

Valencia's Weekly Developments

In Community Development

Week of: July 7



Photo by: Tra Van R. Cooper

Homeowner Gloria Marks with World Changers crew members.



Photo by: Tra Van R. Cooper

Verdell Winzer with coordinator Marcia Nelson, intern Cheredith Rhone and crew members.



Photo by: Tra Van R. Cooper

World Changers crew member begins to paint Gloria Marks' home.

World Changers 2014

This week marked the annual World Changers project in Shreveport. This event is put on nation-wide by Lifeway Christian Resources, in partnership with the Southern Baptist Conference. The project in Shreveport is coordinated by the Housing Bureau of Community Development.

Similar to Paint Your Heart Out, youth from all over the country stay at Camp Bethany for a week, and are trained and aided by construction professionals to do exterior home repairs. In addition, the workers do daily devotionals with the homeowners and attend a nightly service at Camp Bethany after their work day.

We were able to visit two homes this week; both homes were owned by elderly women in the Lakeside area. The workers from these homes spanned a wide age range and geographical location; people came from Florida, Alabama, New Mexico, Kentucky and different parts of Louisiana, and were as old as 50 and as young as 12.

The first home was owned by a grateful Gloria Marks who was proud that the children were getting "training that's giving [them] skills for tomorrow." In addition to painting and other exterior repairs, the younger children went door-to-door every day witnessing and praying. The second home, owned by Verdell Winzer, required extensive exterior repair and a complete repaint.

Through World Changers, twelve homes across the City received much needed TLC, and hundreds of volunteers offered their time to community and mission service. If interested in participating in World Changers 2015, visit www.lifeway.com/worldchangers, or contact Community Development's Bureau of Housing and Business Development at (318) 673-7508.

In Other News

July 15 Southern University Life Skills Workshop
Bank On Shreveport will be giving a presentation about financial literacy.

Contact: Southern Metro Center
(318) 670-6684

July 19 Takin' it to the Streets

Louisiana Community Outreach presented by Takin' It to the Streets, Inc. From 12-5 pm.

Ernest's Orleans Restaurant
Contact: Pastor Ron Hampton
takinittothestreets.inc@gmail.com

OTHER PHOTOS and EVENTS



1.



3.

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1. On July 8, Bank On Shreveport visited Bilberry Recreation Center to speak with young people about saving tools, including the benefits of opening a saving account and distinguishing between needs and wants.

2. The Minority Supply Institute held a seminar on ways for small businesses to obtain financing from banks. Representatives from Community Development and Accion were present.

3. A young man begins prep work for painting Verdell Winzer's home during World Changers week.