

Waco Community Development

"Revitalizing neighborhoods street by street, block by block."

February 2012



"East Waco Action Team"

By: Walker Moore

In January 2011, with the financial support of the Waco Foundation, Waco Community Development began working in East Waco through a two-pronged strategy, consisting of the Parental Engagement Project (PEP) and the Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy (NRS). The PEP's impact on J.H. Hines Elementary has been significant. J.H. Hines Elementary was organized to reach out to parents with home visits and parent/teacher meetings, and after 266 individual meetings with parents and teachers, I've identified some



leaders who are making things happen. The PEP is going much like we planned.

The NRS took an unexpected turn in 2011. In planning the NRS, Waco Community Development assumed it would be the sole driving force behind the NRS's completion and implementation. Fortunately, that assumption was incorrect. By mid-year, Waco Community Development, Habitat for Humanity and



Shirley Langston, director of Restoration Haven, stands in her front yard on Calumet Street in Waco with Walker Moore of the Waco Community Development Corp.

Picture taken by: Duane A. Laverty / Waco Tribune-Herald

NeighborWorks were discussing possible collaboration around the NRS in East Waco. These discussions quickly moved to action when NeighborWorks secured funding to bring Michael Schubert, a neighborhood revitalization consultant, to East Waco.



In August, Schubert interviewed over thirty East Waco stakeholders and spent time on the streets of East Waco. His time in East Waco formed the basis of a report detailing strategies to revitalize East Waco. In October, the three non-profits agreed to adopt the "Schubert Report," and in November, Waco Community Development, NeighborWorks, Habitat for Humanity and Restoration Haven Inc. formed the East Waco Action Team to implement the "Schubert Report."



This collaboration brings each organization's strengths together. Habitat for Humanity has a critical home repair program that improves housing for East Waco families. NeighborWorks has built 52 homes in East Waco. Shirley Langston, the executive director of Restoration Haven Inc. is a product of East Waco and has great insight into the community. Finally, Waco Community Development brings expertise and know how to neighborhood revitalization. The work of the East Waco Action Team will be integral to the revitalization of East Waco, and we are proud to be a part of it.

CALENDAR

Classes

2012 Financial Literacy
6-8 PM for 6 weeks
Next class series begins February 9th

Homebuyer Education II
Next class will begin February 18th
1-6 PM
Classes are free!
To register call:



Board of Directors:

President: Billy Davis Jr.
Vice President /Secretary:
Dr. Gaynor Yancey
Juan Castellano
Carol Dugat
Tim Holtkamp
Walt Keeler
Johnny Mankin
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Ada Nun
Rev. Steve Ramsdell
Bill Shirley
Jon Spelman



Issue 39 - 2012

The newsletter of Waco Community Development whose mission is to revitalize neighborhoods by promoting housing, community and economic development throughout Waco.

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Lesson #1: Patience

By: Darrell Abercrombie

Carol rented a house for years. She looked into buying a house when her landlord kept going up on her rent. She attended financial literacy classes to learn how to budget her income and organize her finances. All this took time, and waiting is not always easy, especially with society's "drive through" or "microwave" mentality. Carol, however, was willing to take the time.



Finally, Carol's time came and her home was built. She bought the home she always wanted, a home where she could have all her family over for the holidays and where she could barbeque in her own backyard. Just because your dream is delayed, it does not mean that it will be denied. Isaiah 40:31 says, "Yet those who **wait** for the **LORD** will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary."

Have you ever wanted something so bad that you were delayed in getting it? No matter what you were expecting, the disappointment of not receiving what you want when you wanted it, caused you to feel empty. For many people, when their blessing is delayed, they feel rejected. Hearing the words, "not yet" can be deflating, but we must remember, it's a matter of being delayed but not denied.

In this spiritual journey, we all can learn a few things about patience. What you may see with your natural eyes may not be what God sees in the spiritual. Unless you're on the same page with God, you may be delayed in getting your blessing. Look at it like God is clearing away hazardous conditions for you. This may be bad relationships, financial debt, low self-esteem, emotional baggage, etc. God wants you to receive your blessing, but He must clear away negative stuff for you to arrive safely.

Don't Leave it on the Table

By: Gabriela Gatlin



Have you ever heard the saying, "Don't leave any money on the table?" Unfortunately, there are some homeowners in Waco who are doing just that. They are leaving money on the table because they have not filed their homestead exemption and may be paying several hundred extra dollars each year. Every spring Waco Community Development

searches the McLennan County Appraisal District database of homeowners in our neighborhood to identify those who have not yet filed for homestead exemption. We send them a letter explaining homestead exemption along with the application.

Last year, twelve of about forty homeowners we sent letters to filed for homestead exemption. This year and in years to come, they will save money!

