



West Oak Lane CDC Merges with OARC

Philadelphia, PA – On December 12, 2007, Jack Kitchen, CEO of Ogontz Avenue Revitalization Corporation (OARC) announced the merger of West Oak Lane CDC (WOLCDC) into OARC at the annual OARC holiday dinner. The OARC Board of Directors approved a resolution that brings the neighboring community development corporation in as a wholly owned subsidiary of OARC.

WOLCDC was founded in 1980 to combat the rise of abandoned housing, improve the quality of rental housing and generally improve the quality of life for area residents in the West Oak Lane community. Donald T. Stafford (AKA Tom Stafford) joined the organization in 1993 as the Executive Director. “Witnessing the success that OARC has had in developing the West Oak Lane community, and realizing that WOLCDC did not have the capacity in terms of staff and resources to further develop the lower section of West Oak Lane, this partnership between the two organizations seemed the ideal thing to do,” commented Stafford. “This merger will add a dimension to both organizations that will prove to be a major asset to West Oak Lane and the greater Northwest community. I believe the merger will definitely benefit both entities.”

“I am pleased that this merger has taken place bringing with it the experienced staff of WOLCDC,” stated Jack Kitchen, CEO of OARC. “Their expertise will increase OARC’s capacity to deal with many housing and mortgage problems. Homebuyers today are facing many pitfalls from predatory lending to adjustable rate mortgages that are pushing many toward foreclosure. It is the types of programs offered by WOLCDC that will help to prevent mistakes during the mortgage process and certain cases assist to prevent an impending foreclosure. I urge anyone not familiar with the process involved in purchasing a home or thinking about mortgage financing to call WOLCDC.”

WOLCDC has a long and rich history of housing development in West Oak Lane and East Germantown. They have provided housing counseling services to the residents of Philadelphia and the surrounding counties for the past 10 years. The Housing Counseling Program at West Oak Lane CDC is certified and supported by the Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD/City of Philadelphia). The agency is HUD certified and under contract with the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency to provide housing counseling services. They offer such services as pre/post home purchasing workshops, one-on-one counseling sessions regarding mortgage and tax delinquency matters, foreclosure prevention and landlord/tenant issues.

West Oak Lane CDC is currently located at 6259 Limekiln Pike, Philadelphia, PA, 19141 and can be contacted at 215-224-0880.