Nonprofit Begins Multimillion-Dollar Restoration Project in Wilkinsburg

Written by Dan Majors

Considering that the Lohr Building on Wood Street in Wilkinsburg is more than 130 years old, it's hard to think of it as "a work in progress."

But that's how Tracey Evans, executive director of the Wilkinsburg Community Development Corp., describes the landmark structure as she and the WCDC move their offices into the renovated first floor.

"It's a complete new roof, new mechanical system, walls, electrical, plumbing, heating, new windows and a fire escape that will be installed later this month," she said. "We are moved in, but we're still finishing the rest of the building around us."

The WCDC had been headquartered just up the street at 1001 Wood St. for 10 years. Now Ms. Evans and her staff are setting up shop in the iconic three-story red brick building with its arched glass windows overlooking the corner of Wood Street and South Avenue.

To read the full Post-Gazette article about this restoration project CLICK HERE.
oriented, analytical, and conscientious. He or she will support the WCDC in the following areas: finance, business planning and budgeting, fund development, and administration.

The Director of Finance and Administration will play a critical role in partnering with the Executive Director and WCDC Boards of Directors in strategic decision making and operations as WCDC continues to enhance its strategic plan and vision for Wilkinsburg. This is an opportunity for a finance and operations leader to strengthen the capacity of a well-respected, high-impact organization.

Applications are due January 31, 2020. For the full job description and application process CLICK HERE.

WILKINSBURG BUSINESS SUCCESS STORY: Vision Towards Peace

Erica Givner is a helper. And you’ll always find her helping. Erica’s innate kindness was inherited from her mother, who as known throughout their community for her unflinching support for children. “She was the mom that fed any child who walked through the door. She helped with their homework – whatever they needed.”

Which made it that much more difficult for Erica and her siblings when their mother fell into drug addiction for two years. “It was such a change from what we knew. But she wanted to get better. I can remember her getting high with one hand while she got down on her knees and prayed with the other.”

Erica’s mother sought treatment and is now living a much healthier life. Inspired by her mother’s journey, Erica has dedicated her life to helping others who find themselves facing similar struggles.

She founded Vision Towards Peace Counseling Services (VTP) in 2012, headquartered in Wilkinsburg, with the goal of providing generational wellness, one person at a time. VTP strives to foster a community where people can take care of themselves and their families – all while having a productive and meaningful life with peace of mind, independence and strength.

As a recipient of the Wilkinsburg Community Development Corporation’s (WCDC) Facade Renovation and Business Image Improvement Programs grants, Erica was able to invest in her business, which is committed to supporting members of the Wilkinsburg community. “I get my strength from the people of Wilkinsburg. They give me the momentum to keep going every day.”

When VTP first opened its doors, Erica was the sole employee. Almost eight years later, VTP employs six clinicians and two office staff members who help thousands of clients every year.

To read more about Erica and Vision Towards Peace CLICK HERE.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE

www.wilkinsburgcdc.org
Community Calendar

All events and meetings listed below take place in Wilkinsburg, unless otherwise noted.

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Core Four Business Planning Workshop
April 1 - May 27
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
725 Wood Street
To RSVP email gordon@wilkinsburgcdc.org

Wilkinsburg Train Station Ribbon Cutting
Friday, April 17
10:00 a.m.
The building will be open to the public, and our project team will be on hand to answer any of your questions about the restoration process.

SAVE THE DATE: WCDC Gala
Saturday, May 23
The Train Station
Join us for a night of celebration, delicious food and dancing! Stay tuned for additional details.

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Have an event or meeting coming up? Send us the details, and we'll include it in our next newsletter.

Want to learn more about borough council, commission & authority meetings? Check out Wilkinsburg Borough's Calendar.

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Support the WCDC

At the WCDC, we envision Wilkinsburg will be a prosperous and growing community regarded for its strong business district and neighborhoods; historic charm; convenient location; and desirable quality of life.

The Wilkinsburg Community Development Corporation (WCDC) is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization with a mission to promote the revitalization of Wilkinsburg through business & residential development; organizational & individual civic leadership; and ethnic & cultural diversity.

Donate Now!

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WCDC | 412-727-7855 | 1001 Wood St. Wilkinsburg, PA 15221 | wilkinsburgcdc.org