



Issue 4.0 - 2005

A newsletter of the Waco Community Development Corporation, a Christian-based organization committed to promoting housing, economic, and community development throughout Waco.

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Waco Street of Dreams

Another step towards our Waco Street of Dreams was started this last month, the Sullivan House. Below is our picture of what we call Waco's Street of Dreams. It embodies our vision for our neighborhood. We have worked really hard in making this dream a reality. We started off with two great homes for families. These families have moved in and are a blessing to the neighborhood.



Our next step is the construction of the Sullivan House. The Sullivan House is the first large home that we are building in our neighborhood. It is also the first large one to have been built in the last 40-60 years. The Sullivan House is a two-story 2100 sq foot house, with 4 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms and a two car garage. The name for the Sullivan House is in honor of Meredith Sullivan who platted the land on the west side of North 15th in 1877.

We did not do this alone. We asked for community support and we were blessed to receive it. We were able to raise seed-money for this house having 104 families and businesses contribute towards our fund-raising activities. Thank you all.

As you can see below, the house construction is coming along well. We have had a lot of families interested in buying and hope to have a family select it for their home soon.



Sullivan House All Framed Up

Our investment in our neighborhood is showing steady progress as we create our dream.



Vision

When you drive down the street you see a mixture in size of well maintained homes, neighbors taking care of neighbors and a place that anyone can call home.

Another home being remodeled in our neighborhood.



Weathering the Holiday Financial Storm

by Darrell Abercrombie

You finally made it thorough the summer months. The rising expense of utilities due to the long summer days, where the temperature reached over 100 degrees flared our attitudes. Most people became irritable and to add insult to injury, our electric bill blew away our budget.

Now that we have cooler days ahead, we can expect our utilities to go back to normal. With the holiday season a month or two away, it is best that we get a handle on our finances. Here are a few things to do.



1. **Review your priorities . . .** and your spending. Start with a look at your monthly expenses. Remember your family's welfare comes first, so make sure to continue to make payments on your home, rent, utilities and insurance. Look at where you can cut back so you will not have to take out a loan for holiday gifts. Possible cuts include: restaurant meals, entertainment such as ball game and premium TV channels, costly Internet and phone service.
2. **Pay off your highest interest rate credit cards.** Try to pay all or as much as possible of your credit card bill each month. Send more than the minimum payment due.
3. **Commit to a saving program.** You should have money available for emergencies. How can you build an emergency saving fund if you are struggling to make ends meet? Start by paying yourself first each month. Before you pay your bills, write out a check to be deposited into your saving account, even if it is only \$20.00 or \$30.00. You can arrange for your bank or credit union to automatically transfer a certain amount to your savings account each month.
4. **Know when and where to ask for help.** If you think you have a serious debt problem, it is in your best interest to address it immediately. Get in contact with your mortgage company as soon as possible. They may have some assistance to help you if it is a legitimate need such as going to the hospital, injury or severe illness. **Overspending at Christmas is not a legitimate excuse.** Get financial and budget counseling.
5. **Watch out for Scams.** Easy credit and guaranteed loans are dangerous during the holiday season. Con artist and bogus credit scams try to collect money up front in exchange for erasing bad credit. A bad credit history is repaired through steady and consistent on-time payments. Nobody can erase bad credit overnight. Never provide your Social Security number, checking account or credit card number in response to an unsolicited call or letter,



How You Can Make a Difference?

Your help is needed! From financial donations to using your professional expertise, your efforts help our community. Give us a call at 235-7358 or check out the web site at <www.WacoCDC.org> Mike Stone is also available to speak to your group about the efforts of Waco CDC.

You have always known that you should be in control of your spending, save money and not overspend during the holidays. Knowing and doing are two different things. Have a great time during the holidays and remember that you can have everything you need, but not everything you want.



**Old House
made
New again**



We're putting more neighbors into neighborhoods.

Community Projects

By Abby Sobel

My apology to Richfield Christian Church for not identifying them correctly in the last newsletter. Thank you for all the work your young people did this year. We hope you come back next summer to volunteer in our neighborhood for our neighbors.



