

Northwest Jacksonville Community Development Corporation

At Home in the Community

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NJCDC Does Its Part to Fulfill the Dream

On January 17th, NJCDC and Community Volunteers did their part to fulfill the dream. To celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, NJCDC and the 29th and Chase Neighborhood Association sponsored a community service event. The theme for the community clean up was "Make it a Day 'ON', not a Day 'OFF'".

Twenty-seven volunteers arrived to the service project on the cold Monday morning and were handed plastic gloves, garbage bags, and trash grabbers. They spread out over the 29th and Chase Community, collecting over fifty bags of trash. Volunteers were rewarded with a free cook out lunch.

The service project was one of hundreds of activities that states and cities organized to honor the legacy of Dr. King. Five years ago, Congress passed the King Holiday and Service Act, directing the King Center and the Corporation for National and Community Service to carry out a day of service reflecting Dr. King's life and teachings.

In particular, these events are often carried out by AmeriCorps members. AmeriCorps is a national service program, often referred to as the "domestic Peace Corps". NJCDC's AmeriCorps Member, Katie Harper, led the planning for the clean up, and volunteers in-



Volunteers pose by some trash they collected.

cluded eight Jacksonville-based AmeriCorps members. A BIG thank you to all Volunteers!

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Welcome New Board Members

NJCDC is excited to welcome two new members to its Board of Directors! Cheryl Johnson-Murray and Lloyd T. Washington are the newest recruits to take a place on the Board.

Ms. Johnson-Murray was a found-

ing Board Member of NJCDC, and the organization is pleased to welcome her back. She is President of an event services company and is very involved in the community.

Mr. Washington is also heavily involved in community affairs. He

is the President of the Grand Park Neighborhood Association and has worked for the Florida Times-Union for many years.

The Board looks forward to both new members making positive contributions to the community.

Tree Planting Extravaganza



Picking up trash is fun with a friend!

In urban settings, such as the NJCDC target area, it is important to maintain a connectedness to the environment. We want to teach individuals to respect the earth and teach the children of our community to make responsible decisions. One way NJCDC works to this end is through neighborhood clean ups (see page 1). Another way that

NJCDC works for the environment is by doing tree plantings.

On January 28th, fifty-two students and staff from the Solomon Schechter Day School joined NJCDC in planting 100 bushes and plants and cleaning up a 1.6- acre city-owned property.

The day was somewhat cold and

rainy, but everyone who participated enjoyed the community service event. The area looks beautiful and the neighborhood residents appreciate the hard work.

We thank the wonderful volunteers from Solomon Schechter for doing their part to make our community look a little more beautiful.



The entire group poses after a hard morning's work.



A Pillar of the Community

Board Member Profile



Mr. W.J. Lewis is an important part of NJCDC and the Jacksonville community.

Mr. Willie J. Lewis, NJCDC Board Treasurer, is a pillar of the 29th and Chase community. His hard work and dedication to community improvement are assets to NJCDC and the entire neighborhood.

Mr. Lewis and his wife, Roberta, raised two children, and Mr. Lewis is now the proud grandfather of two. Originally from Detroit, Mr. Lewis came to Jacksonville with the U.S. Navy. He has called Jacksonville his home since 1976. Mr. Lewis is retired,

after 24 years as Senior Chief Electrician's Mate.

He is heavily involved in the 29th and Chase community and the Jacksonville community as a whole. In addition to being Treasurer of NJCDC, he is President of the 29th and Chase Neighborhood Association and a Board Member of the Housing Partnership of Jacksonville.

Because of his leadership roles in the community, Mr. Lewis is well aware of the issues facing the

NJCDC target area. He points to crime as the biggest problem in the neighborhood, but notes that this is a problem throughout the city.

Mr. Lewis plans to continue his involvement with NJCDC in the future. He sees the organization moving forward in several different directions. He would like to see NJCDC look at single-family home rehabilitation and take action to challenge some social problems in the community.

Executive Director's Corner

This month, our Executive Director focuses on the change that NJCDC inspires in its target neighborhood. As community residents see NJCDC building new homes, they begin improvement projects on their own homes. As is our goal, we are not just building homes, we are building communities. The Northside is becoming the place to be!

By Paul Tutwiler

North is the Promised Land!

North is the place to be! Escaping oppression, the slaves followed the *North Star*. The Israelites circled the Mountain for 40 years before the Lord told them to go *North* to the Promised Land. We have a lot to be proud of in our Land of today, but there are challenges and struggles yet to fight. There is, however, no place like home.

Home is a place of fond childhood memories and cherished family gatherings. It's the place to go see grandma and grandpa. Home is on the *Northside*!

NJCDC has helped six new families choose our community to build homes. Six more are in various stages of construction.

These home sales will stop if AIDS, crime, failing schools, and contaminated land are all



On West 30th Street, a homeowner replaces an old roof with a new one, adding to the beauty of the neighborhood.

that we associate with our community.

Did you (the reader) find the Durkeeville Historical Center? It's a well kept secret place of artifacts and photos of Jacksonville's African American History from about 1900. I wonder if you knew that the Durkeeville Historical Society does an annual tribute to the Negro Baseball League in J.P. Small Park (8th Street at Myrtle). That organization also does a music fest every year to pay homage to musical greats from the neighborhood.

In fact yesterday's community of the *Northside* was the place to live. Only the who's who could afford to live here. I only wish I could hear the fine music that played in the Two Spot (Moncrief Road at W. 45th Street). Only elegance was reportedly displayed there.

That same community today is riddled with lack of pride and despair.

