

CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORP., INC.

1819 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Dallas TX 75215

P O BOX 152551, Dallas, TX 75315

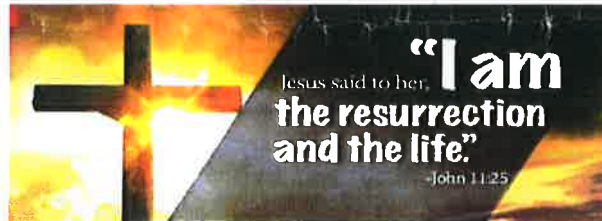
(214) 426-5468 / csimmons@cornerstonedallas.org

www.cornerstonedallas.org

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2018

Dear Partners in Ministry:

THE HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION



Sitting back and reflecting on all the Easter activities of this past week, it reminded me once again of the privilege of sharing with our neighbors in the South Dallas/Fair Park community of the wonderful hope that we have in Christ and that the same power that was able to resurrect Him out of a state of despair is available to them with the same results. Over the past 30 years of my family serving at Cornerstone, we have seen the Resurrection Story played out many times as demonstrated in the lives of individuals who were once hopeless and considered "the least of these" who would never amount to anything to now faithfully giving back and making a difference in the community to seeing facilities that were once community nuisances resurrected to building that offer hope in despair and light in darkness, we have been encouraged because the resurrection power is still alive and well.

Anthony Campolo in a sermon entitled, "It's Friday But Sunday's Coming" (you can search for it on YouTube), tells of being in a service when a preacher spoke about the situation on Friday being bleak and hopeless. The scene involved Jesus on a tree, Mary crying her eyes out, the disciples in disarray, darkness covering the earth, and the forces of evil seemingly in command; however, the Good News was the story did not end on Friday afternoon. Sunday came, and it made a remarkable world transforming difference in the lives of many.

During this Resurrection season, we would like to thank the many of you who are so instrumental in helping us to resurrect hope in the lives of many. It is because of your prayers, involvement and support that we have had the privilege of seeing many individuals move from a "Friday afternoon to an early Sunday morning" reality. We hope that this newsletter update will communicate some of the life changing resurrection events taking place in the neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Chris L. Simmons

SPRING BREAK MISSION TEAMS

For several weeks in the Spring, Cornerstone hosts several teams who travel to Dallas to serve with us. This year, our teams came from Wyoming, Indiana, Arkansas, Nebraska, Kansas and Lamesa, TX. The service to the community is invaluable as they help lead Bible Clubs for neighborhood children and youth, engage with senior citizens, host block parties and help with some of Cornerstone's ongoing ministries such as the Clothing Closet and Kitchen, as well as provide many hours performing construction projects.



CORNERSTONE SATURDAY KIDS PROGRAM

In a community where children are being raised either by single mothers or grandparents, the Saturday morning Cornerstone Kids Program provides a great opportunity for the church to invest in the young people in the community. Volunteers provide Bible study, recreation and a great lunch during the program that lasts from 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM. If you have a desire to impact the lives of children in the South Dallas community, you can visit us at <http://ckids.ivolunteer.com>.



NEW HOME FOR COWORKING AND ADMINISTRATION

Over the past two years, volunteers and contractors have worked diligently to assist Cornerstone in completing the renovation of two homes that were built in 1910. Although we were advised that it would be best to bulldoze the homes and start over from scratch, we believed that although the homes were in great disrepair, they could be resurrected as a testament to the community. Because of the contributions of many donors and many, many hours of volunteer and contract labor, the homes are now complete. One home is being used as the Cornerstone Children's Center on Wednesday and Sundays as well as home where mission teams can reside while they are in the Dallas area. The other home is the new headquarters for the Viola's House for homeless teenage pregnant young ladies.

This Spring Break, renovation has started on the last project on South Boulevard that will provide space for the volunteers and staff in a coworking environment. It will also house a conference room and three co-working office spaces. Most importantly, it will allow the staff (paid and volunteer) to expand without using classrooms at the main church facility where space is already at a premium.

To complete this renovation in a timely fashion, volunteers and funds are needed. If you are available to assist, please contact Richard Smith @ rsmith@llanoriverfence.com. You may also send financial gifts to the address at the end of the newsletter. This project is projected to cost a total of \$150,000 as detailed in the budget below.



