



Beans & Bread Project Update

Friday, 01/15/10

Happy New Year to all of you, and thank you again for all of your support in 2009 to help us continue to move the Beans & Bread Renovation & New Addition Project forward towards its completion.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of the progress made on the project since our last update on 11/04/09. The demolition of the warehouse at 1523 Bank St. was successfully completed and the site was secured prior to the Thanksgiving holidays. In order to minimize the impact on the surrounding neighbors, the demolition was completed and the rubble removed over a period of just 4 days. In compliance with the zoning order, an 8' security fence with green mesh privacy screening was installed around the lot and, as per the request of the Douglass Place Neighborhood Association, barbed wire was also installed to provide further security.

On January 12, 2010, St. Vincent de Paul presented the building design to the Commission for Historical & Architectural Preservation (CHAP) for approval of the design concept, and we are now in the process of responding to the feedback received. We made a second presentation to the Design Review Committee of the Preservation Society of Fells Point on January 14, 2010 to solicit additional feedback, and will meet with this committee again in February before returning to CHAP.

Since our last update, we have also been successful in raising an additional \$900,000 towards the project budget goal. This is extremely exciting news and, despite additional unforeseen costs, we are very proud to say that we have secured 97% of the funds needed for the project.

In our continued effort to address community concerns, St. Vincent de Paul has also taken measures to further enhance the security at the Beans & Bread Center. These security measures include additional security staff, and the addition of eight security cameras, five of which are located outside to monitor activity around the building perimeter. We have also initiated a daily trash pick-up and patrol of the immediate community around the Beans & Bread Center.

As always, we remain committed to addressing concerns about preserving the character of the Fell's Point neighborhood and contributing to the safety, well-being, and quality of life for its residents. We look forward to moving forward with the creation of a facility that will bring our vision of improved services to our most vulnerable and impoverished citizens to a reality, and to further enhance Beans & Bread's ability to serve as a leading resource for Baltimore City in its efforts to reduce homelessness.

We will continue to keep you updated on our progress. I encourage you to visit our website, specifically the page dedicated to the Project that is regularly updated (see link below):

Thank you again for your continued interest and support.

Sincerely,

John Schiavone
Executive Director

www.vincentbaltimore.org/bbrenovationproject.html