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In Lockland, home construction continues as Heckaman Homes workers connect a prefabricated home at Elm and Walnut streets.

## Building homes, dreams in Lockland

Ownership the key to area's reinvention

By Sara J. Bennett  
The Cincinnati Enquirer

**LOCKLAND** - Village streets that once held dilapidated buildings infested with drug dealers are being transformed into avenues of new homes with residents who could bring new character to the area.

Construction has begun on several new homes under a project organized by Lockland and Cincinnati Housing Partners. The first

two prefabricated homes went up Tuesday on Walnut Street. Eventually, as many as 20 homes could be built in an area bounded by Anthony Wayne Avenue, Elm Street, Wyoming Avenue and Stewart Avenue.

The goal: to reinvent the neighborhood, increase home ownership in Lockland, and inspire others nearby to rehabilitate their properties.

"We've been interested in trying to revamp that side of Lockland," said Bishop Donald Sorrells of the Christ Temple Apostolic Church and a member of the Housing Partners board. "I'm just thrilled because it's been a really

long time since we've seen that part of Lockland have that kind of interest in it."

Over the last couple of years, Lockland has been buying run-down lots in the area and tearing down dilapidated buildings.

Cincinnati Housing Partners is buying the lots for \$3,000 a parcel, said President and General Manager Sister Ann Rene McConn.

The organization then will sell the houses.

Sister McConn said she couldn't estimate yet house prices, but financial aid is available to home buyers who qualify.

"We're hoping the principal, in-

terest, taxes, and insurance will be pretty comparable to what they'd pay for a nice three-bedroom apartment," she said.

Bishop Sorrells already has formed a homeowners' association.

"This is a chance for people that want to make a change in their life and their status in life to be able to purchase a real nice home, get a fresh start, and be able to do something positive in that particular part of the community," he said. "We're here to help them."

For information about the new homes, call Cincinnati Housing Partners at 662-9729

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