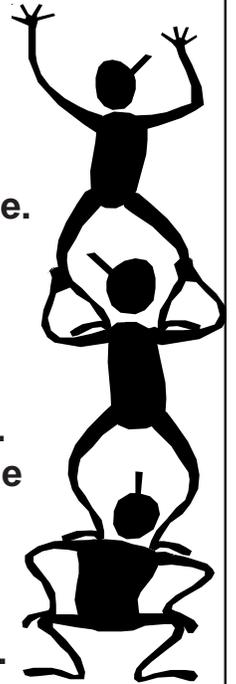
We received a letter from the mother of one of the young people who volunteered this summer with Clear Point Baptist Church of Pasadena. The mother wrote about her daughter's apprehension about the trip to Waco, but how the experience made her more appreciative of what she has. "She said she never realized how exhausting it was to be without and paint a house!" The mother said, "We have noticed subtle changes, a maturity she did not have before she left. This was a wonderful, eye opening opportunity for her". Hopefully many of the other young people who volunteered with us had as enlightening an experience.

In preparation for next year's volunteers, Waco CDC has formed a Community Projects Committee to select the projects in the primary target area of Waco CDC for the Volunteer groups who do the work. The Committee will start accepting applications from homeowners who reside in the homes they own that need small projects, yard work, or outside painting done on their homes in January 2006. The Committee will review the applications and select the homes to be painted or repaired.

We are looking forward to another successful year helping our neighbors and beautifying our neighborhood.

Join Us in our Efforts

As you opened this newsletter you noticed that we enclosed a donation envelope. We want to encourage you to consider supporting our efforts financially. We have been able to accomplish so much because of God's blessing and your support.



Thank you!

**2nd Greatest Commandment:
"Love Your Neighbor
as Yourself"**

Another New Homeowner in the neighborhood:

We want to welcome another new homeowner family to our neighborhood, Josh and Danielle. They have bought an older house that they are going to renovate into their home. We are very excited to see others working to restore a lot of the character of the older homes. The neighborhood is very familiar to Josh as he grew up about 2 blocks away.

Welcome to homeownership and our neighborhood!



Did You Know

Waco CDC is a federally recognized HUD Approved Housing Counseling Agency. We provide pre-purchase counseling, credit counseling, financial literacy training, homebuyer education training, mortgage preparation assistance, counseling to resolve or prevent Mortgage Delinquency or default, post purchase counseling, and post-purchase education. As you can see we offer a wide variety of services.

If have questions come by the office or give us a call 235-7358.

We're putting more neighbors into neighborhoods.

Neighbors Taking Care of Neighbors

By Walker Moore

The CDC vision statement contains the phrase “neighbors taking care of neighbors,” and until a few weeks ago I did not truly appreciate the power behind this concept. M.L. had asked me to cut down a tree branch at one of our new houses so I took my ladder and saw over to the house, confident that this project would not take long. My confidence was misplaced since the branch was much thicker than I anticipated. I was totally out of my league with this branch, but I pressed on anyway and somehow cut it down. A bigger problem was that the fallen branch covered half the driveway, and it was going to take longer to cut up than my limited skills, tools, or time was going to allow. About the time I came to this realization a man pulled up and asked if I needed help. I said yes, and as I watched in amazement he got out his chainsaw, quickly cut up the branch, and hauled the wood to a friend for BBQ. He finished a job in twenty minutes that would have taken me half a day.

Now if the story stopped right here it would be a great example of neighbors helping neighbors, but it gets better. He stopped because twelve years ago another neighbor, Jimmy Dorrell, helped David get clean and sober. Twelve years ago one neighbor helped another neighbor and that help is still getting passed on. “Neighbors helping neighbors,” I love to see that in my neighborhood.

By the Numbers

Housing:

New Homeowners	22
New Homes:	10
Renovated:	3

Opportunities:

Counseled:	300
Active:	87

Maintenance:

Volunteers:	1,442
Vol. Hours:	11,488
Lots Mowed:	745

Early Bird Prayer Time:

Come pray with us

7:00 am on
Thursdays



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1525 Colcord 235-7358

www.WacoCDC.org



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