City Volunteers Lend a Hand for National Community Development Week

Editor’s note — In 2013, the City of Garland organization launched an internal initiative to help employees focus on how each of their individual jobs are important to the growth and success of our entire community. This initiative included updated Mission, Vision and Values statements and made a positive impact on City employees. In each 2015 issue of the Garland City Press, we will profile a City department and share how that department contributes to Garland’s growth.

City of Garland partnered with Green Extreme Homes and Bank of America to offer a Veteran family an opportunity at a new life.

“City Volunteers Lend a Hand for National Community Development Week

More than 65 employees from 10 City departments came together to help clean up and improve houses in several Garland neighborhoods in celebration of National Community Development Week, which was held April 6-11.

In conjunction with the weeklong community event, Bank of America generously donated a home to Green Extreme Homes to turn it into an affordable, energy-efficient home for a local veteran. To further show Bank of America’s commitment to veterans, the company’s employees volunteered their time on April 10 and 11, to help with the cleanup and site preparation.

“This good that was done through these volunteer efforts has a ripple effect and encourages others to take pride in their neighborhood,” said Mona Woodard, Neighborhood Services manager. “It will change these families’ lives forever.”

The GREAT Homes program is administered by the City’s Housing and Community Services Department, and is an innovative approach to re-energizing Garland’s existing housing stock through energy-efficient, aesthetic upgrades while maintaining the architectural integrity of Garland’s more mature neighborhoods. The program offers creative financing terms that benefit the homebuyers and also provides a dollar-per-dollar return on the City’s investment.

“We are delighted that Bank of America is investing in our community with their generosity and energy,” said Mayor Douglas Athas. “Partnerships such as the one between the City, Bank of America and Green Extreme Homes can make a difference for individual families, for neighborhoods, and for the entire city.”

These volunteer efforts saved thousands of dollars in labor costs on projects to assist the community. Projects completed throughout the week at four different home sites included landscaping, cleanup, and renovation and demolition for several properties, which will be sold to veterans and first-time homebuyers through the City’s GREAT Homes program.

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