

A fresh start: Home donation will transform blighted property into shelter for men



Dignitaries including Douglas County Board of Commissioners Chairman Tom Worthan and Solicitor General Matt Krull were on hand as Barry Price donated a house and property at 8178 Colquitt Street in Douglasville to Rev. Edwin Ford's Crossroads for Life Vision 21 Ministry to serve as a men's shelter. (Mitch Sneed / Douglas County Sentinel)

Posted: Monday, March 17, 2014 9:27 am

Mitch Sneed / Editor

A local man has found a way to kill two birds with one stone — eliminating a blighted property and giving some people a second chance on life at the same time.

Barry Price had owned a house on Colquitt Street for years and had intentions of fixing it up as an investment, but he said that he just never could find the time or energy to get it done. Faced with the home sitting and falling deeper in disrepair, Price found a perfect way to put the property to work for people who needed it far more than he did.

Price decided to donate the house to the Rev. Edwin Ford of Crossroads for Life Ministries for use in its Vision 21 program, a mission that hosts the only men's homeless shelter in the region.

"I had known Edwin for years and when I asked him if he was interested, you could just hear the excitement in his voice," Price said. "I'm so happy to do it and know they will put it to good use. It feels good to. It's kind of like buying a new car. You do something for yourself and you feel good for a little while and then that feeling wears off. You do something like this and give something to help others that feeling sticks with you for awhile."

Ford said the home will be another shelter and he said they will transform the house into a habitat that will give men in need a chance at a fresh start.

"Our ministry is about restoration and what could be a greater symbol than what we plan to do here," Ford said. "We will take a property that has almost been forgotten and in bad shape and transform it into something special. Many of the people we serve are at a similar place in life. They will have a place — a place where they can call home, regroup and build a foundation to get their life back on track."

Solicitor General Matt Krull and Douglas County Board of Commissioners Chairman Tom Worthan were on hand Tuesday as Price and Ford and others who will help in the transformation made the donation official. They walked around the house and even though the conditions are a long way from ideal, the potential had them all excited.

"We hope to have some of the people in our pre-trial diversion program come out and help with the cleanup as community service," Krull said. "It is just great to see an opportunity like this, something that had been forgotten but to such a good use."