



Issue 10 - 2006

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 CDC Board of Directors meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month

Living On The Street of Dreams

It's June 6, 2006 at precisely 6:30pm. The address is 518 N. 15th Street. The HOT Young Marines Ceremonial Unit Directed by Master Sergeant Otis Berry UMC Marine Corp Retired is executing the Presentation of the Colors.



Juan and Camila Castellano along with family, friends and neighbors are celebrating the dedication and blessing of their new home. There is excitement, happiness and a strong sense of community filling their front yard.



What a great way to say, "Welcome" to Juan & Camila Castellano. We are so excited to have you as new neighbors and members of our community.



Juan & Camila join their son John, his wife Blanca and their three children on Waco CDC's Street of Dreams.

The dream is now a reality as Juan & Camila celebrate the dedication of their new home.



After a great evening with hot dogs, cake & fellowship we want to give a great big...

"Welcome to The Neighborhood" Juan & Camila!

Come See Us!

We're in and we're really enjoying our new office.

Come by for a tour!

1624 Colcord

Our door is always open!



CONGRATULATIONS Ron & Sarah!

Not only have they recently married but now Ron & Sarah are the proud owners of their first home. "Welcome To the Neighborhood" and may God bless you both as you build your life together!

A WORLD OFF TARGET



One day a man was on his way to spend the day with a good friend who lived on a farm. When he reached the farm, he turned onto a long winding road that led to a farmhouse. On the way, he passed by a barn. As he drove by the barn, he noticed something that amazed and stupefied him.

Drawn on the barn were twenty targets. Each target had a hole right through the middle of its bull's-eye.

There were no other holes anywhere on the barn. Whoever had been using the barn for target practice was definitely a great shot.

The man could not believe it. He got back in his car, drove up to his friend's farmhouse, and said, "Jack, before we do anything else, I've got to ask you. Who in the world did the shooting on the side of your barn?"

Jack said, "Oh, that was me."

His friend replied, "I can't believe anybody can shoot that well! We're talking twenty targets with twenty dead-center bull's eye shots. You mean to tell me you did that?"

Jack said, "Made every shot!"

"Where in the world did you learn to shoot like that?" Jack's friend asked,

"It was easy. I shot first, and then drew a target around the bullet hole."

This story illustrates the situation our society is facing today. We do everything we can to give the impression that our lives are on target when in reality all we have done is learn to paint well!

We have sought to camouflage our emptiness and failure with materialism, the scramble for success and significance and other pursuits. Some people even try to fill their emptiness through religious activities such as church membership. They have learned how to look, talk and act like Christians, but all of these things, in and of themselves, are simply "Paint Jobs" that try to obscure the fact that we are a culture and a people tragically off target. We only have to look at the indicators to see that far too many individuals, families and churches are missing the mark.

Most individuals, families, churches and communities want to keep God on the fringes of their lives. There He can be accessible if we have need, but we can keep Him far enough away from the center of our lives that He doesn't start messing with our agendas.

As long as we keep God at a distance He will not take control of our neighborhoods, our churches or our communities, and thus unrighteousness will rule. He will be close enough for our invocation and benedictions, but not part of the anything in between.

What we must do to reverse this downward spiral in our lives is to get involved in our local churches. God wants us to live life in the most meaningful, dynamic and significant way possible. He has a book, "The Bible", that will enable individuals, families, churches and society to function properly if we adjust our lives to His Word. Then we will have "The Bible" that makes better individuals. Better Individuals make better Neighborhoods. Better Neighborhoods make better Communities. Better Communities make better Churches. Better Churches make Better Cities. Better Cities make better States. Better States that help shape a Better World.

Then we become a world on target.

You know what the Bible stands for, (Basic Instructions, Before, Leaving, Earth).

*Adapted from Living All of Life By The Kingdom Agenda, By Dr. Tony Evans.



