

Waco Community Development

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



September 2011

"Are the kids OK?"

By: Mike Stone



"Are the kids OK?" asked the elderly man from East Waco's Carver Neighborhood with a box of cookies in his hand. I was loading up my pickup with left-over supplies from the World Changers work project.

He continued, "I have been worried about the kids working in this terrible

heat. They have been working so hard on Mrs. Smith's roof. I was worried that they got hurt and that is why they aren't here."

"No sir" I replied. "The young people are all done with their work and have headed back to Texas Christian Academy to get cleaned up for the day." He continued, "I have enjoyed watching them work so hard. I have come over each afternoon with a box of cookies or popsicles to make sure they had enough energy to continue working."



I explained to Mr. Jones that the youth were a part of the World Changers Waco project. They had come from all over the US to work in Waco, re-roofing houses, building ramps and painting houses. The week long blitz of helping homeowners was a partnership between the City of Waco, Waco Community Development, Waco Habitat for Humanity, and the Carver Neighborhood Association. During the

week, they were able to complete 21 home repairs.

Mr. Jones was the 4th neighbor that I had talked to that was concerned for the youth and wanted to help work on their neighbor's house. It is fun to help some elderly or disabled homeowners with their homes. It turned into a blessing seeing other people rallying around our efforts to help make the neighborhood a little bit better and the concern that they had for youth that they didn't even know.

I look forward to next year when we invite World Changers back to work in South Waco.



CALENDAR

Classes

2011 Financial Literacy

6-8 PM for 6 weeks

Next class series

begins September 22nd

Homebuyer Education II

Next class will begin

September 10th

1-6 PM

Classes are free!

To register call:

(254)235-7358



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Issue 37 - 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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Welcome Johnny Mankin to the Board of Directors

By: Gabriela Gatlin

Waco Community Development welcomes Johnny Mankin to our board of directors. He joined the board in July and looks forward to helping raise funds for Waco CDC. As Mr. Mankin explains, "I feel with the incredible success this organization has enjoyed during the past few years, more people and businesses need to join the team of helping to rebuild an important part of our city."

Mr. Mankin first learned about WacoCDC through his friendship with Mike Stone, WacoCDC executive director, Billy Davis, WacoCDC board member, and Steve Ramsdell, WacoCDC board member and pastor of First United Methodist.

Mr. Mankin brings a wealth of business experience to his service on the WCDC board of directors. Mr. Mankin's professional background is in the cable television industry. In fact, his father managed the second cable system in Texas in 1952. At the start of his own career, Mr. Mankin worked in the cable television industry in Louisiana and Oklahoma, and then in 1976, moved to Waco to work as the district manager for Cable television, now Time Warner. He retired as Division President in 2006.

As a board member, Mr. Mankin looks forward to helping spread the story of WacoCDC because he believes, "Giving to this organization is an 'investment,' not just a donation." We welcome Johnny Mankin to WacoCDC. We're glad you're on our team!

"Teacher Home Visits"

By: Walker Moore

August 16, 2011 was one more of the record-setting 100 degree days that have scorched Waco this summer. In the oppressive heat, J.H. Hines teachers made home visits to their students for the 2011-2012 school year. Many of the teachers had never made home visits and did not know what to expect. Would parents answer the door? Would the students want to see them? With these questions in mind, the teachers braved the heat and started knocking on doors.

To the surprise of the teachers, the parents overwhelmed them with hospitality. Parents invited them inside and offered cold beverages. Parents and teachers talked about the upcoming school year, and the students bounced off the wall with their excitement about the year. Parents expressed their gratitude for the teachers taking time to leave the school and visit their homes.

Welcome Taylor!

By: Taylor McKinney



Hi, my name is Taylor McKinney and I am one of the new interns at Waco CDC! I am currently a graduate student at Baylor for a Master's of Social Work and I am excited to learn more about the city of Waco. I grew up in the small town of Argyle, TX and studied Psychology and Art at Austin College in Sherman, TX. Moving to the bigger city of Waco is new and exciting and I can't wait for the experiences and opportunities that will come my way. Being involved in the community and working with others have always been important to me and I can't wait to see how God is going to impact me and use me as a tool in His amazing plan for this city!

Thank You for Your Support



Mike Stone accepts Grande Communication's P&C Investment Club Grant from their employees



Board Member Carolina Ramos and Mike Stone accept Bank of America's grant check

School is in Session!

By: Dinah Bolton



The excruciating heat did not stop fun from happening in the North Waco community! Ready for the new school year to begin, families and community members congregated for the annual Back to School Bash. Bounce houses, food, dancing, and carnival games rejuvenated spirits as the summer season came to a close. Several generations were represented, showing love and support for the community, as well as the local schools.



Thank you to all who participated and kicked off the new school year!

And They're Off...

By: Dinah Bolton



"We want to learn about the community around our school" and "We have a lot of new staff—we want everyone to get to know one another" were two needs that the Brook Avenue Elementary administration expressed. With these needs in mind, Brook Ave. Elementary School's teachers prepared for the new school year in a different, yet exciting way. Twenty-four staff members fled out of their school to participate in their very own North Waco Amazing Race. With ten clues to find scattered around the 76707 community, the teachers were eager to learn about the area where their school is located and the families they serve. Representatives from Waco Community Development, Family Health Center, Mission Waco, Habitat for Humanity, Brook Oaks Neighborhood Association, a parent and grandparent of Brook Ave., Greater New Light Missionary Baptist Church, and community members held the roles of "teachers" that day. At each location, the Brook Ave. staff members were given the history and vision for this community, as well as how that particular organization or person could be a resource to the Brook Ave. staff and community. During the reflection time after the race, staff expressed gratitude to the organizations and community members who opened many of their eyes to what North Waco has to offer!



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Issue 37 - 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.

We Have Come a Long Way



We invited the entire neighborhood to attend the blessing and dedication for two new families that moved into the new block of 12th street homes, which were once vacant lots. This has transformed the entire block into warm, open-hearted neighbors looking out for one another. We were glad to see the many in attendance that came to celebrate and become acquainted with their new neighbors. This was surely a sight to see and reminded us of how much our neighborhood is growing and changing “street by street, block by block.”



BY THE NUMBERS

Housing:
Homeowners: 161
New Homes: 42
Renovated: 15

Opportunities:
Counseled: 1340
Active: 103

Maintenance:
Volunteers: 5,403
Vol. Hours: 41,055
Lots Mowed: 1,920

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www.WacoCDC.org