

Habitat Oakland helps Madison Heights man move from unsafe neighborhood

theoaklandpress.com/lifestyle/20130918/habitat-oakland-helps-madison-heights-man-move-from-unsafe-neighborhood

Park West Gallery artist Tim Yankee presents one of his Yankee Doodle flag paintings to new Habitat for Humanity of Oakland County Homeowner Michael Munger at his home dedication ceremony in Madison Heights, along with Tim Ruggles, CEO of Habitat Oakland.

Habitat for Humanity of Oakland County hosted the home dedication for Michael Munger in Madison Heights.

Two key Habitat corporate partners were on-hand to celebrate Mercedes Benz Financial (30 to

50 of their staff have worked on this home) and Park West Gallery (whose featured artist, Tim Yanke, donated one of his paintings to Munger at the dedication).

Despite health challenges, Munger has dreamed of owning his own home. Thanks to Habitat and his own hard work, it is finally happening.

He previously worked full-time for the Handleman Company, furthering his education in the evenings by taking business and account classes. Until Habitat accepted his homeowner application, Munger lived in a mobile home park populated by drug addicts, violence and unsafe housing conditions.

He turned to Habitat to find stability in his life, to guide his healing.

Although his required volunteer hours have long since been fulfilled, Munger continues to serve Habitat in many ways, as a true part of the team, helping others achieve their dream of home ownership.

Munger is the eighth child in his family, born in 1965. He grew up the child of divorce, watching his mother work two and three jobs to be able to provide a safe environment for her family.

When Munger secured a position at the Handleman Company as a transportation clerk, he became the first member of his family to hold an office job. He rose the ranks of the company until he was downsized in 1998. He works as much as he can, though he cannot hold a full-time job due to medical challenges.

