

Waco Community Development

"Helping to inspire and cultivate healthy neighborhoods."

May 2015



Easter in the Park, An Egg-travaganza

By Alexis Christensen

Portia Littlejohn, a long time East Waco resident, wanted to do something positive for her community. That something was the first annual *Easter in the Park* at Oscar DuConge Park this past April. "I have always had a need to give something back to the community. What better way to give back than doing something special for the children. The Easter Egg hunt was a family event that children and parents could participate in together," said Ms. Littlejohn.

Over 200 people from the community came out to share an Easter egg hunt, hotdogs, bounce houses and live music. Ms. Littlejohn and Ms. Jeanette Bell of Northeast Riverside Neighborhood Association even made the evening news! The event had the generous support of the Carver Neighborhood Association, the Northeast Riverside Neighborhood Association, SAMS Club, H-E-B and Wal-Mart. Several volunteers from the community helped fill eggs and serve food.



Easter Egg Hunting

This wasn't just a successful event. It was a group of people working together to transform their community in a positive way. Ms. Littlejohn agrees, "Easter in the Park was a success because of friends like [Waco Community Development] and all the others who gave so much."



Kids enjoying the slides

in East Waco to highlight the strengths of the community. Just as Ms. Littlejohn said, "Our unified commitment to the community was a success because we acted as one body with one purpose, and that was to make our children proud of being a part of a community that cares about them!"



Portia Littlejohn and friend

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*



Issue 54 - 2015

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Reading Doesn't Stop for the Summer for J.H. Hines Book Club Students



A huge thanks goes out to the Waco McLennan County Retired Teachers Association for donating books to the Book Club students at J.H. Hines Elementary at their end of year celebration! Thanks also to the Pleasant Olive Missionary Baptist Church members who mentored students this year. Many of the students are now reading on grade level because of this intentional time spent on reading!



Thank you

We want to express our appreciation to Bank of America for supporting our Homeowner Education and Housing Programs. Bank of America is a long time supporter of our programs through donations and through staff teaching part of our homebuyer education classes.



Stephanie Arnett from Bank of America presenting Mike and our board a check.

Waco Lemonade Day

The first city wide "Waco Lemonade Day" was held on May 4th across Waco. There were 26 lemonade stands with over 80 kids demonstrating the entrepreneur training that they had received. The kids are taught 14 entrepreneurial lessons by an adult using a structured workbook. The children learn "Set a Goal, Make a Plan, and Work a Plan to Achieve their Dreams." We enjoyed seeing all of the creative lemonade stands and sampling the different products. If you are interested in helping with Lemonade Day please contact our office at (254) 235-7358.



Alexis presenting Asset Based Community Development to leaders in Oak Cliff.

Volunteering

By Darrell Abercrombie

In its simplest definition a volunteer is someone who freely, without any legal obligation, chooses to act in recognition of a need. Our ministry could never happen without the faithful service of so many people. Those who teach at Waco Community Development supply valuable information and time with our staff and students.

Nora Reed has been teaching Money Matters or Budgeting over 8 years. Thalia Williams and Jacob Kates, of Community Bank of Waco, have helped students understand charges associated with loans and keeping their identity safe. Bret Craytor and Michael Warren, of Compass BBVA, have recently taught our students about banking, saving, and how to calculate interest rates.



Brian Jones teaching class.

If you would like the opportunity to use your gift to help and serve others, give us a call. We need help teaching our students about Credit Reports, interest rates, lending terms, mortgage process, predatory lending etc. Just give us a call or come by.



Royce Berger

10TH ANNUAL WACO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GOLF SCRAMBLE

Thank you to all of our Corporate Sponsors,
Hole Sponsors, prize donors, Tim Holtkamp's BBQ and
all of the great Golf Players.



Winning Team

Meet our Newest Intern

My name is Verlyn Johnson. I am currently an intern with Waco Community Development Corporation. I am looking forward to being involved in helping plant the seeds of enriching the fabric of our community and watching it grow into a magnificent flourishing community that we call home. I am finishing up my last year of graduate school at the University of Southern California with a degree in Social Work. I am originally from Northern California, however I made claim to Waco as my home 20 years ago. I am a chronic volunteer and believe in helping families and communities discover the greatness that each individual has and watching them shine brightly.

I have had the honor to volunteer with Mission Waco working youths. I have also been privileged to work with the elderly in our community giving them that special care and honor they so deserve. I am especially honored that I am here with Waco Community Development Corporation because of the opportunity to be part of the mission of revitalizing the community, and acknowledging that communities matter not just in words but in deeds as well. I am grateful for this opportunity to serve my community in this capacity and to elevate voices that are determined to show their greatness within their communities.



New Great Partner

We are excited to announce that we were awarded a grant from the Community Grants of Independent Bank. The grant will provide assistance in support of our First Time Homebuyer Program.

- 450 families served each year
- 150 students in our classes
- 21 families graduated buying \$1.9 million in homes



James Tippit, Kate Perry, and Charlie Rigney, presenting a check to Mike, Elaine and the Board.



1624 Colcord Ave.
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Waco Community Development helps to inspire and cultivate healthy neighborhoods.

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Bouncing into Town

By Mike Stone

Bounce, an arm of the disaster relief group from the Baptist General Convention, is bringing 180 youth from all over Texas to come serve some of our disabled, elderly

and low-income homeowners in Waco. The youth will help us re-roof houses, rebuild porches and paint houses. Bounce is scheduled to be in Waco July 6 thru July 10.

I am truly happy with the ramp that they built for me , especially after two knee re-placements and four other major surgeries.. I never would have made it without this ramp. It is truly a blessing for me.—a widowed neighbor on North 12th street.

Not a youth? That’s okay! We need churches, businesses and Sunday School Classes to provide lunches during the week. As one of our lunch servers said “ I regained my faith in our future hanging out with the hardworking youth of Bounce. They are up on the roofs in the searing heat, smiling, singing and working.”

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



BY THE NUMBERS

Housing:

Homeowners: 242
New Homes: 53
Renovated: 18

Education:

Counseled: 1781
Active: 116

Maintenance:

Volunteers: 6,959
Vol. Hours: 62,923
Lots Mowed: 3,034