For more information visit: www.safehomeillinois.org

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Aurora Fortified Project

Safe Home Illinois, the Joseph Corporation, School District 131 and their partners are working together to build a Fortified® home in the city of Aurora.

The Institute for Business and Home Safety’s Fortified...for safer living® program specifies construction, design and landscaping guidelines to increase a new home’s resistance to natural disasters from the ground up. This is done by adding protection to windows and doors, providing better connections between the roof, walls and foundation, and installing a thicker, stronger roof that is designed to stay drier and resist hail damage.

Fortified® Specifications

Fortified...for safer living® is a national new-home construction designation granted by the Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS), a national nonprofit initiative of the insurance industry based in Tampa. The inspection-based program features affordable construction options designed to help better safeguard homes from the ground-up against the natural hazards they face, as well as other causes of property loss. Depending on location, this could include added protection from high wind, flood, earthquake, freezing weather, hail and wildfire.

Student Construction

High school students from East Aurora, Waubansie Valley and Neuqua Valley High Schools will build, with professional and union support, the fully handicap-accessible, single family home. Once completed, the house will be sold to a low-income family based in Aurora with financial and home ownership counseling from the Joseph Corporation.

Project Timeline

- Foundation/Footing Placement: March, 2007
- Ground Breaking Ceremony, including tornado cannon demonstrations and precast wall erection: April 2, 2007
- Student Summer Break and Fortified Open house: June-August, 2007
- Home Closing and Family Move-In Ceremony: October, 2007

Safe Home Illinois

Safe Home Illinois is a state-wide wind damage mitigation program of the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. Our aim is to educate government and industry professionals and the general public on various aspects of mitigating the damage caused by the destructive forces of high-wind events such as tornadoes and wind storms.

Joseph Corporation

The Joseph Corporation is a community-based nonprofit established in 1991 to address affordable housing through homeownership. Over the years, Joseph Corporation has grown to focus on homeownership, lending and real estate development through their mission: empowering individuals, stabilizing families and revitalizing neighborhoods.