

# Wilksburg Affordable Housing Coalition Formed

Three nonprofit housing groups, facilitated by the Wilksburg Community Development Corporation (WCDC), have come together to form the Wilksburg Affordable Housing Coalition and will provide extensive renovation assistance to targeted homeowners in the Princeton Park and Park Triangle areas of Wilksburg.

Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh and Wilksburg Christian Housing have all previously served Wilksburg residents. "A homeowner previously served by Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh through Rebuilding Day's Volunteer Renovation Program will now also receive additional benefits from new fascia, siding, gutters, and paint from Habitat. Volunteers from all agencies as well as our corporate partners will help with repairs to his fence and stairs," commented Steve Hellner-Burris, RTP's executive Director.

"We're excited to partner with Rebuilding Together," added Habitat's executive director, Maggie Withrow. "We've worked with RTP before and know that their experience in Wilksburg will jumpstart our ability to effectively serve more residents in the community."

"It's a perfect blend of the three agencies," said Tracey Evans, executive director of the WCDC. Peoples Natural Gas has provided a \$20,000 grant to Habitat for homeowner renovations this year, with additional funding available through a matching grant opportunity. These funds, along with the Coalition's existing financial resources and staff, will provide renovations for at least



*Coalition client Raymond Boea signs the A Brush With Kindness Agreement with Habitat's family services coordinator Daniel Webb. December 2011.*

*Work is scheduled on Mr. Boea's house on the April 28th kick off*

20 homeowners this summer. The Coalition continues to raise additional resources, enabling this partnership to continue for several years. Work began with a major kickoff event on April 28 and will continue through the summer.

Renovation assistance will include weatherization, ramps and porches, carpentry and painting. All recipients of assistance will be homeowners who fit certain income and other criteria. Homeowners will be contacted for the opportunity to apply to the program.

All agencies are volunteer-based and will be looking for the support of the community. The Borough of Wilksburg Code Enforcement Department will continue to inform and facilitate the work of the Coalition by providing information to area homeowners when building code violations are evident and owners have nowhere else to turn for assistance.

## PCRG Summit Explores Community Development Ideas

The Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group (PCRG), in collaboration with the Urban Land Institute-Pittsburgh District Council, will be hosting the 2nd Annual Community Development Summit on May 24 at the Omni William Penn Hotel in Downtown Pittsburgh. More than 500 individuals from across the country will come together at the summit to explore new ideas in organizational development, community planning, land recycling, affordable housing, transit-oriented development, and neighborhood revitalization.

Keynote speakers include Patrick Phillips, CEO of the Urban Land Institute, and Dr. Michael Bennett, Executive Director of the Egan Urban Institute at DePaul University.

PCRG strives to make the Summit accessible to everyone who is passionate about rebuilding and sustaining healthy, vibrant, and sustainable communities; from community development professionals and elected officials to neighborhood volunteers. To that end, a number of discounted registration options are available including an early-bird discount, nonprofit organization discount, and student discount. For more information, visit [www.pcr.org/conference](http://www.pcr.org/conference).



### WCDC CALENDAR

5/3 (Thurs.)	8:30-10 A.M.	Business District Safety Meeting—WCDC office
5/3 (Thurs.)	6-7:30 P.M.	WCDC Design Committee—WCDC office
5/19 (Sat.)	9-11 A.M.	WCDC Board Meeting—Wilksburg School Admin Bldg.

**Additional meetings will be posted at [www.wilksburgcdc.org](http://www.wilksburgcdc.org)**

