



## CITY VISION MINISTRIES

We are privileged to feature longtime Kansas City non-profit leader and urban core advocate Colleen Hernandez as the speaker at our Annual Meeting. The Meeting will take place on Monday, April 12, 2004, beginning at 5:45 p.m. at the Jack Reardon Civic Center. Please call Shirley Kendrick at (913) 371.5200 for more details.

**OUR WEBSITE IS A GREAT RESOURCE TO REVIEW OUR PROGRAMS,  
HISTORY AND UPCOMING PROJECTS AND EVENTS.**

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## ■ CITY NOTES ■

*A NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS OF CITY VISION MINISTRIES*



### REFRESHING ROSEDALE

Spring 04

Dave and Angie Stanley and family moved into their new house in Rosedale last November. Dave grew up in Kansas City, Kansas, but he and Angie had lived in Johnson County since they were married. Their move to the Rainbow Park neighborhood represents a commitment to the urban core that has been a personal and professional journey for both of them.

Several years ago, Angie and Dave decided to leave their suburban church and attend a church in the Westport area. Both have been very much influenced by the late Rev. Thurman Mitchell and his work with the Urban Youth Leadership Initiative. Because of the relationship with Rev. Mitchell, Dave chose to focus his work as a minister to urban core youth at the same Westport church. Angie and Dave decided last year that they wanted to take another step and raise their family in the city.

The couple has four boys, aged two through eight years old. Dave especially is delighted to be back rediscovering Wyandotte County and taking their boys to the places that he loved as a kid.



### New Home Construction in Rosedale to Date:

- " The Stanleys moved into the first house we finished in Rosedale.
- " 3829 S. Minnie - The site of our Open House in December closed in March.
- " 3833 S. Minnie - This house is already sold and will be finished in mid-May!
- " 3819 S. Minnie - City Vision helped the resident relocate and will start building in April.
- " 3904 Lloyd - This house was completed and closed in late March.
- " 3908 Lloyd - We expect to break ground in early April.



# COME MARCH WITH CITY VISION



Mark your calendar: Come March with City Vision Ministries will take place Saturday, May 1, 2004 when a crew of professional contractors, staff and friends of CVM and Rosedale Development Association volunteer their time to significantly repair the houses of two Rosedale homeowners. To donate your skills, time or funds to this effort, call Evelyn at (913) 371-5200.

## GRANT PROGRAM FOR DOWNTOWN FACELIFTS

City Vision Ministries is raising money and setting guidelines for a new program to improve the look of Minnesota Avenue.

The Façade Improvement Program grew out of needs defined by the Downtown Shareholders and aims to increase the profits of downtown businesses, to strengthen the commercial appeal of the area and to stimulate further improvements.

Façade Improvement Programs are key to Main Street revitalization programs all over the country. They allow a district to work closely with building and business owners to realize small, doable improvement projects. While the city offers tax incentives for improvements made to urban core commercial buildings, this program will additionally reimburse applicants for a proportion of the costs undertaken.

Improvements include, but are not limited to: painting, awning, lighting and sign installation; restoration of original stone and brick; and repair or replacement of windows, doors and storefront display areas. Certain design guidelines for downtown apply. Interested persons are encouraged to call Molly, (913-371-5200) to learn more.



# AN ARTISTIC CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY



## "DAWNING OF A NEW DAY"

THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF MURALS DEDICATED TO  
THE CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY IN KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

Watch for new murals around downtown in 2004. These will be the first two of a dozen murals planned for the downtown district, to celebrate Kansas City, Kansas's diverse cultures. Alisha Gambino and Joe Faus, two accomplished local artists, are designing the murals to be painted this summer. The artists' previous works include the Anthology of Argentine mural along Metropolitan Ave., the South Slavic Heritage mural at 719 Minnesota Ave., works in the River Market and throughout the city.

Pictured above is their design, "Dawning of a New Day," which traces the path of African-American culture from Africa to the United States. The design is meant to emphasize the strength of the family unit, generations and culture. The left side portrays elements of African heritage and the right side, African American history. The final design will include detail of people from all walks of life on the right path.

Focus groups from Turtle Hill added input for the design and middle and high school students will help paint it. The mural is being sponsored by Bank of America. City Vision is planning this mural for the north wall of 1207 N. 7th St. The artists are working out a second design with focus groups from El Centro and KCK Study Circles to be painted on 826 Minnesota Ave. For more information, call Molly at (913) 371-5200.

## CITY VISION WELCOMES NEW STAFF



**Molly Ekerdt**

Molly Ekerdt joined City Vision Ministries in October of 2003 as Community Services Director. She devotes her time to the Downtown Shareholders and related projects and to several neighborhood programs, including the Urban Homeowners Improvement Fund and the Urban Health Initiative. Molly also works with the Northeast KCK Community Safety Collaborative. She enjoys the chance to be immersed in the community. "I love working with people who are transforming their surroundings on all different levels every day."

Molly grew up in Kansas City and recently moved from San Antonio, Texas, where she worked as a case-worker for Catholic Charities. She graduated from Grinnell College.



**Jon Birkel**

Jonathan Birkel has worked closely with City Vision Ministries in the last few years, designing and overseeing the highly successful Turtle Hill Townhomes. In February, City Vision was delighted to welcome Jon to its staff as Vice President for Real Estate Development. Jon brings 14 years of experience in residential design and real estate to City Vision. He will be in charge of the Mission Cliffs project and TIF district and major planning for the downtown loft district. Jon was most recently with the architectural firm of Gould Evans Goodman, where he developed and led the residential group focusing on single and multi-family housing. His urban housing projects including 40 Penn Row in Westport and Summit at Sixteenth in the Westside Neighborhood.

Jon is originally from New York, and graduated from the College of Architecture, Design and Planning at Kansas State University.