

## *Construction Zone: Building a New Life*

LOUISVILLE, Ky (November 6, 2008) - "You are changing the world. You are changing lives. I know it is God that brought you into my family's life."

Those words were spoken by Majok Reth Chuol as he addresses a crowd on a chilly morning in November. He and the more than three dozen others at the site were attending the official the blessing of a Habitat House which will house him and his family. The Ursuline Sisters, Sacred Heart Schools and Region 5 Parishes partnered to sponsor the building of the home in honor of the Sisters' 150th anniversary.



Majok was one of the Sudan's lost boys, young men and children who were taken from their homes during conflict. Many ended up in terrible conditions in refugee camps, some surviving on just a handful of rice for a week at a time. He came to Louisville through the help of Catholic Charities. Like Majok, the Sisters were once immigrants to Louisville.

150 years after three Ursuline Sisters arrived in Louisville, a Habitat House will sit near the place they once called home. In 1858, Mother Salesia Reitmeier and two other Sisters responded to a call for help at St. Martin's Church, which was just five years old at the time. Within two weeks of their arrival, the Sisters were teaching 50 students with plans for constructing a convent and boarding school on Chestnut Street near Shelby.

Now in honor of the 150 year anniversary of the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, Habitat for Humanity is building a home for Majok's family in the area the three Sisters first lived. The Ursuline Sisters, Sacred Heart Schools and other donors are helping to fund the construction of the home. It's in the spirit of the Ursuline Sisters' mission to teach Christian living that this project is moving forward.

To view photos go to [http://ursuline.smugmug.com/gallery/7221974\\_kuWeQ#464018863\\_89ZZz](http://ursuline.smugmug.com/gallery/7221974_kuWeQ#464018863_89ZZz)

The "raise the roof" event took place over two weekends and nearly one hundred people came out to help over the those critical days, including members of the local fire department. For Majok and his family, this home is a new start, but, like those initial volunteers, we need your help to complete it. With your help, construction can be done by the end of March 2009. To learn how you can help, please [click here](#). (link out of date as of 4/20/09)