LI’S HOUSE OF THE FUTURE

Professionals and volunteers joined forces to build the house.

We build the house as a system,” says Wertheim. “Every component complements the other. Everyone works together for the same goal.” Key features include:

• Advanced exterior wall system consisting of air sealing, quality insulation and high-performance triple-pane windows
• Smart home technology
• Zero VOC (volatile organic compounds) paint and interior finishes
• Water conservation fixtures
• Energy-efficient lighting, appliances
• Advanced septic system protects local groundwater
• Drought-resistant, native-grown landscaping

“This is our recipe for all homes: healthy, super energy-efficient and bright,” says Wertheim. “You live better, feel better in them.”

These homes are so energy efficient you only need 20,000 BTUs—that all or most of their annual energy consumption will be offset with renewable energy, like solar panels,” he adds.

Workers have been schooled at United Way of Long Island’s ED Smartbuild Training Center, which also offers residents free Healthy Home Energy Assessments. And, best of all, this is a rare case of a builder not trying to make a buck on the deal.

“The Patchogue house is new construction and will be completed February 2018,” Wertheim says, noting that a lottery for qualified applicants will be announced at a later date.

Individuals who are interested in first-time homebuyer counseling or education should contact Elaine Kates, United Way of Long Island at 631-940-5721 / ekates@unitolday.org. To view more images or videos visit unitolday.org/home-of-thefuture.

The new house replaced an abandoned home, which was demolished.

The new year promises to be an awesome one for one lucky homeowner who will be enjoying all the features that an innovative house of the future offers.

Located at 25 Farming Avenue in East Patchogue, the 1,360-square-foot abode on a 10,000-square-foot lot is a new build scheduled to be completed this month. The modest Farmhouse-style dwelling may seem like an ordinary three-bedroom, two-bath home with a yard, although it's anything but ordinary. It’s a certified Zero Energy Ready Home featuring advanced energy savings, comfort, health, durability, quality, and performance that can be expected to stand the test of time.

“Homeowners will benefit long term and save money on electric, heating, and gas,” says Rick Wertheim, senior vice president of Housing and Green Initiatives at United Way of Long Island, which has been involved with innovative building projects since 1996. “That’s the transformational thing about this house. We’re building these houses to educate and make communities aware of what a terrific resource you’re building or remodeling.”

The nonprofit, which has won U.S. Department of Energy awards for similar high-efficiency homes it has built on LI, follows recommendations from the federal agency on how to build energy-efficient homes, Most Long Island homes aren’t built to such high-level stringent construction standards.

This is the first time that the Deer Park-based nonprofit is teaming up with Suffolk County Landbank to sell a home for struggling first-time homebuyers who would otherwise be unable to afford one.

“The work of the Suffolk County Landbank is vital to our operation,” says Wertheim, Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone. “I want to thank our partners at United Way of Long Island, whose commitment and investment have made this project possible.”

The new structure replaced a boarded-up abandoned house that had been a blight on the community. The price of the new home is $295,000.

“One of United Way of Long Island’s goals is to develop quality housing and to ensure that families and individuals are living in healthy and safe environments,” says the organization’s President and CEO Theresa Regan. “Our organization is not new to housing development...we are simply doing more of it and taking advantage of the latest technology in the industry, such as using tablets to control room temperatures.”

So, what makes this 'little house that could’ so unique and ahead of its time? According to United Way of LI, such homes have pre-engineered components and advanced insulating materials.

BY TAMMY SCIPEPPI

United Way of Long Island’s Housing team, Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone, center, and Suffolk County Landbank volunteers gave hands-on help to build a house that they hope will be a model to local developers.

Before: The new house replaced an abandoned home, which was demolished.