

Waco Community Development

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

February 2011



"Introduction to East Waco"

By: Walker Moore

On January 3, 2011 a new era began at Waco Community Development. Until then, we exclusively focused on North Waco, but on that day we expanded our focus to include East Waco. In the past, we talked about East Waco but never acted. That all changed in 2010 when internal conversations coincided with East Waco leaders inviting and the Greater Waco Education Alliance asking us to work in East Waco. After additional conversations with some East Waco leaders, we created the East Waco Community Development Plan, and in October it all came together when the Waco Foundation agreed to partially fund it.

The East Waco Community Development Plan has a two-part approach designed to bring the best of Waco Community Development to East Waco to compliment the on-going revitalization efforts. The first part is implementing the Parental Engagement Project (PEP) at East Waco's J.H. Hines Elementary. The PEP started three years ago to increase the parental involvement at Brook Avenue Elementary and West Avenue Elementary. It helped both schools achieve "Recognized" status, the state's second highest academic rating. Through the PEP, I will organize parents, teachers, and community members to strengthen the education of J.H. Hines Elementary students.

The second part is developing a Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy (NRS). In East Waco, we are the new kids. We lack the knowledge to even know where to start working. The NRS helps us assess the community. We will consult with community stakeholders to hear their dreams for their community. We will also conduct an in-depth map to map out the vacant land and areas of strategic importance. All of this helps us understand our role in complimenting the on-going revitalization efforts.

In my short time in East Waco, it has become obvious that East Waco is filled with people who deeply care about their community, and I want to spotlight two of them to give you a better idea of the great people in East Waco. Shirley Langston grew up in East Waco, moved to Dallas for a time, but came back to her hometown several years ago. Soon after coming back, she founded Restoration Haven, a non-profit, organization to bringing hope to the residents of a public-housing complex. Restoration Haven works with parents and their children, challenging them to reach their potential. Her work has made a tremendous impact on many lives, and everyone knows "Miss Shirley."

"Samantha," a parent at J.H. Hines, regularly visits the school to ensure her son's success. Impressed with her dedication, I asked Samantha, "Why do you care so much?" With tears streaming down her face she responded "I don't want him to be a statistic. Without an education he'll be a statistic. I want him to go to college."

Two women determined to make sure that the children of their community go to the university, not the penitentiary. And they are determined to make East Waco a healthy vibrant place to live.



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254-235-7358

CALENDAR

Classes

2011 Financial Literacy

6-8 PM for 6 weeks
Next class on
February 10th,
and February 17th.

Homebuyer Education II

Next class will began
February 19th
1-6 PM

Post-Purchase Class

February 17th, and 24th
From 6pm-8:30pm

To register call
(254) 235-7358.
Classes are free!

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Issue 34 - 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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Introducing Diamante,

By: Diamante Maya



I am in the first year, of getting my Master's of Social Work student at Baylor, and I am pleased to have the opportunity to intern with Waco CDC. My exposure to working with communities came through six-week immersion trips to inner city San Antonio, Oakland, Mexico, and the Philippines. This is where God began and continued to grow my heart not for only individuals, but for the systems that impact them. I also worked three years as a counselor at an elementary school. I am thankful for the privilege to not only apply my experience and education to the Parental Engagement Project at West Avenue Elementary, but to learn from amazing staff and an exceptional organization.

Dinah,

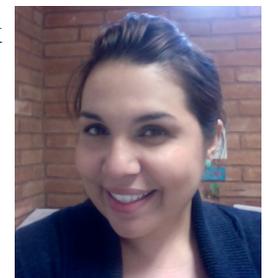
By: Dinah Bolton



I am a recent graduate of the Baylor School of Social Work and George W. Truett Theological Seminary, holding both a Master of Social Work and Master of Divinity degree. I am passionate about the world and about working cross culturally. I spent a great deal of time in Kenya, working with vulnerable children and those infected with HIV, as well as conducting public health education seminars for villages. I believe the inner-city is a beautiful collision of cultures, and I hope to one day start a "celebration of the arts" program for youth in the inner-city. I am beyond excited about the next part of my journey here in Waco, working as the new Community Organizer for North Waco. I will be primarily working with two elementary schools, Brook Avenue and West Avenue, along with area churches and other neighborhood stakeholders, to strengthen the relationships between the community and the schools.

