housing. Many families could avoid becoming homeless or move out of temporary shelters if they could only find a place they could afford. *Housing Greensboro* is helping to meet this need by converting old, “seen better days” houses into modern, yet affordable, homes for the low income buyer, and we were glad for the opportunity to help.

