

## What are you doing for lunch? Food security and more at RWCI

Renaissance West Community Initiative [info@rwci.org]

**Sent:** Monday, February 08, 2016 8:30 AM

**To:** [Steve Johnston](#)

RENAISSANCE WEST  
COMMUNITY  
INITIATIVE

[Donate Today!](#)



**Dear Steve,**

Exciting things are happening at Renaissance West Community Initiative! Construction on the new Pre-K - 8 STEAM school will begin later this month, and residents will begin to move into the final phase housing units.

Our year-end reports have shown that since we began care coordination services in May 2015, the incomes of Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program participants have increased by an average of 13.7%! We've also seen an increase in career advancement and the number of adults enrolled in some type of continuing education.

2016 is off to a great start! We cannot wait to see what the rest of the year will bring. We hope you enjoy reading more about some of our programs and partnerships below.

**RWCI receives \$1,000,000 gift from the Howard Levine Foundation**



A preliminary design for the Howard Levine Child Development Center

RWCI is pleased to announce that we have received our largest gift to date from local businessman and philanthropist Howard Levine. "I am very excited to be part of the child development center of the Renaissance West Community Initiative. After hearing about the initiative and what it means to Charlotte's ability to help improve social mobility, it was an easy decision to participate in this important effort," said Howard. [Read the entire article here.](#)

### Partner Spotlight

#### **[Sow Much Good Advocates for Food Security in the Charlotte Region](#)**

Sow Much Good works to provide direct access to affordable, nutritious food, educate the public on healthy eating habits, and advocate for the right of every person to have real food security. RWCI has partnered with Sow Much Good to bring these services to residents of The Renaissance. The West Boulevard corridor has limited options for food shopping, and those that do exist are not always easy to access. Lack of transportation or funds makes it difficult for residents to acquire basic healthy foods. Sow Much Good is working to change that by providing seasonal farmers' markets on-site as well as advocating for more permanent solutions to the food security problems West Boulevard corridor residents face. We spoke with Sow Much Good Founder & Executive Director Robin Emmons to learn more about the initiative. [Read more here!](#)



Sow Much Good Founder and Executive Director Robin Emmons

### CohnReznick hosts RWCI, Harding University High School at Bronko Nagurski Awards

[CohnReznick](#) invited RWCI to bring a young West Boulevard corridor resident to the [Charlotte Touchdown Club's Bronko Nagurski Awards](#), a black tie event held on December 7, 2015. The awards celebrate college and high school football players from across the country. RWCI asked partners at Harding University High School to select a deserving student to attend the awards; they suggested freshman football player Erik Wannamaker for his academic, social and athletic potential. Sam Greiner, head football coach at Harding, also attended the event along with RWCI Senior Program



From left to right: Christian Friend, Eric Wannamaker, and Sam Greiner

Officer Christian Friend.

## FREE Film Screening through Feb 15: The Raising of America



Now through February 15, watch the most talked-about documentary series of the moment, [The Raising of America: Early Childhood and the Future of our Nation](#), FREE online. "Why do we, as a nation, make it so hard for our children to thrive? How can we do better?" [Watch to learn!](#)

## Use AMAZON SMILE to support RWCI while you shop!



We all order from Amazon.com. Make your orders count by shopping through **Amazon Smile for RWCI**. Simply bookmark [this link](#) and start from there when you shop at Amazon.com. When you check out, a portion of proceeds will be donated to RWCI. How easy is that?

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

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

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