Construction Phase

Projected Cost

1. Scraping and Painting Exterior	\$5,000
2. HVAC	\$10,500
3. Plumbing (Rough)	\$10,500
4. Plumbing (Top Out)	\$10,500
5. Electrical (Rough)	\$13,000
6. Electrical (Finish)	\$6,000
7. Interior Painting and Sheetrock	\$6,500
8. Material for Interior	\$15,000
9. Windows	\$22,000
10. Wood Flooring (Rehab)	\$8,000
11. Kitchen	\$9,000
12. Appliances	\$5,500
13. Insulation	\$8,500
14. Landscaping	\$3,500
15. Roof	\$16,500

TOTAL PROJECT COST

\$150,000

The C.A.R.D. PROJECT



The C.A.R.D. Board Project "Empowered by Courage, Acceptance, Responsibility, & Dignity" launched their Digital Mobile Pop-Up Camp (DMPUC) in partnership with Cornerstone this past summer to provide a safe space with Wi-Fi access, laptop stations, and assistance in navigating the on-line digital world for those that normally would not have access to these types of resources. Every Tuesday and Thursday before the lunch meal is served at Cornerstone Kitchen, individuals can drop by and check emails, create email account, job board access, enroll in training programs, find assistance with on-line job portals and applications, and apply for social services. The following services are provided onsite at the Cornerstone Kitchen through the Project.

- Job Placement Programs
- Online Job portal assistance
- Social Services
- Create and educate regarding professional email accounts
- Job Readiness Programs
- Create resumes
- Felony Friendly Job Programs
- Coordination of local resources
- Mentoring



Although there are many stories of lives that have been resurrected through the C.A.R.D. Project, one that immediately comes to mind is "Michael" and "Michelle". In October through the availability of the Digital Mobile Pop-Up Camp (DMPUC) at the Cornerstone Church Kitchen they came with a determination that they wanted a better life. Homeless and sleeping on the floor of an abandoned house, they had no water, ability to store or cook food, no medical care, no car, no job and very limited opportunity to escape their dilemma. Through scores of setbacks, disappointments and challenges, "Michael" and "Michelle" were able to stay focused and positive and within fourteen weeks, with the help of volunteers, contributors, and assisting entities, they had participated in advanced job training, secured gainful employment, received critical medical care, and were able to move into their own apartment and set up a household. Through all the distractions, disappointments, and difficulties, Micha and Mercedes created a much more positive future for themselves.



If you would like to volunteer, please email armando@thecardproject.org or visit their website at www.thecardboardproject.org.

ERVAY PLAZA UPDATE

Last Spring many of our faithful partners helped Cornerstone to purchase the Ervay Plaza, a community nuisance because of the gambling, drinking, gang activities, random gunfire and other illegal activities that took place at the site. Over the past year, we have been focused on renovating the two houses on South Blvd. and now that those projects have been completed, we are turning our attention to resurrecting the Plaza into a community asset that will service the residents in the immediate with services that have been lacking for years. One of the major initiatives is to provide the Cornerstone Community Laundromat.



The Real Estate Council (www.recouncil.com) is a group of real estate professionals in North Texas who are known for intersecting career and community to impact the lives of others while developing the leaders of tomorrow. The Real Estate Council members spark community transformation, influence policy and propel careers in DFW and beyond. To fund the Laundromat

initiative, they hosted a Casino Night for their members. TREC's annual Casino Night is the premier spring networking event for young commercial real estate professionals in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. This year, the Young Guns TREC Foundation Project raised the necessary funds to move forward on this renovation project.



The Laundromat endeavors to create a non-profit laundromat focused on washing the clothes and bedding of at-risk, low-income individuals and/or families. It aims to bring financial relief towards individuals and families through the redirection of laundry funds towards food, transportation, child care and other basic needs. One major factor contributing to this initiative is the decrease in attendance rates of school-aged children due to unwashed clothes. The emotional strain placed on elementary and junior high students due to teasing is heightened when the youth's unwashed clothing emits an unpleasant odor; therefore, the youth of the community have decided to forfeit education in an attempt to save face. Additionally, unwashed clothing and bedding creates an environment conducive for parasites, bacteria and viruses to thrive. We hope to prevent the physical and emotional burden of poor health and hygiene by affording individuals the opportunity to properly care for themselves and their families with dignity.

The Laundromat will also foster community participation within the neighborhood through inspired connections with the potential to provide job opportunities for the individuals and families served. It also has the potential to become a launching point for creating partnerships for housing options, employment and health care, education, and other holistic ways to resource the lives of those in need.

