

Waco Community Development

We're putting more neighbors into neighborhoods



November 2007

254-235-7358

1624 Colcord Ave.

www.WacoCDC.org



STREET OF DREAMS II OFF TO A GREAT START

The Paul and Jane Meyer Family Foundation, Christian Mission Concerns, City of Waco and Waco Community Development Begin Construction on Street of Dreams II

Waco Community Development shared a great day with guests and stakeholders for the dedication and groundbreaking for Street of Dreams II.

Board President Billy Davis welcomed guests to the event by sharing with them the blessings of success Waco Community Development has experienced since beginning the revitalization of our neighborhood.

Camila Casteallno, one of our beloved homeowners, began the event with a beautiful prayer.



Street of Dreams II continues to carry out the mission of bringing new homeowners into a mixed-income neighborhood by building zero lot-line homes.

Neighborhood residents have praised the efforts of Waco CD in revitalizing and bringing a new attitude into the community.

Delicious boxed lunches prepared by Anthony Miles and Marcy Earhart of the World Cup Cafe were served as the guests arrived.

Calendar

Ways to Get Involved

***Nov 29th - Dec 6th, 13th & 20th
6- 8PM for 6WKS**

Homebuyer Education I .

Classes began on Thurs. Nov. 8th
To register call (254) 235-7358.
Classes are free!

***Nov 15th**

Waco Community Development
Board of Directors meeting.

***January 2008**

Homebuyer Education II.

Call the office to register.
Classes are free.



Waco CD wants to take this opportunity to thank those who attended the October 23rd ground-breaking event for Street of Dreams II.





Issue 16 - 2007

Newsletter of Waco Community Development, a Christian-based organization committed to promoting housing, economic, and community development throughout Waco.

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Board of Directors:

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Ken Cooper, Vice President
Tim Holtkamp, Secretary
Jon Spelman, Treasurer
Melvin Carter
Juan Castellano
Walt Keeler
Ada Nun
Carolina Ramos
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Bill Shirley
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BUILDING A RELATIONSHIP BRIDGE

by Walker Moore

Charles is one of my many friends in the neighborhood. He has a great smile and has a ton of energy. It seems as though Charles and I have connected. He's a great kid! We both enjoy just taking time to talk and find out what's been going on. Every time he sees me, he comes running and shouting "Mr. Walker, Mr. Walker." A few Saturdays ago, I was hanging out with him and some of his friends. Well, it was time to go, so Charles and his friends decided that they would walk home with me. At some point, the other boys that were walking with us decided it would be funny to hit me with their coats. Before I could say anything, Charles admonished his friends rather sternly, telling them to leave me alone. Charles obviously has a spirit of leadership. Because the other boys have some type of respect for him, they immediately stopped.

After that happened, I spent a lot of time thinking about this new found friend of mine. I like Charles and I really do want what is best for him. Charles lives in an area where drug deals are an everyday occurrence and violence is a way of life. This "Everyday" occurrence is very present in Charles' life. You see, his mom is addicted to drugs and there are many less than desirable people that hang out at his house. So the deck is stacked against Charles. He is by no means a perfect kid, but in the midst of this environment, he has managed to remain a good kid who longs for positive attention. Charles has a lot of potential, potential to do good as well as bad. Like many of his peers, he has very few people in his life who believe in him. The question that burns deep within me is, "Who will step up to the plate and build relationships with kids like Charles?, Who will believe in them so that when these kids begin to make choices, they will have the resources to make the "Right" choice?"

A Positive Influence, Mentor, Big Brother, Big Sister, Advocate: do these terms strike a cord with you? What does it take for someone to become a youth mentor? Dependability, patience, flexibility...and most of all, a relentless commitment to a young person's success. Mentors come from all walks of life. They are single, married, retired, beginning careers, of all ethnic groups and religions. In reality, they are like the young people who need your help: diverse, inquisitive, open to new experiences and willing to grow and change.

*If you are interested in becoming a mentor but need direction on how to get started, please call Walker Moore at (254) 235.7358



WELCOME TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

Walker & Tasha
November 13, 2007



We had a great party to welcome Walker and Tasha to our neighborhood on Tuesday, November 13th at 5:30PM. Walker, our Community Organizer, and his new bride, Tasha, purchased one of our remodeled homes. We are so excited to call them our neighbor.

Welcome Walker & Tasha!

I'M DREAMING OF A GREEN CHRISTMAS

by Darrell Abercrombie

Are you just now finishing up paying off last years holiday bills? If you are like most people, it probably takes you several months to get stressed thinking about all the things you want to buy for love ones. The holiday season is supposed to bring cheer, but the cheer and good times end up being a burden by the time the New Year rolls around.

If you have not started planning for the holiday season, now is a good time to start. Every time I bring up the word "Budget," most people try to place me in the category with **Ebenezer Scrooge**. I am not trying to steal your holiday joy, but you should not let your holiday spending control you. **YOU** should control **IT!**

Plan ahead for the places you will have to travel. Gas prices are a little over \$3.00 a galloon now. They project it to be around \$3.50 by Christmas. Try to make all of your trips to the store, and the other places you have to go in the same area. Consider car pooling with family members and friends who are going to the same place or vicinity.

