Fundraising reaches 66% of renovation goal for non-profit grocery store in food desert neighborhood

$488,000 is a lot of money for a Christian non-profit to raise beyond the normal budget expenses, which support fifteen programs to empower and serve thousands of the poor and marginalized. So when the staff and board of directors heard that 2/3 of the renovation funds needed for this project have been raised in just four months, there was rejoicing! With only $170,000 more needed in the next two months, there is a growing faith that construction can begin as soon as the architectural plans are approved by the City of Waco. If you have purchased any of the 12,745 shares of O.A.S.I.S. stocks ($25/each) sold so far, THANK YOU! If you have not yet joined this exciting venture or want to buy more shares, please let us know. You can purchase your shares online at <https://p2p.paperlestrans.com/default.aspx?i=missionwaco> or send a check to Mission Waco, 1315 N.15th St., Waco, TX 76707. Four levels of giving that include Bronze, $2,250; Silver, $5,000; Gold, $10,000; and Platinum, $15,000 put your name on the “Wall of Honor.” Help us bring an oasis to a food desert!

Volunteers Pitching In

Lesley Myrick is an interior designer who offered her skills to help create the art deco color scheme for the grocery. Western Heights Baptist and Crestview Church of Christ help demolish walls and a red-tagged house next door. If you or your group wants to volunteer special skills or do hands-on projects, let us know. We’ve got a place for you!

Eat Well. Live Well. Jubilee Food Market T-Shirts Available

Get yours at the Mission Waco office, 1315 N. 15th.

Engineers Join Effort for Plan Review

Professionals, Contractors, Businesses, Volunteers and Donors All Working for Common Goal to Help Community

“I have never been a part of a project as exciting as this one,” says Jimmy Dorrell, executive director of Mission Waco. “Not only have so many donors joined our effort to offer access to healthy and affordable food in a low-income area, but men and women from Dallas to Austin have contributed their vocational skills and expertise to make the Jubilee Food Market a reality.

Rick Tullis, CEO of Capstone Mechanical, examines mechanical needs on the grocery roof.

From the beginning, Mark Woodward volunteered his architectural skills to design the store. Soon after, Mark Newton and Nick Benavidez responded to Dorrell’s plea for help at a Dallas class about Christian community development. Newton builds Kroger grocery stores and Benavidez retired after years of managing them. Both drive down from Dallas to help. But the list of caring professionals grew. Laurence Shillito overheard the story at the World Cup Cafe and offered his expertise in planning. Bob Fabrizio, CEO of Mtech Comfort Systems (Austin) and Martin Twilla provided the mechanical floor plan and load analysis. Bob helped broker the deal for the donation of 7.5 tons of two Carrier HVAC units for the store. Walmart employees, Davin Biram and Bronscha Harris joined the group, then David Barclay (Brazos Masonry), Ron Suchecki, and Darrell Wickert (Family Dollar). When John Gallagher, (Ehrlich Design Builders project manager) called and offered to be the general contractor for the renovation, we were floored. He also secured various subcontractors from the Dallas area to come offer their skills at discounted or donated rates. Russell Spence (commercial painting) offered to “make it pretty.” Bob Ilkenouye, a longtime electrician for grocery stores, joined the team.

WHAT’S AN M.E.P.?

After months of planning, the initial renovation plans were submitted to the City of Waco plan reviewers, with hopes of beginning the project by June. Unfortunately, we found that engineered “Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing” (M.E.P.) drawings would have to be submitted. While the time and cost to produce that engineered document has slowed the process, with the help of Capstone Mechanical and Winton Engineering, we are moving forward with the hope of submitting it soon. Once submitted, the City review team will take three-four weeks to approve or seek comments for changes. Our goal now is to begin construction in early July. Yet even with expected delays, the process has been unbelievable. God seems to be orchestrating the project while urging gifted helpers to join hands.