

# Waco Community Development

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



April 2011

## Delayed but not denied!

By: Darrell Abercrombie

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 wanted when you wanted it, caused you to feel empty. For many people when their blessing is delayed, they feel disheartened. With so much anticipation in getting some type of response, "not yet" is far from what you wanted to hear. It's a matter of being delayed, but not denied.



After a long day of training in Atlanta, Georgia a few years ago, my heart's desire was to get back home to Waco, Texas. Just as I was counting down the minutes until I could finally go home, a man came over the intercom to say the five dreaded words any traveler doesn't want to hear—"your flight has been delayed." Due to weather conditions, airport personnel had to make sure the plane was capable of reaching its destination. If airport personnel would have allowed the plane to fly prematurely, problems may have arisen, causing chaos for passengers. Even though I was delayed because of weather conditions, I wasn't denied. In life, one must understand that they most likely face moments of delay in order to get one ready for where they need to go.

In this spiritual journey, we can learn a few things from being delayed, but not denied. The first lesson learned is that what you may see with your natural eyes may not be what God sees in the spiritual. Unless you are on the same page with God, you may be delayed in getting your blessing. One must see what God sees in order to make the right decision. The second lesson learned from being delayed is that God is clearing away hazardous conditions for you. In other words, God is clearing out bad relationships, financial debt, low self-esteem, emotional baggage, etc. for you to get to where you need to go. God wants you to receive your blessing, but He must clear away the negative for you to arrive safely.

Barany was a young man who lived in public housing for years before he became a homeowner. He had to go to financial literacy classes to learn how to budget his income and organize his finances. After he got a good handle on his finances, he had to learn and overcome some credit hurdles. Once he was on the right track, he had to wait even longer to find a home that he could afford. Waiting is not always easy and can be excruciating at times. We live in a time where everyone is in a hurry—this "drive-thru" or "microwave" mentality. Finally, Barany found a house that he could afford.

He had taken the time to work on his budget and clean up his credit. This time, he would BUY a home, instead of rent one. 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."

P.s. In case you were wondering, I did make it safely back to Waco after spending a night in Dallas.



## CALENDAR

### Classes

#### **2011 Financial Literacy**

6-8 PM for 6 weeks

April 28th—June 2nd

June 16th—July 28th

#### **Homebuyer Education II**

April 16th

June 11th

1-6 PM

Classes are free!

To register call 235-7358.

### Board of Directors:

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Issue 35 - 2011

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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## “Just What the Doctor Ordered”

By: Dinah Bolton

Parent Teacher Conferences have been under way at both Brook Ave. Elementary and at West Ave. Elementary! There were many days of driving around, ‘street by street and block by block,’ in order to schedule conferences with each of the parents of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades. Some days were more successful than others, but it was encouraging to see parents stream in and out of both of the schools this past month. In the midst of some of the more difficult moments of scheduling conferences, the most encouraging moment was to see Melvin Carter, a board member of Waco CDC. What a joy it was to see him sitting on his porch in the community with a huge smile on his face when the familiar black Yukon slowed down to a stop in front of his house! A long time tradition, his “freezy cup ministry,” was definitely what the doctor ordered on that rather humid and exhausting March day in Texas. Frozen Kool-Aid in a cup and an “I believe in you” made all the difference that afternoon. Thank you Melvin Carter for your presence, your encouraging words, and the joy you bring to this community!



## Welcome Cody Phillips

By: Cody Phillips

I am the new volunteer coordinator at Waco CDC. In this job, I coordinate volunteers to help beautify North Waco. I am new to Waco, having started Truett Theological Seminary in August.

Before coming to Waco, I grew up in the small town of Jessieville, AR, and attended Arkansas State University, where I earned my BSE in Health and Physical Education. My passion is the people around me. So I spend a lot of my time with the community through different service organizations such as Meals on Wheels and Mission Waco. I am thankful that Waco CDC gave me another opportunity to reach out to the community around me. Let me know if you want to volunteer, I would love to work with you.



