

Fort Bend CORPS Welcomes new Board Members

During its Annual meeting of the Fort Bend CORPS, two new members were added as board of directors of the Fort Bend CORPS. Serving a two year term, new members are Kerry Jarka, Vice President of Development Founders Bank and Laura Hartman, Owner of WIT Designs and Events.

Renewing board members are: Barkley Peschel, IronStone Realty Advisors; Bob Brown; Jeff Wiley, Greater Fort Bend EDC; Anthony Francis, LJA Engineering, Inc.; Richard Logan, RiverPointe Church; Betty Baitland, Betty Baitland & Associates; and Mark Zeitler, Regions Bank.

Serving their second year of a two-year term are: Nell Ciancarelli, Champion Technologies; Rochelle Hall, Texas Classic Homes; Angela Oaks, Oaks Law Firm; and Pam Robinson, Brown & Gay Engineers.

interior design firm. She has served as Chairman of Board of Trustees at St John's United Methodist Church and also serves on the Home Owners Association Board in River Forest.



Kerry Jarka

Kerry W. Jarka is a Senior Vice President at Founders Bank in Sugar Land, Texas.

Jarka joined Founders Bank in 2009 from BBVA-Compass Bank, where he was first vice president of consumer lending.

He previously worked at Primus Financial, a credit division of Ford Credit and built the consumer lending function at University State Bank. Jarka has over 30 years experience in the banking and finance industry.



Laura Hartman

A resident of Fort Bend County, Laura and her husband Bill have call Richmond, Texas home for many years. Laura, a native Texan, born in West Texas. Bill and her have 5 children and 4 grandchildren and attend St. John's United Methodist Church in Richmond. A former Lamar CISD school teacher for 8 years and 10 years in sales, she now owns and operates an

Jarka is a graduate of Texas Lutheran University in Seguin, Texas. He and his wife Sandy, a long-time Fort Bend ISD teacher and coach, are residents of Sugar Land along with sons Shane and Korey. Jarka has been involved in a number of community activities throughout his career and is a past president of the Alief Lions Club and presently an active member of the Sugar Land Rotary Club.

Thank you to all our outstanding Board of Directors. We look forward to a great year.

The CORPS is moving

The Fort Bend CORPS is in the final stages of completing the interior renovations of its new building located at 13330 S. Gessner in Missouri City. The CORPS anticipates moving into its new home during the later part of July 2010. The 7800 square foot office and warehouse space will house the staff and operations for the organization.

The completion of the building means another step in the right direction for the organization that has called Fluor Daniel

home for the past ten years. The success of the CORPS' first ever capital campaign has given the organization the ability to purchase its own facility.

Thank you to the many contributors that have supported the CORPS through its first ten years in furthering its mission.

The CORPS will host an open house for its Board Members, Founders Council Members and other invited guests during the third quarter of 2010.

Inside this issue:

CORPS applies for Community Grant	2
Energy Saving Tips	2
Client Thank you	3
Grant Program	3
Become a Founders Council Member	3
Home Dedication	4
Directory Information	4

Mission Statement

Fort Bend CORPS exists to revitalize low-income housing in neighborhoods in Fort Bend County by engaging public/private partnerships and community involvement.

Vision Statement

The Fort Bend CORPS was formed to be an organization that actively and compassionately delivers community revitalization and coordinates, supports and encourages others in this work so that low-income areas in Fort Bend County become functional and productive communities with housing and neighborhoods that are safe and decent.

The CORPS Report

Thank you

The Fort Bend CORPS would like to thank the many businesses that have helped the CORPS during its first ten years of service to the Fort Bend Community. The following businesses are current founders council members of the CORPS that continue to provide in-kind services to the CORPS. Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, Curtice Commercial Real Estate, Republic Services and Null-Lairson.

Energy Saving Tips

TIP #1

Use compact fluorescent lamps. You can lower your lighting bill by converting to energy-efficient low-wattage compact fluorescent lighting and fixtures.

TIP # 2

Fix defective plumbing or dripping faucets. A single dripping hot water faucet can waste 212 gallons of water a month. That not only increases water bills, but also increases the gas or electric bill for heating the water.

TIP # 3

Clean or replace furnace and air-conditioner filters regularly .

TIP # 4

Wash only full loads in a dishwasher and use the shortest cycle that will get your dishes clean. If operating instructions allow, turn off the dishwasher before the drying cycle, open the door and let the dishes dry naturally.

TIP # 5

When buying new appliances, be sure to purchase energy-efficient ENERGY STAR® labeled models.

THANK YOU HEARTS & HAMMERS VOLUNTEERS



As Summer Heats Up, Fort Bend CORPS Aims To Cool Off Area Residents



The Fort Bend CORPS announced it is continuing to offer its energy efficiency program to help county residents lower their energy costs. The goal of the initiative is to provide comprehensive, whole-house repair and restoration to maximize electricity savings for low-income, elderly and disabled homeowners in the Fort Bend County area.

