

The Next Stage of Bonton Transformation is Underway

The Bonton community, located south of CF Hawn Freeway (US 175) and east of I-45, has undergone significant changes over the past decade and is now poised for a long hoped for transformation in 2012.

For many years Bonton has been characterized by high vacancy rates, physical decay and crime. For the last 50 years, Bonton has been defined by Turner Courts and Rhoads Terrace public housing projects – 684 old barracks-style public housing units. By 2005, when the Bonton Neighborhood Redevelopment Plan was submitted to the Dallas Housing Authority (DHA) by DiMombro+Associates, DHA provided two-thirds of the housing units in the neighborhood. Together, Turner Courts and Rhoads Terrace dominated the community life and the prospects of the neighborhood. The demolition of the two housing projects in 2009/2010 sets the stage for neighborhood transformation where DHA continues to play an important leadership role in the redevelopment of the neighborhood.



Dallas Habitat Plans \$3.7M Investment in 2012

From 1998 through 2011, Dallas Habitat built and sold 82 homes in Bonton for a total investment of \$8.7M dollars, putting Habitat and its families among the earliest and most consistent investors in the community's future. In 2012, we intend to construct an additional 25 new homes and to repair 20 existing owner-occupied homes in the community through our A Brush With Kindness program. **By the end of 2012, our total investment in Bonton will exceed \$12M.**



The 25 LEED-certified homes we will build in Bonton in 2012 will be clustered primarily around Silkwood, Valentine and Dorris Streets. All 25 homes will benefit from a special \$25,000 down payment assistance program provided by DHA. These homes will comprise the homeownership component of DHA's HOPE IV redevelopment of the Turner Courts property into Buckeye Commons, and former DHA residents will have first priority to purchase these homes. Ten of these homes will be built the third week of May in a "Blitz Build" with Habitat AmeriCorps members from around the nation. Applications

for income-qualified homebuyers interested in partnering with Habitat and receiving an interest-free mortgage are now being accepted. For more information call 214-678-2300.

Other Projects Underway in Bonton

This year DHA will be breaking ground on its new Buckeye Commons development, about 300 new rental units including townhomes, units for elderly residents, and units for single person and small family households. Buckeye Commons includes space for community facilities, playgrounds, recreation, and community gardens. HIS Bridgebuilders, a local nonprofit that has provided after school programs, computer training for kids and adults and job training in Bonton for many years, plans to begin a culinary training program in conjunction with Buckeye Commons. The City of Dallas' Bexar Street redevelopment project continues, with Phase II directly impacting Bonton. The planned Rochester Park Gateway will provide access to the nearby Great Trinity Forest.

2012 promises to be a great year for the Bonton community! To learn more about Bonton's history click [here](#).