He who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. 1 John 4:16

The New Testament proclaims agape love as the supreme virtue under which all others must line up. It centers on the needs and welfare of the one loved and pays the price necessary to meet those needs and foster that welfare.

Jesus clearly stated that the Bible's two greatest commandments are: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Where do you "Line Up" as far as this particular virtue is concerned? Are you willing to "Pay the Price" necessary to meet those needs

and foster that welfare? Great questions! What are your answers?

MILESTONE HOUSE UPDATE

Waco CDC's newest project is the Milestone House.

We are going to take an old house and do an "extreme make-over" and make the house affordable to a family who graduated from Compassion Ministry. We are going to complete about \$75,000 worth of improvements to the house, but sell it at an affordable price of \$45,000. This means that the family can reach a milestone of owning a home and the dilapidated house can be put to use again raising another family.

Thanks to a donation from Synergy Bank, we hosted a fundraising luncheon at Ridgewood Country Club. There were over 90 guests in attendance who learned about how they could participate in the Milestone House. To date about 1/3 of the \$30,000 needed to complete the construction has been donated. We have three church groups that will each provide the furnishings for one of the nine rooms.

The family that we are serving is going through our home buyer counseling and financial literacy programs. This will better prepare them for the new adventure of Homeownership.

We have room for you or your group in this project. We are still raising the funds for the construction and we have 6 more rooms to help furnish.

Although we impatiently wait to finish the fundraising, the plans for the renovation are being discussed. It is our goal to have the family moved in and settled before Christmas.

*If you would like to hear more about the Milestone House give Mike a call at 235-7358.



We're putting more neighbors into neighborhoods.

PERMANENT VACATION

BY: ABBY SOBEL

This month I took a twelve day vacation to New York. Theater is my usual reason for visiting "THE CITY", but this year I went to visit my family, cousins I knew as well as some I had never met before. They were my age or a little younger, but they all said the same thing, "Why are you still working? Why don't you take a permanent vacation like we have? It is great!" My visit was great and I loved every minute of it from walking the boardwalks in Far Rockaway, Brighton, and Long Beach to the food. I gained five pounds! They all wanted me to stay longer, come back again soon participate in their vacation style life. It was very tempting and in some ways still is, but the work done at Waco CDC is so very rewarding.

This week a 56 year old grandmother signed a contract to buy her first home, a nice place for her grandchildren to live in and someday to own. I asked her if she needed anything for her new home since it is much larger than the house she has been renting for 15 years.

She said, "I am a very good shopper, I go to garage sales and estate sales and I will furnish this home. Nothing from the old house will follow us to our new home."

When she closes on her home next month, I will be as proud of her as she is of her new home.

There are a few more ladies, men, students and families out there that want a new home. When my list of those who want a new home diminish, I will start that "Permanent Vacation!"

More New Neighbors!

It's time to welcome another great couple to our neighborhood. Our "Welcome Party" for Josh & Lindsay was celebrated on Tuesday, June 26th at 6:30p.m. "Welcome To The Neighborhood!" Josh & Lindsay!



ADULT LITERACY CLASSES

On Thursday evenings at 6 p.m. we are now hosting Financial Literacy & Homebuyer Education classes. If you are interested in becoming a new homeowner and want to straighten out your present financial status, the Financial Literacy & Homebuyer Education classes are a great resource. Faith Covenant Support Services will be teaching the classes but the classes will be hosted at the Waco CDC office located at 1624 Colcord. We will start another Financial Literacy Series on July 20th, 2006. Interested? Call: 235-7358

A WORK IN PROGRESS

There is a lot going on with Waco CDC. M.L Dickey is busy renovating several properties and has several new houses up and going strong. It is exciting to see all of the activity that is taking place. If you have driven the neighborhood before, you will notice a marked difference in how things are shaping up. Call for a personal tour or drive through the neighborhood to see what's going on.



We're putting more neighbors into neighborhoods.