Some of the home repairs include installing attic insulation, solar screens, compact fluorescent lamps, ENERGY STAR room air conditioners, ENERGY STAR ceiling fans and ENERGY STAR refrigerators. Other inspections and repairs include air duct efficiency and air infiltration.

Executive Director Ron Castillo. "With the summer expecting to reach unbearable temperatures and bills creeping higher and higher, people can really appreciate the value of this program."

Available to homeowners year round, the CenterPoint Energy grant provides money for energy efficiency improvements to maximize electricity savings.

"We continue to help Fort Bend residents save money, while also helping the environment," said

CORPS applies for Community Building Grant



The Fort Bend CORPS recently submitted an application to the United Way Community Building Grants program for a one-time, short term special projects funding. The Community Building Grant program was created to make an impact through the creation of innovative projects in local communities.

The trailer will be outfitted with tools to help large volunteer groups complete minor home repair projects on qualified homes. The Hearts & Hammers program is offered year round to all volunteer groups wanting to participate in making minor carpentry and painting improvements. The program is free to qualified applicants in Fort Bend County.

As a result, the CORPS applied for a \$5,000 grant to purchase tools for its Hearts & Hammers tool trailer. The Hearts & Hammers program is a 100% volunteer driven program aimed at involving church groups, civic organizations, businesses and individuals to

The trailer will be outfitted with tools to help large volunteer groups complete minor home repair projects on qualified homes.

If your interested in donating to our tool trailer, please call us at 281-313-2677 (CORPS) or email us at rcastillo@fbcorps.org.

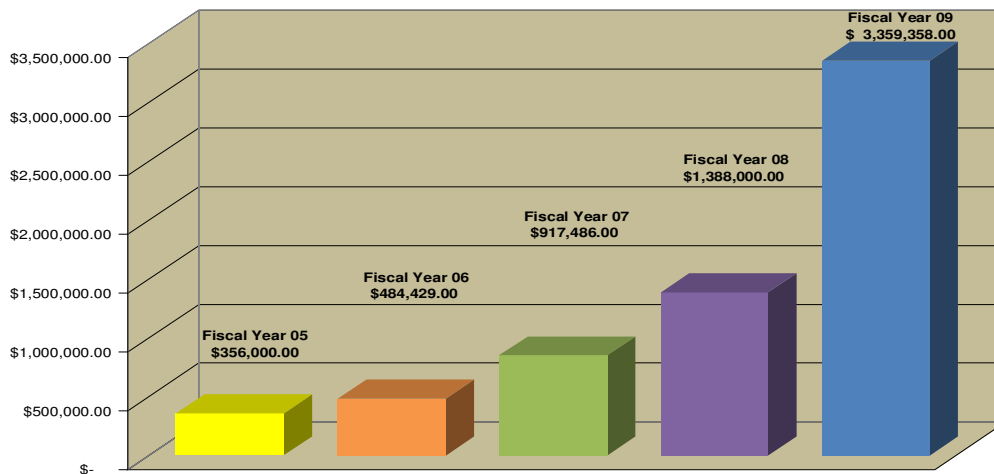
CORPS' successful grant program means more services for clients

During The Fort Bend CORPS' annual appraisal of the organization, Executive Director, Ron Castillo, reported to its Board of Directors the many accomplishments that the agency accomplished during its FY09 year. Part of that success was the CORPS' grant program which reported they applied for over \$4 million dollars in grant funds and have been awarded over \$3.3 million during its FY09 year. The Executive Director reported that the increase in funding is due to the government's stimulus funding provided by cities and State as well as funding received by the local & Federal governments. In addition, funding has been received from corporate funders.

The Executive Director reported that the increase in

funding means that the CORPS can provide additional rehabilitation measures to complete the much needed repairs for County residents.

The Fort Bend CORPS offers five programs to deliver home repairs; Hearts & Hammers Program, Roofs Over Fort Bend Program, Interior Repair Program, Neighborhood Cleanup Program and an Energy Efficiency Program. In existence since 1999 the Fort Bend CORPS exists to initiate and coordinate community efforts to revitalize low-income areas in Fort Bend County. The primary focus is to provide home repair assistance to restore safe and decent housing for low-income, elderly and disabled homeowners who are physically and financially unable to make needed repairs to their homes.



Awarded Grant History Chart



The CORPS is looking for a few Good Founders Council Members

The Founders Council is a group of community leaders who are committed to excellence in Fort Bend County. These community and civic minded businesses, organizations and individuals recognize the need to give back to the community and assist those people who have no earning power, are living on low or fixed incomes and have home repair needs that they cannot afford.

In making a substantial and continued financial commitment to the CORPS, the Founders Council members demonstrate their strong support for the mission and programs of the CORPS, as well as their desire to affect positive changes in the Fort Bend community. Founders Council members commit to provide \$3,000 annually to the CORPS to ensure that the CORPS can operate its free home repair programs.