## Hold the Date!

### Our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament

Cottonwood on April 28th.

Corporate and hole sponsorships are available.

Come enjoy a day of golf and learn more about Waco CDC's impact on North and East Waco.



## New Homeowners

Two homes are nearing completion, one remodeled house and one new house. Two young families will move in and join the neighborhood. We look forward to adding two more great families.



## Tony DeMaria's BBQ and Walker's Upcoming 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday

By: Gabriela Gatlin

Late one morning in February, Waco CDC staff went to Tony DeMaria's BBQ on Elm Ave. in East Waco for lunch to celebrate Walker Moore's 30<sup>th</sup> birthday. It is Waco CDC tradition to celebrate special office events and goodbyes at local restaurants. Now that we have expanded into East Waco, we have even more great restaurants to choose from!

Tony DeMaria's BBQ is such a popular restaurant that we had to arrive before noon to ensure that the meat did not run out. Darrell, Diamante, Dinah, Bethany, Gabriela, Jo Ellen, Mike, and Walker crowded around a table in the busy lunch room and ate at one of the best barbecue restaurants in town.

We asked Walker his thoughts on turning thirty years old, and instead of reminiscing about the past thirty years, he looked forward to the next fifty. Watch out because Walker plans to hike the 2,175 mile Appalachian Trail on his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday even if he has to use a "walker"!



## "Just an Overgrown Mess"

By: Mike Stone



One sweaty and dirty teenager dejectedly asked, "Why are we clearing all of the brush and trash off of this lot? This is just an overgrown mess." I realized that he wanted to see the big picture. He wanted to know that there was purpose in cleaning up this particularly nasty empty lot.

We stopped and started talking about the steps in neighborhood revitalization. I explained that cleaning this lot was at the very front of the process. We clear the brush and trash so that the construction crews build a new home for another great family. At the same time, the housing counselors prepare families for homeownership. Soon, a family would purchase a beautiful home on the formerly empty lot. The family would move in and start working with their neighbors to make their new neighborhood a healthier place to live.

I pointed out the Adams family's new home across the street. I explained that their property used to look just like the empty lot that we were cleaning, but volunteers cleaned up the lot, preparing it for a new home. The Adams went through the home buying process and now are another vital homeowner in North Waco. During the conversation, the Adams family rode down the street on bicycles. We smiled and waved at each other.

The sweaty and dirty teenager finally understood. Turning to his friends he said. "Well, we better get started. We don't want to hold up the process. Let's get busy." The crew followed his lead and attacked the vacant lot with renewed energy and excitement. They understood the importance of their hard work in neighborhood revitalization.



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## Issue 35 - 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.

## Community?

What is a community? Do demographics tell us anything? What do we know from media reports? These are all great sources of information, but they only tell part of a community's story. These sources barely scratch the surface .

Until January, my knowledge of East Waco remained on the surface. I knew the demographics. I read the newspaper and watched the news, but I did not know the people. Three months and over 150 individual meetings later I possess a much deeper understanding of East Waco. I discovered what East Waco residents have long known. Great people live in East Waco.

Marian Wilson is one of those people. As a child, she grew up in East Waco and continues to invest in her community. She is the "Teacher of the Year" at J.H. Hines Elementary, where her child is also a student. She attends Carver Park Baptist Church in East Waco. She cannot imagine anywhere else than East Waco's Carver Ave. because everyone knows her and she knows everyone.

Mrs. Wilson is one of the countless East Waco residents who love their community and daily work to strengthen it. These are the people that Waco CDC will work with to revitalize East Waco "street by street, block by block."

By: Walker Moore



## BY THE NUMBERS

### Housing:

Homeowners: 155  
New Homes: 42  
Renovated: 14

### Opportunities:

Counseled: 1288  
Active: 123

### Maintenance:

Volunteers: 5,018  
Vol. Hours: 31,995  
Lots Mowed: 1,767