



“Dream Team” Prepares for July Construction Start



Last Saturday, eleven men ate breakfast at the World Cup Cafe the last time before the hammers, saws, insulation and sheetrock create dust and noise throughout the 6500 sq' Jubilee Food Market. Electricians, plumbers, and carpenters are waiting in the wings for the permit approval by the City of Waco plan reviewers, which could happen in the next two weeks.

The “Jubilee Dream Team” is an incredible group of men and one woman who have volunteered their time and skills to plan the store and help it be successful. For a variety of reasons, neighborhood grocery stores are a thing of the past in lower-income areas. Low food profits and changing demographics have lured larger stores to the wealthier areas of cities and increased profits from non-food items, even including electronics and clothing. In 2012, the USDA found that nearly 10 percent of the U.S. population lived in a low-income area more than a mile from a supermarket. Approximately 2.3 million people (2.2% of all US households) live in low-income or rural areas that are more than 10 miles from a supermarket. Convenience stores have rushed into the void, but offer few fresh vegetables and fruits and charge significantly more money for basics like bread and milk.

When market-driven forces abandon poorer neighborhoods, the non-profit sector must step up. While many churches and Christian non-profits focus on relief programs, such as food pantries and clothes closets, the deeper renewal of poor neighborhoods requires addressing the systemic issues and creating development beyond short-term relief. To do that requires the skill sets of volunteers like the “dream team,” who understands grocery stores. Without them, Mission Waco could have never ventured into this challenging Christian community development project. But with them, the hope is that our lower-income neighbors will have access to healthy and affordable food, eat better, overcome obesity and embrace a healthier lifestyle.

So to every person who has or will join our team of planners, subcontractors, and volunteers, THANK YOU!

THE **BIG** PUSH FOR THE LAST 18% OF RENOVATION \$\$\$

Over 400 donors have invested to address the food desert problem

Four months ago, the challenge seemed overwhelming. How could Mission Waco raise \$488,000 for renovations in a non-profit grocery store beyond our traditional appeal for funds for local programs that empower thousands of the poor? (“O you of little faith!” you say!) Since then, we have been overwhelmed with the generosity of so many folks from all over the city, state and even nation. At this writing, \$395,830 has been donated for the non-profit Jubilee Food Market, with only \$92,170 yet to be raised. The O.A.S.I.S. shares of \$25/each have been very popular. While these stocks are not redeemable on Wall Street, nonetheless they are an investment with big returns, at least for the North Waco area, where there is no grocery store within 2.2 miles, forcing residents to buy overpriced and unhealthy food at the corner convenience stores or walk almost five miles to get fresh produce and fruit. Donors receive an actual certificate of shares bought. Those donating a minimum of 50 shares will also be acknowledged on the wall of honor inside the store. Levels go from “Stakeholder” (\$1250) to Bronze (\$2500), Silver (\$5000), Gold (\$10,000) and Platinum (\$15,000 or more). To date, there are six PLATINUM, two GOLD, four SILVER, seven BRONZE donors and a host of STAKEHOLDERS and other OASIS shareholders. Every \$25 donated means we are that much closer to having the needed funds for the renovations that should begin in mid-July and be completed around mid-September. Once completed, a second fundraising effort will be required to purchase the groceries needed to initially stock the store. Costs are estimated at \$50,000-\$75,000 for food inventory. But first, the remodeling begins!

Would you help us raise the final 18% in the next three weeks?

You can donate online at:

<https://p2p.paperlessstrans.com/default.aspx?i=missionwaco>

or send a check to:

Mission Waco, 1315 N. 15th St, Waco, TX 76707
(designate “Jubilee Food Mkt”)



You can trust us!

Mission Waco has the highest 4-star rating for financial accountability and transparency