Benefits in becoming a Founders Council Member include:

- ◆ Name on CORPS stationary, publications and website
- ◆ Annual invitation to luncheon to report progress and results
- ◆ Yard sign listing Founders Council members at each Hearts & Hammers site
- ◆ Your lasting and visible impact on Fort Bend County.

For more information, contact the CORPS at 281-313-2677 (CORPS)

Volunteers Wanted

Are you, your civic, church, school or business organization looking for a volunteer opportunity?

If so, the CORPS has many service opportunities that cater to your skill level. For more information call 281-313-2677, visit our website at www.fbcorps.org or email us at volunteer@fbcorps.org.

Client Thank You

Thank you so much for the gifts to help restore my home. I can't tell you how much it means to me and my family to be able to gather together again. I hope you and your organization continue to serve others and bring happiness to other families.

*Peace and Blessings
Ms. Lewis
Sugar Land, Texas*

Founders Council Spotlight



Serving Houston for over 30 years and employing over 450 personnel, the Sprint Companies own, operate and invest in a variety of niche materials, solid waste and real-estate development businesses throughout the Greater Houston area.

Thank you Sprint for supporting the CORPS the past ten years.

www.sprintcos.com

You can now donate online at
www.fbcorps.org

Click on the Donate button
and help the CORPS further its mission.

*"Improving the Quality of Life
One Home at a Time"*

REMODELING?

Is remodeling in your future? The CORPS accepts any gently used materials or household items that are still in working condition. The CORPS will use them on future projects. Please help the landfills by donating any unused or gently used building materials and appliances to the CORPS. To donate please call 281-313-2677 (CORPS) or email us at info@fbcorps.org

For information on building material donations or appliances, contact Executive Director Ron Castillo at 281-313-2677 (CORPS)

FORT BEND CORPS and DULLES PALS Donate Home to local family



**3 bedroom-910 square foot cottage
built to "green standards"**

The Fort Bend CORPS and Dulles High School PALS officially handed over the keys to Obdulia Estrada & family at a dedication ceremony held on May 23, 2010. Several family, friends, co-workers and PALS were on hand for the dedication. The 910 square foot, 3- bedroom, 1- bath cottage home built to "green standards" was debuted to the awaiting audience who chanted "Move That School Bus", where the beautiful cottage home was awaiting the family.

The home was dedicated in honor of former Sugar Land Mayor Lee Duggan. Mayor Duggan and wife Peggy spoke to the audience and thanked Obdulia & Family for allowing them to take part in giving back to the commu-

nity. Peggy reflected on a sermon that was given in church earlier that morning that she shared with the audience, which made it more special as to why they partnered with the Fort Bend CORPS and the Dulles High School PALS to make this possible.

PALS Coordinator and teacher, Ms. Kay Slack-Beard addressed the audience and thanked the many people who donated to this project. PALS 2009 raised the money for the project and PALS 2010 volunteered their time to build the home. The CORPS acted as the general contractor for the project.

Fort Bend CORPS Executive Director, Ron Castillo, was also on hand to thank the donors and contractors for completing this home project in 30 days. "Not only did we build a home for such a deserving lady, we built a friendship with her family and the surrounding families," commented Castillo.

Homeowner Obdulia Estrada, a 25 year employee of the Fort Bend ISD school district and recipient of the home, addressed the audience and thanked everyone for this dream come true. As tears of joy rolled down her face, she was accompanied by her husband, children and grandchildren. "I never thought this day would ever come. May God bless each and every one of you," Obdulia said.

CORPS Board of Directors

Anthony Francis, Chairman, *LJA Engineering*
Jeff Wiley, Vice-Chairman, *GFBEDC*
Mark Zeitler, Treasurer, *Regions Bank*
Pam Robinson, Secretary, *Brown & Gay Eng.*

Betty Baitland, *Betty Baitland & Associates*
R.C. Brown III
Nell Ciancarelli, *Champion Technologies*
Rochelle Hall, *Texas Classic Homes*
Laura Hartman, *WIT Designs and Events*
Kerry Jarka, *Founders Bank*
Richard Logan, *River Pointe Church*
Angela Oaks, *Oaks Law Firm*
Barkley Peschel, *IronStone Realty Advisors*

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Milton Wright, *Fort Bend County Sheriff*
Bill Jameson, *W.J. Interests, LLC*
Brent & Dr. Mazie Leftwich
Steve Robinson, *ABHR*
Cindy Marion, *Marion, Montgomery, Inc.*
Tom Stavinoha, *Former County Commissioner*

CORPS Founders Council

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BMC Software
Bob & Carole Brown
Brown & Gay Engineers, Inc.
Champion Technologies
County Judge Robert Hebert
Curtice Commercial Real Estate
Development Corporation of Richmond
Founders Bank
Greater Fort Bend EDC
LJA Engineering & Surveying, Inc.
Brent & Dr. Mazie Leftwich
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Southwest Water Company
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The Johnson Companies, Inc.
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Tristar Holdings, Inc.
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