Have you filed for homestead exemption? Search your property address at mclennanac.org to make sure that you have filed. The filing process opens in January and completed applications must be submitted by April 30th. If you have any questions give us a call at 235-7358.

Don't leave the money on the table....put it in your pocket.

Welcome Stan Hodges

By: Stan Hodges



Hello, everyone My name is Stan Hodges. I am from the great little town of Ocean Springs on the gulf coast of Mississippi. I have lived in Texas since 2006 when I moved here to attend George W. Truett Theological Seminary at Baylor University. Before moving to Waco, I attended Mississippi College in Clinton, Mississippi, where I received my Bachelors of Arts degree in Christian Studies and Philosophy. I am thankful to be working here at Waco Community Development as the Volunteer Coordinator. Although I have only been here a short time, I have been able to fit right in with everyone here.

Free Tax Preparation Sites:

NeighborWorks Waco

922 Franklin
(254) 752-1647
Monday—Friday
12:00 to 4:30 p.m.
Starting January 23
Ending April 14

Providence Hospital

Young Tower, Rm. 6
(254) 751-4731
Monday & Wednesday
12:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Starting January 30
Ending April 11

A.J. Moore Academy

500 N. University Parks
(254) 753-6486
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday
5:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Starting January 19
Ending April 16

What To Bring With You:

- **2011 Income or IRS Documentation:**
 - W-2, 1099
 - Real Estate tax paid in 2011, 1098
 - Self employment Income / Expenses
- **Official Photo ID:**
 - Driver's License, State Issued Photo ID, Student ID, Passport
- **Social Security Card**
 - One for each tax payer, and each claimed dependent

West Waco Library

5301 Bosque
(254) 745-6018
Tuesday & Saturday
10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Thursday—4:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Friday—1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Starting January 24
Ending April 14

South Waco Community Ctr.

2815 Speight
(254) 750-8650
Tuesday & Thursday
1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Starting January 31
Ending April 12

Hewitt Community Center

208 Chama
(254) 666-2442
Tuesday & Thursday
1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Starting February 02
Ending April 12

Heart of Texas Goodwill

1700 S. New Road
(254) 753-7337
Monday & Thursday
4:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Starting January 23
Ending April 16

Every Kid Counts

By: Dinah Bolton

Monica and Desire knew nothing about one another when their children started the school year in August at Brook Avenue Elementary. Over the next few months, these two parents' paths crossed because of events held at the school. The care that each of these parents had for their child's education resonated with one another. They were able to see that they were not alone with their hopes and expectations for the best education for their children. In a meeting with these two dedicated parents, they almost simultaneously said that they "love seeing their child's teacher at all of the events." The positive phone calls, the availability and willingness to help from their child's teacher were just a few of the traits they have been really impressed with at Brook Avenue Elementary. Brook Avenue Elementary's motto is "Every kid counts!" Monica and Desire send their children to school with confidence knowing that this is true of Brook Avenue Elementary!



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Waco, TX 76707

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Waco Community Development revitalizes neighborhoods by promoting housing, community and economic development throughout Waco. To build strong neighborhoods, WCD partners with key stakeholders to execute five key programs. Together, we work to RENEW Waco.

Renovate historic and construct new single-family homes.
Equip families to become homeowners through homebuyer education and financial literacy classes.
Neighborhood service projects through community collaboration.
Encourage and support economic development in the neighborhood.
Work with community leaders to strengthen their neighborhood.

Helping The Master Weaver

By: Mike Stone



“We have an extra gas stove, Would you like it?” said Gina, one of our new neighbors in North Waco. Gina had spent a considerable amount of time with us learning what to do to become a homeowner and what to look for when buying an older house. Gina had recently bought an older house and did not need the stove that was left, so she gave it to us.

Two weeks later, we received a call from Pamela, a woman who was mentoring “Lisa”, a child at Brook Avenue Elementary. We knew Lisa because our community organizer has been busy helping the parents and teachers at Brook Avenue Elementary work together to strengthen the children’s education.

“I went over to spend some time with Lisa and noticed that her mom was heating up some food on a hot plate.” Pamela continued. “Her mom said that her stove was broken and that she couldn’t afford a new one. Do you know where we could get a working gas stove?” Pamela asked.

“Yes, I do,” I replied. We took the newly donated gas stove over to Lisa’s house and installed it for her family. Now they can cook anything they want.

It is a tremendous blessing to see God working through so many lives and to be able to be a part of connecting people to different resources.

BY THE NUMBERS

Housing:

Homeowners: 163
New Homes: 43
Renovated: 16

Opportunities:

Counseled: 1367
Active: 109

Maintenance:

Volunteers: 5,403
Vol. Hours: 41,233
Lots Mowed: 1,920