Lift your head with pride *North-*

side residents. We are privileged to live in the place where prominence has stood and shall stand forever more. Life is what you make it. Stand tall and stand steady.

Often our Goliath (our biggest enemy) is ourselves. We have to stop thinking of our community as the worst place in the entire city. We have to address our internal issues as we seek help from external sources. Crime will not disappear without our help! I've fussed with the Sheriff's Office about solving crime concerns only to hear their concerns about crime witnesses not coming forward.

I'm further frustrated by reports from the community that Sheriff's Officers were either rude or apathetic to victims pleading for relief. Where is the middle ground for results to occur?

Successful housing development by NJCDC is not the only answer. The call to action is an echo that we should all hear!



"We are privileged to live in the place where prominence has stood and shall stand forever more...Stand tall and stand steady."



NJCDC inspires change on West 27th Street! This homeowner began installation of a new garage and driveway after an NJCDC home was built next door.

Fighting Crime in Northwest Jacksonville

“We are going to...outline a creative plan to fight crime in northwest Jacksonville.”

In recent weeks, residents of the NJCDC target area have raised concerns about crime in the neighborhood. Several robberies and incidents of vandalism occurred recently, and citizens will not allow these activities to continue in our community.

Currently, NJCDC is looking at crime initiatives that have worked in other communities throughout the country. It is our goal to help develop a new and improved partnership between the Sheriff’s Office, community

members, and NJCDC. We are going to do a lot of research, find out what might work, and outline a creative plan to fight crime in northwest Jacksonville.

One way of dealing with crime that the Sheriff’s Office set up is through the Sheriff’s Advisory Councils (ShAdCos). The purpose of ShAdCo is to assist JSO in several ways, including community interaction, image building, strengthening neighborhood relations, reporting crime, and helping solve traffic, patrol,

safety, and communication problems.

To find out more about the NJCDC target area ShAdCo (Zone 5), please contact Assistant Chief Jimmy Holderfield at 210 S. McDuff Avenue at (904) 384-8028. Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at Hammond Park (3312 W. 12th Street) and are open to the public.

Get involved and make yourself heard to challenge crime in our community.



Board and Staff concentrate during the strategic planning session.

NJCDC Plans for Future

NJCDC Board of Directors and NJCDC Staff attended a board retreat on January 21 and January 22. The purpose of the retreat was to strategically plan for the upcoming years.

Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) sponsored the retreat and offered a superb con-

sultant, Grizel Ubarry, to lead the planning process.

The process will be completed in the spring with a full write up of the ideas discussed at the retreat.



There was a great turn out for the strategic planning sessions.



Pastor Johnson addresses the crowd at Grace and Truth CDC's open house.

Congratulations to a Fellow CDC!

NJCDC congratulates Grace and Truth CDC for completing its first home! The single-story ranch model is located on Ardmore Street. The entire Board and staff of NJCDC are happy for Executive Director Pastor E.M. Johnson, Grace and Truth’s

Board of Directors, and the entire community!

Grace and Truth CDC celebrated their victory with an open house on January 26. We look forward to seeing more upcoming successes from Grace and Truth CDC.



Picture Gallery



NJCDC AmeriCorps Volunteer Katie Harper picks up trash with student volunteers.



Executive Director Paul Tutwiler gets "down and dirty".



NJCDC Staff and 29th and Chase Members celebrate the successful Martin Luther King Clean Up.



Students from Solomon Schechter Day School pose by the bushes that they donated and planted.



Ms. Ethel Griffin of the 29th and Chase Neighborhood Association shows off her jump roping skills.



LISC AmeriCorps member Jenna Daugherty entertains children at the MLK Event.

In Celebration of NJCDC's Recent Planting... Top Eight Reasons to Plant Trees

1. **Trees make effective sound barriers.** Trees, planted at strategic points around your house, can abate major noises from freeways and airports.
2. **Trees produce oxygen.** A mature leafy tree produces as much oxygen in a season as 10 people inhale in a year.
3. **Trees become "carbon sinks".** An urban forest is a carbon storage area that can lock up as much carbon as it produces.
4. **Trees clean the air.** Trees help cleanse the air by intercepting airborne particles, reducing heat, and absorbing such pollutants as carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide.
5. **Trees shade and cool.** Trees reduce the need for air conditioning in the summer and heat in the winter.
6. **Trees act as windbreaks.** During cold and windy seasons, trees act as windbreaks.
7. **Trees fight soil erosion.** Trees fight soil erosion, conserve rainwater, and reduce water runoff and sediment deposit after storms.
8. **Trees increase property values.** Real estate values increase when trees beautify a property or neighborhood.

Taken from forestry.about.com

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Northwest Jacksonville Community Development Corporation (NJCDC) improves the quality of life in our neighborhood in a way that embraces economic diversity, makes businesses eager to invest, honors area history, and creates a thriving community for families since 2001.

At Home in the Community



Interested in Becoming a Homeowner?

NJCDC wants to help you or someone you know become a homeowner. We will work with you until you become credit-ready, whether it takes a day or two years.

We offer the following:

- Low Down Payment Options
- Mortgage Assistance
- Credit Referrals

We can answer any question you have about the process of purchasing a home.

All of our homes feature the following amenities:

- Central Heat/Air
- Wall to Wall Carpeting
- Spacious Master Bedroom
- Large Kitchen
- Living/Dining Room

- Covered Patio or Garage
- Refrigerator
- Range
- Dishwasher
- Pre-wired for Security and Cable

Call NJCDC today for more information at (904) 301-3767. We look forward to helping make your dream of homeownership a reality!

On a final note, we sincerely thank all our recent volunteers for their hard work. YOU help NJCDC achieve success!

