

# Waco Community Development

*"Helping to inspire and cultivate healthy neighborhoods."*

November 2014



## Proverbs 24

by Darrell Abercrombie

**By wisdom a house is built,  
And by understanding it is established;**

After a divorce, Samantha found herself raising four children. About 10 years ago she lived in the Parkside Village Apartments, where her children went to local schools, Brook Avenue Elementary and Carver Middle School. She worked at a nursery where her youngest child attended.

As her children began to grow up she realized that she would need more living space to raise them. She decided to go back to school to get a nursing degree so that she could get a better job and increase her income to take care of her family. After graduating she found a job that paid good wages and decided that she did not want to spend her entire life renting.

She came to Waco Community Development where we helped her set up a budget (spending plan) and she found out how much of a home she could afford. Currently, she is contacting her creditors to pay off old debt and she has opened new credit so that she can exhibit some positive payment type behaviors.

She hopes to buy a home in the summer of 2015. After she completed the Financial Literacy and Homeowner Education Class, she encouraged others she knew to check



*Darrell Abercrombie advising a lady on how to become a homeowner*

***"The most valuable thing she took away was learning ways to save money on things her family always used."***

out WCD. Samantha said the most valuable thing she took away was learning ways to save money on things her family always used like gas for her car, which she does by cutting down on trips across town and taking care of all the things she needs to do while she is on one side of town. She uses coupons to save on groceries and always buys bargain brands. She is also teaching her children about budgeting so they can learn to cut cost and save on the things they use the most.

It has been a joy to watch people like Samantha make progress from renting towards homeownership.

A Memorial was given by Walt and Gerry Keeler in memory of

William "Bill" H. Beazley

## CALENDAR

### *Classes*

Financial Literacy  
Accelerated Classes

Thursdays  
6 - 8 pm

Homebuyer  
Education II

Saturdays  
1:00 - 6:00 PM

Call for details about  
the next classes

## Board of Directors:

Billy Davis Jr. -Pres  
Dr. Van Allen  
Josh Caballero  
Ken Cooper  
Carol Dugat  
Tim Holtkamp  
Walt Keeler  
Johnny Mankin  
Rev. Frank Montgomery  
Jon Spelman

## Hard Hat Tours

1st Thursday  
of each Month

At 1pm

1624 Colcord

*Come learn about  
Waco Community  
Development*

# Waco Community Development

Issue 52 - 2014

The newsletter of Waco  
Community Development  
whose mission is to help inspire  
and cultivate healthy neighbor-  
hoods throughout Waco.

## Contact Us

### Mike Stone

Executive Director  
mike@WacoCDC.org

### Darrell Abercrombie

Program Administrator  
darrell@WacoCDC.org

### Alexis Christensen

Community Organizer  
alexis@WacoCDC.org

### M.L. Dickey

Construction Manager  
ml@WacoCDC.org

### Tiffany Fry

Baylor School of Social  
Work Intern

## Thank you

We want to thank Allergan and Scott Johnson for their grant to further support our Housing and Housing Advising efforts and our Grassroots Leadership Training program.



Allergan Foundation had numerous applications this year, however Waco Community Development's grant application was selected due to the wonderful letter of support from Scott Johnson, a Waco employee of Allergan. Thank you Scott for your kind words and your support of our ministry.

*"Waco Community Development provides hope, homeownership and training to new owners and the community at large." - Scott Johnson*

## Congratulations to our Rising Star: Alexis Christensen

Alexis Christensen, Community Organizer, was recognized by the Central Texas African American Chamber of Commerce as the "Rising Star 2014" at their Annual Member meeting.

Alexis is actively serving in North and East Waco communities. We are very proud to have Alexis serving with us.



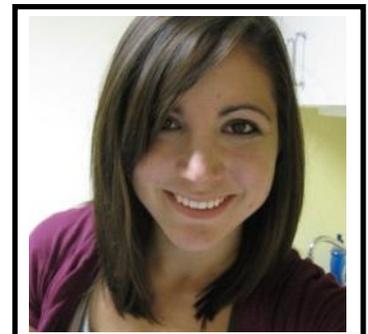
## New Website

Check out our brand new website! Special thanks to the Cooper Foundation for making this dream a reality and McKinley, Brown & Bradley for their website design!

Visit today! <http://wacocdc.org/>

## Tiffany Fry, MSW Intern

My name is Tiffany Fry and I'm so excited for the opportunity to do my internship with Waco Community Development! I'm currently wrapping up my second (and final!) year of graduate school at the Baylor School of Social Work. I'm from Mesquite, Texas and graduated from Baylor in 2011 with a degree in international studies. I worked at the Mission Waco Youth Center throughout my college years and loved building relationships with the kids, volunteers, and staff (it's also where I met my husband). After I graduated from Baylor, I spent a year as an AmeriCorps VISTA with Baylor's Texas Hunger Initiative and then a semester as a substitute teacher before starting graduate school. I had the opportunity to learn about community organizing, capacity building, and community development. I'm passionate about seeing Waco grow and thrive and I thought that Waco Community Development would be the perfect fit for growing in these skills. Some of the tasks I will be working on are leadership training with school parents, grant writing, research, and payday lending. I'm so thankful for this opportunity to work with Waco Community Development and I look forward to a challenging and growth-filled year!



