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Fall 2009

NUTS & BOLTS

News from The Fuller Center of Northwest Louisiana
Distributed to volunteers & donors

Published three times a year
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FALL 2009

Conference will highlight Allendale building projects

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Lee Jeter, FCNWLA executive director, said he is proud to host the event and “to showcase what we’ve built, all our partners and our city.”

The conference will cover over 13 topics. Weir said that the essential idea she formed at last year’s meeting is the “importance of partnering with entities in the community.” Several of the conference’s sessions address this concern.

Weir also is interested in the session labeled, “ReUse Store Strategies.” She said



Katie Weir and Becky Cooksey are coordinating the conference.

this is about creating an income source from the reselling of donated items.

“For example,” Weir said, “many stores will donate items that they can’t sell because of imperfections.” Groups that receive these

items may not be able to use them in their building projects but can resell them for operating revenue.

Participants in the conference will be staying at the Downtown Holiday Inn on Lake Street and will be transported to the church and other venues.

Weir said that they will need about 15 local volunteers to help with the conference in areas such as meals, registration and transportation.

Remember FCNWLA in your year-end giving.

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The Fuller Center
for Housing
Building on Higher Ground

Legacy Build culminates with dedications

Because of soggy weather, the sidewalks leading to the 39th and 40th FCNWLA homes were not complete for the Oct. 24 dedications, but the path to building the homes had been trod by over 200 volunteers who participated in the late summer Millard Fuller Legacy Build.

Referring to the perfect weather at the beginning of the build, Lee Jeter, FCNWLA executive director, said, “It started out great and got better because of the donations.”

Talley Alley donated both the flooring and labor to tile both houses. Campbell Paint & Wallcovering, a company paid to do all the taping and floating, then volunteered to do all the interior and exterior painting, which was donated by Martin Specialty Coating.

“Because of the outpour-



Dedication of the two Legacy Build homes at 1441 and 1445 Alston Street coincided with Make a Difference Day. Volunteers helped with landscaping projects prior to the midday ceremony, which included several Shreveport ministers and Mayor Cedric Glover.

ing of support from the professional community, we had to cancel two volunteer weekends,” Jeter said. “We like that kind of disappointment.”

The 39th house had previously been funded by First United Methodist Church, Shreveport. Additional mon-

etary donations to fund the 40th house came from St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, Holy Trinity, Church of the Holy Cross, Community Foundation Shreveport-Bossier, St. Joseph’s Catholic Church, First Baptist Church Shreveport, St.

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Center to host January Covenant Partner Conference

Over 80 representatives will explore such strategies as developing community partnerships, building “green” and increasing revenue streams when they gather in Shreveport Jan. 15-16 for the 2nd Annual Covenant Partner Conference.

At last year’s conference in Virginia, Millard Fuller

asked FCNWLA board members Becky Cooksey and Katie Weir to host the 2010 meeting.

Beginning at 1 p.m. Friday, the various sessions will be held at First United Methodist Church. The Saturday afternoon sessions end with a tour of Allendale, which the Fuller Center calls

its “flagship” building site.

Dinner will follow with Linda Fuller, co-founder of the Fuller Center for Housing, speaking. Attendance at a Sunday worship service is optional.

Local home owner Phyllis Davis has been selected to speak at Friday’s dinner.

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Volunteer efforts, donations create new homes

LEGACY, from page 1

George's Episcopal Church, First Presbyterian Church, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Bethesda Christian Fellowship and Greater New Zion Missionary Baptist Church.

"We are excited about the diversity of our faith community in support of our mission to provide affordable housing for all God's children," Jeter said.

The build did suffer some setbacks; three separate thefts resulted in the loss of shingles for the building of two sheds and tools valued at \$3,000. These had to be replaced to finish the work. "It's disheartening that people would take what we use to help those in need," Jeter said.

He wants the community to be aware of the thefts so people can report any street sales of tools. Additionally, he says the center is increasing security on its 16-foot-storage trailer, and he would like donated storage space for the trailer and other building supplies.



By the fifth day workers put finishing touches on the homes' exteriors. Fuller Center Covenant Partners around the world participated in similar building projects.



Volunteers raise exterior walls on the first day of the Millard Fuller Legacy Build, which was held Aug. 31 through Sept. 4 in Allendale.



Building the houses begins with site work done before the Legacy Build late summer time frame.

WISH LIST

Help FCNWLA with needs

bookshelves
8-foot folding table
6-foot folding table
round folding table
folding chairs
bottled water
volunteers

OSB board
lumber
roofing materials
storage space
tents
in kind or monetary support

Director plans March build

Lee Jeter thinks he can build a better house.

The executive director of FCNWLA says he "learned a lot" during the Legacy Build and is ready to build two or three houses in March. To build three he needs \$210,000.

He is also beginning to lay the foundation for building in other areas of town.

He said, "There are people who need homes; there is property available."

Jeter also wants organizations in those communities to step up and help through donations and volunteering.

In addition to building new houses, Jeter wants to expand the Greater Blessing repair and renovation program.

The program helps people who are homeowners get the repairs they may need but cannot afford.

A new endeavor in coming months will be involvement in lead abatement in houses built before 1978, especially those houses with minor children.

Jeter said he had previously obtained a pamphlet on lead poisoning so work-



Lee Jeter, executive director

ers could be safe while doing rehab work. "I didn't know it would become a focus area," he said.

In the meantime, the Louisiana Department of Health and Human Services asked the center to get involved in solving the problem of lead poisoning.

"First, I'm getting educated about lead poisoning," Jeter said. "Then I'll pursue grant opportunities to address this issue."

Jeter told of a client who may lose custody of a 4-year-old grandchild if they can't address the problem. The client is disabled and on fixed income; moving is out of the question.

"We need to step in and help them," he said.

Volunteer Recognition

Catholic Community

Jerry Rowe, a parishioner at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, has gotten many churches in the diocese involved in the work of the Fuller Center.

Recently Bishop Michael Duca sent a letter to some parishes about the Fuller Center. "We know that we have assisted a particular family, not for a day, but for many years to come," he said of the opportunity to build a home for someone who needs it.

FCNWLA welcomes your tax-deductible contributions

Please make checks payable to:

FCNWLA
P.O. Box 3173
Shreveport, LA 71133

Executive Director Lee Jeter can discuss giving opportunities with you: 318-221-7474.