



P.A.R.T.N.E.R.

Perth Amboy Redevelopment Team for Neighborhood Enterprise and Revitalization  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Date: Monday, December 14, 2015**

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**FIRST HABITAT HOME COMPLETED IN PERTH AMBOY**  
*Collaboration of P.A.R.T.N.E.R and Morris Habitat for Humanity*  
*to provide single family home in time for the holidays*

**PERTH AMBOY** – December 14, 2015- Perth Amboy Redevelopment Team for Neighborhood Enterprise and Revitalization (P.A.R.T.N.E.R.) and Morris Habitat for Humanity cohosted a home dedication at 440 Lawrie Street, in Perth Amboy on Friday, December 11, 2015 at 10 am. With over fifty people in attendance including Mayor Wilda Diaz, city officials, emergency services, and volunteers from various organizations including interfaith and community partners, all joined to share in the occasion in marking the completion of the construction of the home. The dedication opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a blessing provided by Pastor Bernadette Falcon-Lopez, Senior Pastor of God’s Army Ministries of NJ. Douglas Dzema, Executive Director of P.A.R.T.N.E.R. and Master of Ceremonies for the dedication provided opening remarks. “We are delighted to have you here alongside our partner Morris Habitat for Humanity. PARTNER first started this endeavor in early 2011 in search of a partner who shared the same intense passion and commitment of creating housing services and economic opportunities for working families. Upon first meeting Blair Schleicher Bravo, Executive Director of Morris of Habitat for Humanity, we were blown away and honored by the level of collaboration and effectiveness.”

In July 2011, P.A.R.T.N.E.R entered into a collaborative relationship with Morris of Habitat to jointly construct a new single family home in Perth Amboy. Together having capitalized on their shared services in meeting the needs of low-income families of Middlesex County, this house is the first Habitat home in Perth Amboy. During this time, PARTNER was looking for sources to help fund the purchase of the property that was made by Investors Foundation who awarded PARTNER \$20,000 to complete its purchase. In search for a qualified family, the Perth Amboy Housing Authority hosted a lottery drawing in June 2013, where Ms. Noris Mercado’s number was drawn. In October 2013, P.A.R.T.N.E.R. and Morris Habitat broke ground and began foundation work in the spring 2014. Roof framing and windows and siding were installed in the summer of 2015 and culminating to the home dedication. Additional remarks were provided by Mayor Wilda Diaz, Blair Schleicher Bravo, CEO of Morris Habitat for Humanity, Michael Harris, Vice President & Retail Manager of Investors Bank, E. Dorothy Carty Daniels, P.A.R.T.N.E.R Chair, and John Martin, Project Supervisor, of Morris Habitat of Humanity. The Mercado family was introduced by Frank Corsi and Barbara Roberts, Homeowner Relations Committee of Morris Habitat, and who presented the family with a welcome home basket of gifts. Noris Mercado will live in the house with her 17-year-old daughter, her 15-year-old son and a grandson The family looks forward to close on the home on December 18, 2015, in time for the holidays. Dedication was concluded with a ribbon cutting and tour of the home.

**About the Perth Amboy Redevelopment Team for Neighborhood Enterprise & Revitalization (PARTNER)**

The Perth Amboy Redevelopment Team for Neighborhood Enterprise and Revitalization (PARTNER) is a 501 C3 non-profit organization established by the Housing Authority of the City of Perth Amboy. PARTNER is committed to creating housing services and economic opportunities for low and moderate income families and individuals. Services include, but not limited to job training, career counseling, employment opportunities, job skills, budgeting, housing counseling, and stress management. These services are offered to support individuals become economically independent. For more information, visit [www.partnernj.org](http://www.partnernj.org)

(more)



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**Photo Caption:** E. Dorothy Carty-Daniel, fifth from the right, Board Chair of P.A.R.T.N.E.R. cuts ribbon for Mercado family. From left: John Martin, Project Supervisor, of Morris Habitat of Human; Mayor Wilda Diaz; Noris Mercado, Douglas Dzema, Executive Director of P.A.R.T.N.E.R.; Blair Schleicher Bravo, CEO of Morris Habitat for Humanity; Delia Yili, Fernando Gonzalez, Josephine Smith, and Hector Motta, P.A.R.T.N.E.R. board members

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