## Home Grown Parent Leaders: Grassroots Leadership Moves to the Schools

The fall semester is in full swing and so are the three elementary campuses we support through family engagement. As we listened to the families, it became clear that they wanted more focused leadership development training. Taking time to reflect and evaluate our impact within the schools, we realized it was the right timing to shift our focus to leadership development with families. This isn't a new shift for us—we are having great success with our Grassroots Leadership Training (GLT) program with community members but we adjusted and adapted our GLT curriculum to fit the needs of the parent leaders.

***“For me, the most valuable part of the training was getting to meet others within the community that want to be leaders like myself ...”*** Robin Reid

We had our inaugural Grassroots Leadership Training Family Edition last month at J.H. Hines Elementary. Families from Brook Avenue Elementary, J.H. Hines Elementary and West Avenue Elementary were invited to go through this leadership training together. The three session training includes topics from our original GLT curriculum such as leadership, relationship, culture and power, however we

have added topics that specifically pertain to parents engaging schools including understanding staff roles and responsibilities, understanding their role as a parent, discovering their voice (public speaking tools) and how to engage other families.

The first session was held at J.H. Hines Elementary where parents and school staff attended an hour and a half training. LaTasha Stewart, a West Avenue parent, eloquently summarized why she came to the training, “I wanted to learn about leadership roles and not feel inferior in my child's academic journey.”

Robin Reid, another West Avenue parent agreed. “For me, the most valuable part of the training was getting to meet others within the community that want to be leaders like myself and learning how to connect resources in the community to our schools.” These parent leaders are making a difference in their community and within their school.

The next two trainings will be hosted by Brook Avenue Elementary and West Avenue Elementary, allowing all parents to have a session at their home school. I look forward to learning from each family, as we journey together to become better leaders for our students, our schools, and in our community.



*Alexis leading GLT*



## Thank you!

We want to thank Bank of America for their grant to further support our Housing and Housing Advising efforts.

**Bank of America**



Presenting the check is Jimmy Hill, from the Hewitt office of Bank of America. Receiving the check is Board Member Dr. Van Allen and Mike Stone, Executive Director.

## Payday & Auto Title Loan Facts

- Payday loan borrowers pay an average of \$23 for every \$100 borrowed for 2-3 week loans.
- \$10.5 million are drained for the local Waco economy due to fees.
- On average Texans pay the highest rate of fees compared to the other 49 states.
- 62% of all loans in Waco are refinances.

\*Source: TFLA.org & Pew Charitable Trust

Stay tuned for exciting news about



Coming to Waco in 2015



1624 Colcord Ave.  
Waco, TX 76707

NONPROFIT  
U S POSTAGE PAID  
WACO, TX  
PERMIT#4

### Issue 52 - 2014

*Waco Community Development helps to inspire and cultivate healthy neighborhoods.*

Find us on:  <https://www.facebook.com/WacoCommunityDevelopment>

**Donate**



## Bounce—2015 by Mike Stone

Never heard of Bounce? Well, it is new. It started last year with David Scott, a Waco native we have been working with for the past four years re-roofing houses.

Bounce is an arm of the disaster relief group from the Baptist General Conven-

tion. Bounce is for youth who want to serve communities. Their first project this year was spending two to three weeks in West helping families rebuild. Then, they went to Austin for two weeks to help churches recover from flooding and then spent three weeks in Moore Oklahoma. We were fortunate enough to get in on the ground floor with Bounce as they expand into inner city rehab work.

Bounce is scheduled to be in Waco July 6 to July 10, 2015. They will be bringing 200-250 youth to help us re-roof houses, rebuild porches and paint houses for free for disabled, elderly and low-income families. We hope to be able to serve 15-20 families this summer.

Our goal is to have local youth to come and be a part of the Bounce Week. Currently, there are 110 youth signed up and we would love to max it out with 250 youth. Come and join us!

Not a youth? That's okay! We need churches, businesses and Sunday School Classes to provide lunches during the week Bounce youth are here. You can also help us spread the word!

Contact Mike Stone at 254-235-7358 ext. 206 for more information.



### BY THE NUMBERS

#### Housing:

Homeowners: 233  
New Homes: 53  
Renovated: 17

#### Education:

Counseled: 1716  
Active: 103

#### Maintenance:

Volunteers: 6,904  
Vol. Hours: 62,747  
Lots Mowed: 2,989