

A PERSONAL WORD FOR YOU from Mack McCarter
Spring 2004

Sometimes I am accused of using superlatives in my descriptive expressions regarding the work going on all around us for the renewal of our community. I am guilty! But I honestly cannot help it. The amount of progress we see daily and the quality of those gains just beggar accurate words. So I fall back on superlatives such as: *remarkable! unbelievable! incredible! stupendous!* and a whole host of other words which fall woefully short in describing the miracle we are living. So I thought rather than fail again, I would just outline a few of the doors which have opened since our last newsletter in December, *and let you assign your own words to the advances enumerated below.* (And by the way, if you want to send me your descriptions, I would welcome the chance to change my well worn vocabulary!)

- On Tuesday, February 24th, the Mobile Pediatric Health Unit began service. I am sure you have read the story on our front page. This is a 10 year dream of ours for delivering health care to our most impoverished areas. Murray Lloyd worked tirelessly on our behalf for two years to see this project through. Dr. J. Lloyd Michener, Chairman of Community and Family Medicine at Duke University Medical Center sees this event as a breakthrough in health care delivery for the nation!
- Thanks to the tireless work of Rep. Jim McCrery, Rep. David Vitter, and U.S. Sens. John Breaux and Mary Landrieu a \$450,000 earmark has been granted for the expansion and growth of the National Center for Community Renewal for 2004. Our National Advisory Board under the direction of Virginia Shehee and the expert lobbying of John Dalton made this effort successful from our side. Great news!
- The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the largest foundation in America specializing in Health and Health Care, has been an absolutely integral part of our entire development as an organization. No superlative can express the depth of their committed partnership with us. On May 13, 2004 we will announce a new level of that partnership which will take your breath away. We are still gasping in awe!! Stay tuned.
- Our first Core Cities Conference with Baton Rouge, Abilene and Austin, TX, and Knoxville, TN will be held here March 15-17th.
- David Toms, one of two great Shreveport Pro Golfers will be announcing soon his wonderful gift to the work and progress of our Internal Care Units, and if you catch your breath with RWJF, you will lose it when you hear of his commitment!!

I am out of space and there is so much more to tell!! Oh, well, **PLEASE SEND WORDS BEFORE NEXT ISSUE!!**