

# Waco Community Development

*"We're revitalizing neighborhoods."*

June 2010



## CELEBRATING SUCCESS!

The word "celebration" best describes the week of May 17<sup>th</sup> for the schools of our neighborhood, Brook Avenue Elementary and West Avenue Elementary. All of the hard work of the teachers, parents, students and community came to fruition that week.

Celebrations began on Tuesday May 18<sup>th</sup> when the two schools took three of the top honors at Waco ISD's Partners in Education banquet.

To begin the night, West Avenue Elementary teacher Sandra Maxwell received the **Elementary Teacher of the Year** award. This award was well deserved as Mrs. Maxwell has long demonstrated her excellence in the classroom. Congratulations Mrs. Maxwell.

Later, Walker Moore, community organizer for Waco Community Development, received the **Outstanding Volunteer** award for his tireless efforts to increase parental involvement at Brook Avenue Elementary.

To top the night off, Columbus Avenue Baptist Church and Brook Avenue Elementary received the **Award of Excellence** for their Kid's Hope mentoring partnership. This was the night's highest honor. It too was well deserved. The church's 60 plus mentors have a significant impact on the school. Congratulations to Columbus Ave-

nue Baptist Church and Brook Avenue Elementary!

Along with these awards, even more exciting news was announced on Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Brook Avenue Elementary and West Avenue Elementary received their TAKS scores. For some campuses this is a day of weeping and gnashing of teeth but not for these two schools. This was a day of celebration! The TAKS scores were the best either school has ever received.

For example, 100% of Brook Avenue's students passed the writing test and 92% passed the science test. 98% of West Avenue's third grade passed the reading test and 93% of Fourth Grade passed the writing test. At least 80% of each school's students passed each subject area. These preliminary results place both schools in the Texas Education Agency's (TEA) "Recognized" category, the state's second highest rating.

That week was truly a week of celebration. Hard work and strong community partnerships paid off, and this neighborhood has two schools they can be very proud of. Congratulations to the recipients of the Waco ISD's Partners in Education awards and to Brook Avenue Elementary and West Avenue Elementary for their outstanding achievements.

### ❖CALENDAR❖

#### Classes

**\*2010 Homebuyer Education**  
**Homebuyer Education I**  
6-8 PM for 6 weeks  
Begins Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup>

**\*Homebuyer Education II**  
Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 1-6 PM  
To register call (254) 235-7358.  
Classes are free!

**Heart of Texas Builders Association**  
**2010 Parade Of Homes**  
**June 5- 6 / June 12-13**

**World Changers Waco**  
July 12-17<sup>th</sup>

**Waco Community Development Board of Directors Meeting**  
\*Wednesday, June 16, 2010

#### **Board of Directors:**

*Tim Holtkamp, President*  
*Carolina Ramos, VP*  
*Melvin Carter*  
*Juan Castellano*  
*Ken Cooper*  
*Ada Nun*  
*Rev. Steve Ramsdell*  
*Bill Shirley*  
*Jon Spelman*  
*Dr. Gaynor Yancey*

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Issue 31 - 2010

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

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## UNCONDITIONAL GIVING

by Darrell Abercrombie

I want to look at the example of a widow suffering from the ravages of the Great Famine in Israel during the reign of King Ahab. Elijah the Prophet told King Ahab that no dew or rain would fall for 1,246 days.

The drought began. Crops and livestock died, but God provided for Elijah. I Kings 17:3-6 tells us that God directed Elijah to a brook full of water and commanded the ravens to bring him bread and meat in the morning and evening.

Eventually, the brook dried up, and Elijah needed help. God commanded Elijah to visit a widow in Zerephath. She was God's instrument to keep His Prophet alive.

When Elijah arrived at the widow's house, he was desperately thirsty and famished, but he was not the only one suffering. The widow's circumstances were more dire than his. "Welcome to Zerephath."

When they met, the widow was gathering a few sticks to make the last meal for herself and her son. She possessed enough food for one more meal, and they planned to eat and then die. She was starving and broke, but she fed Elijah anyway.

This was a tough time, and our rational mind cannot conceive that a godly man would look to such a helpless widow for food, especially

when she only had enough for one more meal.

We expect Elijah to provide for the needs of the woman and her son at the risk of his own life, but in this story we find the reverse.

Her act of sacrificial generosity not only blessed Elijah, it blessed her and her son as well. God kept his promise and provided the three of them with a continuous supply of food.

Often, we only consider giving from our excess; yet, many examples in the Bible record dire circumstances when generosity abundantly flowed out of a severe limitation of resources.

Always be prepared to change your plans when the needs arise. The widow's plan was interrupted. It must have been extremely difficult to give her remaining resources to Elijah instead of her own child, but she responded in faith knowing God's plan was better than her plan.