The Cornerstone Laundry Project goals are as follows:

- (1) To establish a non-profit, and self-sustaining business model.
- (2) To provide affordable laundry services to the community.
- (3) To provide jobs for low-income families, and job-experience, training, and income to youth within the community.

CORNERSTONE TOWNHOMES Coming Soon – WE HOPE!

Several years ago, Cornerstone Community Development Corp., Inc. was able to purchase property at the corner of South Blvd. and Colonial Streets to provide housing for the community. Originally, the site had two homes that had been demolished but in order to maximize space, the property was re-platted to accommodate five new townhomes. The team from the Corgan Architects (www.corgan.com) through the Real Estate Council provided the concept probono.



TRINITY RESTORATION MINISTRY / (Cornerstone's Prison ReEntry) GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT - Cesar Vasquez



Cesar Vasquez is quiet and unassuming, Cesar is another one of TRM's successful graduates. Hailing from the sunny and sultry Havana, Cesar first arrived at our residential aftercare facility (Trinity House) in September of 2013, and since then has cultivated one of the most impressive work ethics we have ever seen. He will grin somewhat sheepishly as he tells you that for the past year, he has proudly worked nearly 200 hours per month as a cook at Dallas's well-known Press Box Grill, located in the historic Wilson Building in downtown Dallas. A model case of how reentrants

should learn to manage money, Cesar supports his family, and gives generously to multiple charities, including children's hospitals. Any success he experiences, he is quick to attribute to God. Cesar continues to reside at Trinity House, and when asked what his plans are for the future, he conjures a lopsided grin before saying, "Well, move. But not yet."

SHALOM BUILDERS OF NORTH TEXAS



Hurricane Harvey was a Category 4 storm that hit Texas on August 25, 2017. It caused \$125 billion in damage according to the National Hurricane Center. Rev. Gerald Davis, Minister of Outreach at Cornerstone Baptist Church started the Shalom Builders of North Texas and has been working with homeowners to help families in Port Arthur repair and rebuild their home. Hurricane Harvey displaced over 600 families in Port Arthur alone, aside from the devastation in Orange, Vida, Deweyville and surrounding areas. Although the need is great, this collaborative effort is

hoping to help one family return to their homes. In addition to homes being repaired, volunteers were also involved in helping to distribute two 18-wheeler truckloads of supplies donated by Wal-Mart.



Volunteers, prayers and donations are needed. More information and volunteer opportunities can be accessed via the Shalom Builders website, www.shalombuilders.org. Or, contact Gerald Davis at this email gldavis1107@gmail.com or by phone at 214-924-6401 for more information.

ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you are interested in serving with us at Cornerstone or to make a financial contribution, you may contact us at:

**CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH or
CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORP.**
1819 Martin Luther King Jr., Blvd., Dallas, TX 75215
Post Office Box 152551, Dallas, TX 75315
c.simmons@cornerstonedallas.org

Donations may be made online at
www.cornerstonedallas.org



CORNERSTONE AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

Assists children (K-6th) in the South Dallas community with homework, projects, and mentoring with the goal of helping them have a successful school years. With a large number of children in the community being raised by either a single parent or grandparent, many children were failing school because they could not find anyone to assist them with homework assignments.

CORNERSTONE KITCHEN

The Cornerstone Kitchen provides meals eight times a week and builds relationships with the homeless. Volunteers assist in preparing and/or serving the meal to our guests.

CORNERSTONE CLOTHING CLOSET & SHOWERS

The Clothes Closet/Shower Facility allows those in need to choose clean clothing every 30 days and are able to take showers anytime the facility is open.

CORNERSTONE MEDICAL MISSIONS

CORNERSTONE MEDICAL CLINIC is operational on Tuesday and provides medical care for the indigent.

CORNERSTONE DENTAL CLINIC is operational on selected Fridays and is for individuals in need of tooth extractions.

CORNERSTONE EYEGLOSS CLINIC is operational on selected Saturdays and provides an eye exam and a pair of glasses to those in need.

CORNERSTONE CROSSROADS ACADEMY

The Cornerstone Crossroads Academy (C.C.A.) is a faith-based school ministering to the needs of high school students who have not succeeded in the public-school system.

BELOVED COMMUNITY / WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Beloved Women's Ministry shares God's love in practical ways through interactive Bible studies with many homeless and indigent women.

