



# BUILDING BRIDGES

## Building Bridges: Everyone Can Be A Bridge Builder by Betty Banks

In each edition of Voices, someone is featured as a "bridge builder". If we are to build community within neighborhoods, between communities and with each other, it becomes everyone's responsibility to reach out and lend a hand, make a contribution, share some insight or just give a pleasant greeting to someone who needs to be uplifted. We all can be "bridge builders".

The Allied Drive neighborhood is in the process of being revitalized. Streets are being renamed and improved, housing is being made more affordable and in general we will see some important physical changes. With all of this happening, let us also "build some bridges" of understanding.

Do you know those neighbors or residents who practice English as their second language? How about that teen who needs to be

hopeful and is seeking a way to navigate a world that is becoming more dangerous? There are young single parents who need someone to reach out to them as they attempt to raise their children and give them solid values that will help them build positive lives.

Is there an elderly person who needs their snow shoveled in the winter and that trash hauled out year around? These are just a few examples of those who live in our community and neighborhoods.

I read recently about how, in today's society, we live next door or down the street from people we never even speak to. The article went on to give an example of one person who decided he was going to get to know his neighbors by not just

saying hello, but actually talking to them.

During this journey to learn more about those who shared his streets and sidewalks, he found people who appreciated the help he was able to give them. One had been recently widowed and once they got to know each other, they enjoyed sharing morning coffee and conversation with each other.

Another was a person who needed help with small home repairs that she was unable to do. His journey included others who shared with him their same feelings about how too often we stay on the move so fast that we forget we share this planet with others who we see but don't take time to find out who they are and if we can make a difference in

their lives. If it sounds too "Pollyanna" for you, try to remember that you could become that person who feels left alone. Our family members pass on and sometimes move away for any number of reasons, leaving us behind.

And so, this message is for all of us who live anywhere. We have neighbors and others who, just like us may not consciously realize that we have forgotten or have never known how to reach out and touch another person through our action and deeds.

Building community provides for a safer neighborhood and a community that gives a better quality of life for all of us. Here is a challenge. Get to know one other person in your neighborhood.

Encourage others to be a bridge builder. You will be glad you did!

### Redevelopment Photos Continued



### Hats off to Hardy Construction!

Harold Construction, LLC, a Madison-based minority-owned construction company, has recruited and hired residents from the Allied Drive Neighborhood. Harold Hardy and his Partner, Mark Holland have retained a total of 13 employees, six of whom are from the Allied Drive Neighborhood.

The breakdown of the employees by race: 8 African Americans males, 2 white males, 2 Latinos females and 1 Vietnamese female. Harold's success in recruitment can be largely attributed to his connections in the community and his grassroots campaign. He has set a model in place for others to look at as the redevelopment phases move forward!



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