Reduce the number of gifts you normally buy. Ask your family members to list several things they would like that are under \$25.00. That way you have a budgeted amount and the family member has given you several options from which you can pick to buy.

With friends, try to keep it under \$10.00. You may consider buying one gift for a family or a couple. Baking holiday "goodies" make an excellent gift too.

A lot of money can be saved by limiting yourself to limited decorations in and around the house. Most people feel pressured from neighbors to put up a lot of Christmas decorations. There are many people who are considering having a "Green" Christmas this year. If you are going to put up a lot of Christmas lights, you might consider getting on your electric provider's average billing plan. If you enjoy arts and crafts, you might make your own decorations and gifts. If you want to save up to 50% on decorations, wait until after Christmas to catch all of the big sales.

If you have a computer, you can send your holiday greetings by e-mail, which will eliminate paying the high cost of postage stamps. But if you are like my grandparents, who do not have a computer, you can buy inexpensive cards that have been processed on recycled paper. If you want to let everyone know about what your year has been like, you may consider sending a "Family Newsletter" by e-mail or even bulk mail.

My intention is NOT to take the joy our of your holiday. I want to help you live realistically the other 11 months on a resonable budget.

BAH HUMBUG!

The holiday season is a time for giving, but the greatest gift in the world was given to us.

Remember, without Christ there would be no Christmas!



M.L. & Sybil at the Moore's Party

Street of Dreams II Groundbreaking

Melvin Carter & Ruben Castellano



Waco Community Development would like to welcome Claudia Olivas-Meza to our organization. Claudia joined Waco CDC at the beginning of October. Claudia and her husband Raul moved back to Waco after living in San Antonio, TX, for a year. Claudia was born in Chihuahua, Mexico, but grew up in Eunice, NM. She attended Baylor University and graduated in May 2006 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies and Spansih.

Claudia says that she plans to pursue a graduate degree in the near future.

Claudia has proved to be an assest to our team as she has excellent bilingual skills which will help us to better serve the Spanish speaking community.

"WELCOME CLAUDIA!"

IDA Individual Development Account

If you don't have enough acromyms to know...we have another one for you to learn.

IDA or Individual Development Account is a financial literacy and savings matching program for low-income families.

The program includes six two hour classes on financial literacy, a one day class on home-buyer education and individual counseling. Families who come to our office begin with counseling and develop a savings plan for purchasing a house.

Our Home-Buyer counselors walk them through the process of opening up their own IDA savings account to start saving towards their goal of a new home.

The savings account is matched \$2 for each dollar saved up to \$2000 matching funds. The matching funds are used for closing costs in the purchase of their new home.

We believe that if you give people the right tools they can make good financial decisions.

The program, started in October, will help a lot of families in Waco learn persoanl financial management, savings towards a goal and how to become a new homeowner.

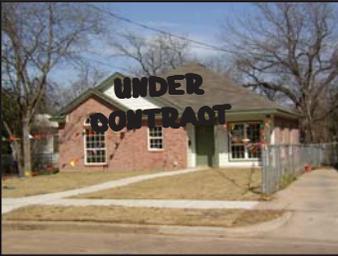
Construction Update

We are working hard here at Waco Community Development. Here is an update on our current construction projects.

Sullivan # 3 1400 N. 4th is going to be a beautiful home....Could this be your "Dream Home?"



Do you or someone you know dream of owning a home like one of these? Let us show you how to own your own home!



15th St. & Morrow Street of Dreams II

**906 N.13th St.
3 BR / 2 BA
\$78,500**



**1104 N.13th St
3 BR / 2 BA
\$78,500**



DID YOU KNOW?

**1871: The Waco & Northwestern Railroad was built.
1872: The African Methodist Episcopal Church opens Paul Quinn College (now in Dallas)
2007: Abby Sobel is back in Waco.**

By the Numbers

Housing:	
New Homeowners	60
New Homes:	26
Renovated:	9
Opportunities:	
Counseled:	653
Active:	97
Maintenance:	
Volunteers:	2,851
Vol. Hours:	17,062
Lots Mowed:	909

THANK YOU!

Waco Community Development would like to thank Pastor Frank Alvarado from First Spanish Assembly of God Church for allowing us to use the services of their church radio station, Radio "La Poderosa," KXZY 100.7FM.

On two separate occasions, Claudia Olivas-Meza and Mike Stone were interviewed on KXZY 100.7. The air time was donated by the First Spanish Assembly of God Church led by Pastor Frank Alvarado.

"THANK YOU" for helping us reach the Hispanic community through your radio station.

* First Spanish Assembly of God Church is located at 3301 Clay Avenue. Church services are held at 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Sundays and 7:15PM on Wednesday.

www.celebrationcenterfsag.org



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Waco, TX 76707

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