



From left, Synergy Real Estate broker Masharn Wilson, Tye Street project initiator Alphonso Thomas and Technaserv Project Director Mauricio Ramirez pitch in to help with a home rehabilitation on Childs Street in Stockbridge / Staff-Noreen Cochran

SMART START

Second residence in Stockbridge's Tye Street community to get makeover

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A house on Childs Street in Stockbridge – now leveled to its foundation – will become the best Christmas present ever for the Griffin family.

Wrecking crews took to the Tye Street community site earlier this month, dismantling its roof, exterior walls and interior spaces.

Homeowners Charlie and Florida Griffin put up with its condition for two to three years.

“It was fine until it started leaking and the floor started tearing up,” Florida Griffin said.

Masharn Wilson, a broker at the Stockbridge office of Synergy Real Estate, said the house needs “substantial rehab,” including relief from black soot and toxic mold.

Photos she took before the demolition showed discolored walls, floor damage, a broken window, buckets positioned to catch leaks and a partial ceiling collapse.

The Henry County Fuller Center and Stockbridge nonprofit National Community Resources and Development – on whose board Wilson sits – are donating supplies and labor, under the guidance of Alpharetta-based contractor Technaserv Corp.

Also, Wilson’s realty firm is the pass-through agency for the federal Community Development Block Grant.

It is funding the Griffins’ remodel and earlier this

year paid for Lillie Mae Woods’ house rehab in the same community.

Like Woods’ residence, the home will belong to the homeowners, Wilson said, but they cannot flip it.

“We do have a lien against the property to ensure that a family doesn’t come in and basically sell the home,” she said. “And then that expires after so many years.”

Project initiator Alphonso Thomas said the \$500,000 grant itself is expiring soon.

“There’s an urgent need to create shovel-ready projects to be able to utilize these funds,” he said.

Thomas and Henry County Community Development Department Director Shannan B. Sagnot helped garner the county commission’s unanimous approval for the Tye Street initiative in May 2016.

“My main goal was to provide decent living quarters for citizens,” as well as uplift the historic community, he said.

Thomas said the new build will be “life-changing” for the Griffins; Florida Griffin said she awaits the move-in date.

“I’m looking forward to it very well,” she said.

Residents with homes between Rock Quarry, Banks and Flippen roads and North Henry Boulevard can apply for small or large projects by calling Wilson.

Household income cannot exceed \$55,760 for a family of four.

Information: 678-763-1127