

# Waco Community Development

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

December 2010



## Merry Christmas versus Happy Holidays.

### Which One Do We Observe?

By: Darrell Abercrombie

We pride ourselves on being rational, thinking people. We think of ourselves as up-to-date in our thoughts and actions. We try to have good reasons for everything we do. Have you ever ask yourself, why, do we do the things we do.



Why do we pretend that a jolly (fat) old man in a red suit who lives at the North Pole rides around in a sleigh pulled by flying reindeer and drops down chimneys to leave toys, made by elves, for good boys and girls on one night of the year?

I remember conversations growing up on North 10<sup>th</sup> street, where my father explained to my mother, that he worked too hard to let a man in a red suit receive credit for what he did all year.

It is interesting to note that with the commercialization of Christmas, the shopping season pumps in an estimated \$37 billion dollars into the nation's economy, making the American Christmas larger than some countries gross national product.

So where am I going with this? Christmas is God's gift to us. If we don't except His gift, then everything else ceases to matter.

Galatians 4:4 says, "But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law"



This Christmas, let us thank God for all He continues to do for us. Let us be thankful for all His provisions in the midst of a recession. Let us be thankful for what we have, instead of what we don't have. Most of all let us be thankful for the greatest gift we could ever get, a Savior that will save his people from their sins, is still available to do what He came to earth to do 2000 years ago.  
God Bless & Merry Christmas.

## ❖CALENDAR❖

### Classes

#### **\*2011 Financial Literacy**

6-8 PM for 6 weeks

Begins Thursday, January 13th.

#### **\*Homebuyer Education II**

Next class will began

January 22nd

1-6 PM

To register call (254) 235-7358.

Classes are free!

#### **Board of Directors Meeting**

\*Thursday, January 13, 2011



### Board of Directors:

Tim Holtkamp **President**  
Carolina Ramos **Vice President**  
Ken Cooper **Treasurer**  
Melvin Carter  
Juan Castellano  
Ada Nun  
Rev. Steve Ramsdell  
Bill Shirley  
Jon Spelman  
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## Issue 33 - 2010

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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## “Bob and Mandy”

By: Mike Stone

I love it when people see what we are doing and believe in our efforts.

I had the pleasure of seeing this when a young couple, Bob and Mandy, with a small young boy came to our office. They are both teachers in the greater Waco area. She went to school Baylor and lived with several girls in a house in our neighborhood several years ago. She was able to see Waco CDC in its infancy. She got married and they bought a home in the suburbs. Some friends of theirs bought houses from ours and they still get together with them.

They came into our office. They said “We have seen what you have been doing and want to be a part of the community. We would like to contract you to build us a home in the neighborhood. They spent several weeks picking out a lot and a house plan. The contract was signed last week and we are getting ramped up to build their new home. Bob is looking forward to playing catch in the backyard with his young son, and we’re looking forward to having another great neighbor.



## “Tabitha”

By: Walker Moore

“Where are all the parents? Why aren’t there more here? There should be more parents at this meeting.” These comments jarred me back to reality.

It was November 2009, and I was thinking pretty highly of myself. I had organized a group of 40 parents and teachers to dream about ways to strengthen Brook Avenue Elementary. The conversation was great, but “Tabitha’s” comments were a wake-up call. Yes, the conversation was good, but we needed more parents to be present.

I told Tabitha that I would call her in a day or so to talk about ways to involve more parents. That was November. Several months later at another school event I saw Tabitha. She looked at me with her piercing stare and said “you never called me.” Guilty as charged. I had dropped the ball. This time though, I learned my lesson and called her the next day.

Soon after that day Tabitha and I met “Alisha” and “Challie,” two other parents. These three parents love their children dearly and want them and their school to succeed. They have formed the nucleus of the Brook Avenue Elementary PTA and have been devoted to involving more parents. These three ladies are devoted because they love their children and want their children to receive a great education. Because of their efforts, the Brook Avenue Elementary PTA has involved more parents than ever before.

All because three women wanted more for their child. Women who are willing to work with parents and teachers to make their school better.



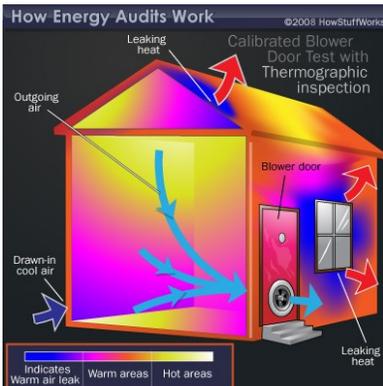
# ENERGY SAVING TIPS FOR A NEW YEAR.

## PART: 1

By: Gabriela Gatlin

Did you know that the typical U.S family spends about \$1900 a year on home utility bills?

*Unfortunately, a large portion of that money is wasted. The good news is that there are ways for you to save energy and money at home. Start making small changes today.*



### Insulation and Sealing Air Leaks

Checking your home's insulation is one of the fastest and most cost-effective ways to reduce energy waste and save money in your whole house.

- Add insulation to your attic if it has less than R-30 ( 11 inches of fiber glass or rock wool or 8 inches of cellulose).
- Caulk, seal and weather-strip all seams, cracks and openings where warm air could be leaking into your home during the summer or out of your home during the winter.

### Lighting

- Use compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). Fluorescent bulbs last 6 to 12 times longer than incandescent (standard) bulbs.
- Use light emitting diodes (LEDs) for outdoor lighting. LEDs offer better light quality than standard bulbs and last 25 times longer, they are durable in cold weather and use even less energy than CFLs.

### Laundry

- Wash full loads of clothes.
- Use cooler water. Switching the temperature setting from hot to warm can cut energy use in half.
- Clean the lint filter in the dryer after every load to improve air circulation.

### Dishwasher

- Air dry instead of using you dishwasher's drying cycle.
- Scrape, don't rinse off large food pieces and bones.
- Avoid using the "rinse hold" setting (it uses 3 to 7 gallons of hot water).

### Refrigerator / Freezer

- Set the refrigerator at 37 to 40F and the freezer at 5F
- Regularly defrost the freezer; frost buildup decreases energy efficiency.
- Make sure your refrigerator door seals are airtight. Test by closing the door over a dollar bill. If you can pull the bill out easily , the door latch may need to be adjusted or the seal replaced .
- Cover liquids and wrap foods stored in the refrigerator. Uncovered foods release moisture and make the compressor work harder.



Information gathered from Energy Savers Booklet [www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/tips](http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/tips)



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### Issue 33 - 2010

Waco Community Development revitalizes neighborhoods by promoting housing, community and economic development throughout Waco. To build strong neighbor-

- 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.

### “Nora”

By: Gabriela Gatlin



It was a great joy to welcome Nora into her new Waco Community Development home in September. For several years, Nora has faithfully volunteered her time to teach WCD financial literacy classes. Now she is the proud owner of her own home! The friends and family gathered at Nora’s welcome party made it evident that Nora is already an integral member of our community. She was joined by her church family from Cross-Ties Ministries and her daughter and son-in-law who live

just two blocks away. Nora’s grandson read the litany of welcome, and her granddaughter eagerly cut the red ribbon. We are grateful for Nora’s continuing service to Waco Community Development and lucky to count her as one of our neighbors.

### BY THE NUMBERS

#### Housing:

Homeowners: 151  
New Homes: 39  
Renovated: 13

#### Opportunities:

Counseled: 1184  
Active: 112

#### Maintenance:

Volunteers: 4,993  
Vol. Hours: 31,744  
Lots Mowed: 1,728