**\*Be generous first and then trust God with your own need.**

**\*Don't try to negotiate or modify God's plan.**

**\*Just trust Him, regardless of how things look.**

God is the "Generous One" in this story; from one fearless act of selfless giving, many more meals were multiplied.



Waco Community Development would like to thank Wells Fargo Bank for supporting our IDA Matching Fund Program.

Thank You!

# Celebrating Our Bilingual Neighborhood

## Celebrando Nuestra Vecindad Bilingue

by Gabriela Gatlin

Our neighborhood has many strengths, and one of those strengths is that at least two languages – Spanish and English – are represented by Waco Community Development (Waco CD) homeowners and other residents in our neighborhood. Having two languages gives us multiple ways to communicate with each other as well as multiple ways to understand our reality and the challenges and opportunities that face us. Let’s celebrate our languages!

*Hay muchas fuentes de poder y fuerza en nuestra vecindad y una de ellas es el hecho de que hay por lo menos dos idiomas oficiales – español y inglés – representados por los dueños de casas de Waco CD y otros residentes de la vecindad. Hablar en dos idiomas nos da múltiples maneras de comunicar entre*

*nosotros y múltiples maneras de entender nuestra realidad y los desafíos y oportunidades que enfrentamos. ¡Celebremos nuestros idiomas!*

Vocabulary acquisition is an important building block for learning a new language. How many words do you know in both languages to talk about housing? Here are some of the vocabulary terms that I collected when I first began my position as the bilingual housing counselor at Waco CD. Start making your flashcards!

*La adquisición de vocabulario es un importante paso en aprender otro idioma. ¿Cuántas palabras de ambos idiomas saben Uds. para hablar de vivienda? Esas son algunas de la palabras que aprendí cuando comencé mi empleo de consejera bilingue en Waco CD. ¡Prepárense para tomar notas!*

applicant	<i>solicitante</i>
bedroom	<i>recámara</i>
to borrow	<i>pedir prestado</i>
budget	<i>presupuesto</i>
ceiling	<i>cielo raso</i>
credit report	<i>informe de crédito</i>
dishwasher	<i>lavaplatos</i>
double vanity	<i>doble lavado</i>
down payment	<i>enganche</i>

driveway	<i>entrada de estacionamiento</i>
equity	<i>equidad, el valor acumulado</i>
gross	<i>bruto, total</i>
interest rate	<i>tasa de interés</i>
investment	<i>inversion</i>
lawn/grass	<i>césped/grama</i>
mortgage broker	<i>agente de hipoteca, corredor de hipoteca</i>
real estate agent	<i>agente de bienes raíces</i>
sidewalk	<i>acera</i>



Summer is fast approaching and that means that **World Changers** is coming to town.

**World Changers** is an organization of youth and adults that do reroofing projects, painting, and minor exterior repairs. For the first time ever, World Changers is coming to Waco and will spend a week in our north Waco neighborhood.

Thanks to the generosity of the City of Waco and local churches the World Changers group will tackle 10-15 roof projects, 6-8 painting projects, 6-8 wheel chair ramp and other exterior repairs. These projects are free for low-income homeowners.

All of these projects will be done for free for low-income homeowners. 8 of the 12 youth groups that are coming came to Waco for a pre-visit meeting on May -7<sup>th</sup>. One came all the way from Vallejo California. We are very excited about their work this summer and look forward to seeing them in action. .



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It is only through labor and painful effort,  
by grim energy and resolute courage, that  
we move on to better things.  
**Theodore Roosevelt**

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**Newsletter from Waco Community Development.**  
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Christian-based organization committed to promoting  
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development throughout Waco.*

## ANOTHER GREAT TOURNAMENT

The 5th Annual Golf Scramble was another fundraising success for Waco Community Development. We thank all the participants in the tournament.

We especially thank the following for their hard work. First United Methodist's Men's Thursday Morning Prayer Group grilled some great hamburgers. Bill Shirley and Walt Keeler worked tirelessly to collect prizes for the tournament, and Cottonwood Creek Golf Course provided a great venue

for the tournament.

Despite the gale force winds, all of the players were in great spirits and enjoyed the food and snack cart driven by Mike Stone and the great fellowship.



FIRST PLACE WINNERS

First Place went to Mark Fraley, Mike Mellina, Jim Fau and David Rumph.



SECOND PLACE WINNERS

Second place went to Melvin Hilliard, Amos Hughes, Harvey Tucker and Maurice Walker.

We are already planning and looking forward to next year when we host the 6th Annual Golf Scramble.

## BY THE NUMBERS

### Housing:

New Homeowners:	136
New Homes:	38
Renovated:	13

### Opportunities:

Counseled:	1089
Active:	128

### Maintenance:

Volunteers:	4,450
Vol. Hours:	23,482
Lots Mowed:	1,500