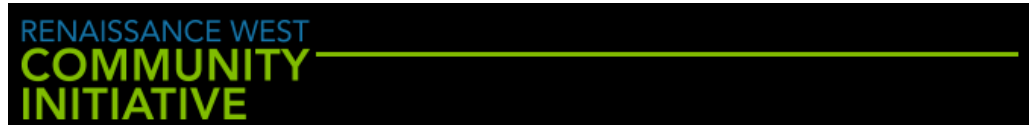


RWCI Newsletter - May 2015

Renaissance West Community Initiative [lclark@rwci.org]

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2015 11:40 AM

To: [Steve Johnston](#)



Dear Steve,

The final phase of residential construction at The Renaissance is underway, and visible progress is made every single day. The units will begin to house new residents later this fall.

With summer around the corner, we expect to see even more families and children available to engage with the community and participate in programs all day, every day. We hosted the first of regular on-site summer farmers markets in partnership with Sow Much Good, where residents purchased fresh local produce from friendly and familiar faces. We continue to have monthly [Community Nights](#) with activities and services for children and adults.

We held a [School Visioning Meeting](#) where community leaders and education experts met to discuss what they envision RWCI's neighborhood academy to be when it opens in 2017, reminding us that NO DREAM IS TOO BIG! Have an idea for the neighborhood school? [Share it with us!](#)

Read on to discover what else we've been up to.

Partner Spotlight: Empowerment and Development Exchange

An Interview With: Tierra Parsons RWCI Care Coordinator

Tierra is one of three new Care Coordinators who work on-site at The Renaissance, supporting the families and individuals that live here to set and attain their goals. Below is an excerpt from our interview with her. You can read the complete interview [here](#).



What do you think is special about RWCI?

RWCI is truly a one-of-a-kind initiative. It believes so strongly in its residents. I've seen clients and cases hit so many road blocks and barriers when it comes to finding housing - they often end up homeless and in extreme instances lose their children to the state. Once you come on this property, all you feel is hope. If you can give somebody hope, they will be able to live a better life. RWCI lets the families here know that they are worth it. Even if they don't have money or material things, they have the hope and support that they need to achieve their goals and start a better life. [Continue reading...](#)

Community Programs



Farmer's Market - Sow Much Good

Beginning on May 16 and continuing each Saturday this summer and fall, Sow Much Good is holding a farmers market at The Renaissance. With signage advertising the market around the community and along West Boulevard, area residents are becoming familiar with the growing number of opportunities in their neighborhood. Feel free to stop by on Saturday between 1:00-4:00 pm!



Healthcare - Managing Chronic Diseases

This month, several senior residents enrolled in the **Chronic Disease Self- Management Program**, sponsored by the Department of Social Services and the Centralina Area Agency on Aging. The free class meets weekly for 3 hours to cover techniques for living with common chronic illnesses such as diabetes and hypertension. [Learn more here.](#)



Phase 3 - Mixed- Income Housing

The final phase of mixed-income housing construction is underway, bringing a surge of activity, energy, and excitement to The Renaissance, albeit with a side of dust. The wait list for housing at The Renaissance, nearly 3,000 families and individuals long, will gladly experience some relief when the final 150 units are ready for move-in this fall.

Purpose Built Communities featured on PBS NewsHour

Can 'neighborhoods of last resort' be lifted out of poverty?

"Across America, more and more Americans are living in what's known as "concentrated poverty," which can perpetuate the cycle of poverty for generations. The City of Atlanta has long struggled to find its own solutions for



its areas of concentrated poverty. But one neighborhood, East Lake, has become a national model for its approach." [CLICK HERE](#) to watch the full report, by NewsHour's Megan Thompson.

As always, we welcome you to visit the site and see for yourself the amazing transformation taking place on West Boulevard. [Donate today.](#)

Sincerely,
Renaissance West Community Initiative
[Email Us](#) | [Visit Our Website](#)
3610 Nobles Ave #199
Charlotte, NC 28208

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