& Bethany

By: Bethany Molinar



Hello! I am in my final year as a Master of Social Work student at the Baylor School of Social Work, and am also a student at Truett Seminary. I am so excited to be an intern at Waco Community Development! I am passionate about issues concerning marginalized populations, particularly Hispanic communities. I am married to a great guy named Adrian, and we are both from El Paso. Adrian and I feel blessed, as we have been given many opportunities to serve Waco through Mission Waco and Church Under the Bridge. We have learned so much about this community, inside and outside of the classroom! While at Waco Community Development, I am conducting research assessing the effectiveness of the Parental Engagement Project at Brook Avenue Elementary and West Avenue Elementary. I am also helping Hispanic churches more effectively serve their community. I look forward to continuing my learning experience at Waco Community Development and to the opportunity to continue serving North Waco!

Hold the Date!

Our 6th Annual Golf Tournament

Will be held at Cottonwood on April 28th.

We have corporate and hole sponsorships available. Come enjoy a day of golf and learn what Waco Community Development has been doing this last year.

Energy Saving Tips for a New Year. Part: 2

By: Gabriela Gatlin and JoEllen Baiza

Heating

- Set your thermostat as low as is comfortable in the winter, perhaps 68°F, and as high as is comfortable in the summer—one example could be 78°F in the summer.
- Lower the thermostat on your hot water heater to 120°F.
- Insulate your hot water storage tank and the 6 feet of hot and cold water pipes connected to the water heater. However, it is important not to cover the thermostat.
- Clean warm-air registers and baseboard heaters as needed. Make sure they are not blocked by furniture, carpeting or drapes.
- During the winter open your curtains and shades during the day and close them at night.



Cooling



During the summer, keep the blinds closed during the day to prevent heat from entering your home.

- Install awnings on the south- and west- facing windows.
- Install white window blinds or curtains to reflect heat away from the house.

Home Electronics

- Turn off and unplug home electronics (TVs, DVD players, computers) when not in use. Many appliances continue to use energy even when they are not in use.
- Equipment *does not* last longer if it is never turned off.
- Screen savers on computers *do not* reduce energy use.
- A power strip is another way to cut off all power to the appliance when not in use.

Visit www.energysavers.gov for more energy-saving ideas.

Information gathered from Energy Savers Booklet www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/tips

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Issue 34 - 2011

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.

BY THE NUMBERS

Housing:	
Homeowners:	151
New Homes:	39
Renovated:	13
Opportunities:	
Counseled:	1,253
Active:	125
Maintenance:	
Volunteers:	4993
Vol. Hours:	31,744
Lots	1,728
Mowed:	

A New Purpose

By: Darrell Abercrombie

With the new year comes new financial goals for 2011. First, you need to clearly identify the goal (s). Then take the time to understand why each goal is important. Next, prioritize the goals. Prioritize so that all the energy goes towards reaching the most important goal.

Whether the goal is to buy a car, a home, or some other big-ticket purchase, the starting place is always at the credit report. Credit reports are the adult equivalent of a report card. The higher the credit score, the better the interest rate on a big-ticket purchase. The lower the interest rate, the less an item costs. Anyone can receive a free credit from **AnnualCreditReport.com**.

Gabriela Gatlin and I help people create financial plans to raise their credit score. We help improve credit scores for anyone who is willing to set a goal and work towards it. Through individual credit counseling sessions, we help create financial plans for getting out of debt, buying a home or car, and saving for college. We provide this service for free.

Mary, single mother who works for a local warehouse, is one of our clients. She is a great example of someone setting and reaching a financial goal. She used her income-tax refund to pay down debt and deposited \$1,000 into an Individual Development Account (IDA) where her \$1,000 was matched with an additional \$2,000. She combined that \$3,000 with the City of Waco's Housing and Community Development program to fulfill her goal of becoming a homeowner. For two years, Mary worked towards her goal. Because of her dedication she lives in a beautiful home that costs less and is bigger than her old rent house.