

City Notes

CITY VISION ■ SPRING 2010

Chiquita Miller buys City Vision home, rejoins board

City Vision Inc. is pleased to announce Chiquita Miller, a Wyandotte County Family and Consumer Science Agent with the K-State Research and Extension Office, is being reinstated to the board after being off for a year. “Chiquita’s knowledge of the community and our mission is a true asset to our board” says John Harvey, Executive Director.

Chiquita was introduced to City Vision in the early 2000s and was impressed with their work. “I could tell City Vision had a commitment to the urban core by renovating and building homes in the area,” Miller says.

In June 2009, Chiquita Miller purchased her own remodeled home from City Vision. Miller previously lived in a large Victorian

home in the Westheight neighborhood. Miller says, “I am so intrigued with older homes, the quality of construction, and the detail. I wanted the same level of quality as my first home, but smaller in size to fit my lifestyle and budget.” Chiquita’s new home is located in the Douglas-Summer neighborhood.

With City Vision’s history as a leader in the community and their impeccable reputation in managing properties, Miller was very comfortable with purchasing the remodeled home from them. She says, “I know they do quality work on their homes, with the ultimate goal to improve the neighborhoods. My trust in City Vision has made the home buying process an enjoyable one.” ■



6909 Cleveland is just one of the 18 homes that will be completely renovated as part of the NSP program. The goal is to meet Energy Star standards including mechanical systems, windows, and insulation on every home.

City Vision manages Neighborhood Stabilization Program

City Vision is proud to have been chosen as one of three community development corporations that will manage the federally funded Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). Over \$3 million has been received by the Unified Government of Wyandotte County to purchase and renovate foreclosed homes throughout the county. These fully renovated homes will then be sold at discounted pricing to new owners.

NSP homes will be available in all neighborhood areas from Downtown Kansas City, Kansas to Edwardsville. Most homes will be fully renovated to Energy Star standards with new mechanical systems, energy efficient windows, and insulation packages that will keep utility costs low. Many different sizes and styles of homes will be available including larger historic two-stories, smaller bungalows and mid-size ranches. The first homes are expected to be ready for sale in the summer and up to 40 homes will be available through the program.

For more program information and homes available through City Vision, call Evelyn Hudson at (913) 371-5200. ■



Chiquita Miller is now the proud owner of this beautiful vintage home in the Douglas-Summer Neighborhood after City Vision completed the renovations in 2009. In the midst of housing turmoil both locally and nationally, Chiquita saw a home buying opportunity in a redevelopment area and is now part of a grassroots recovery.



Julian Flores (far right) and his crew at International Remodeling are currently renovating two homes at 74th and Orville.

Part of the team: Julian Flores and International Remodeling are a home grown business

After working for other contractors, Julian and his wife moved to Kansas City, Kansas in 2003 to start their own contracting business. Initially called International Painting, Julian expanded into general contracting in 2005 and changed the name of the company to International Remodeling.

Based in Wyandotte County, the business quickly expanded to five employees until 2009, when the collapse of the housing market hit the company pretty hard. But Julian never considered giving up on the company. “You grow up more during bad times”, says Julian. In 2010, things are looking much better and business is growing again.

City Vision is happy to have International Remodeling as part of its team in renovating foreclosed homes in the county for resale. Congratulations to Julian and his much-needed entrepreneurial spirit to help spark a “grassroots recovery.” ■



Growing healthy, sustainable urban neighborhoods
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Beth Holtwick Joins City Vision Staff

City Vision Inc. is happy to announce the addition of Beth Holtwick to our staff as Director of Marketing and Communications. Her responsibilities will include developing, organizing and managing all of City Vision’s special events, communications and media relations. She also will spend a large portion of her time as the program coordinator for Downtown Shareholders. Both positions are very similar and make the most efficient use of Beth’s time and talent.

Beth previously worked as the Marketing Director for HarenLaughlin Construction for 3 ½ years and, before that, Brotherhood Bank at 8th and Minnesota for 10 years. She just recently served on the Downtown Shareholders’

Board and City Vision’s Board including being the Board Chair for City Vision in 2007 and 2008. As a previous employee in Kansas City, Kansas, Beth



is excited to return to Downtown full-time. “I’ve known City Vision since 1998 and Downtown Shareholders since it’s inception in 2003. Both organizations have done so many great things for this community . . . to be a part of the staff is like a dream come true” Holtwick says. ■