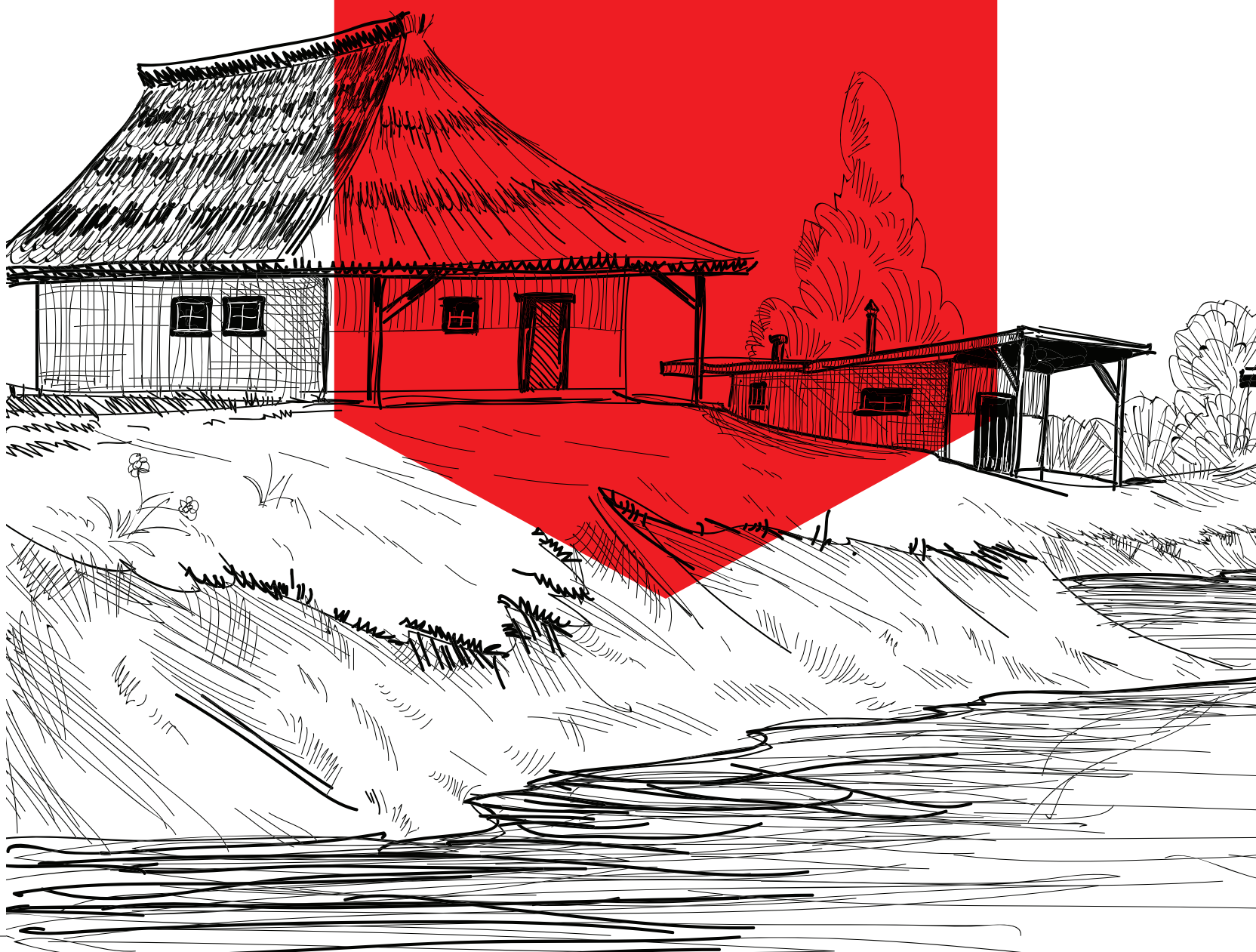


IT TAKES A VILLAGE

BY CHANCELLOR PAGE



EMERGING FROM THE VISION AND PROMISE OF ITS FOREBEARS, A COMMUNITY FLOURISHES FROM AN ALLIANCE OF GOODWILL—A TOGETHERNESS THAT AFFECTS THE HEART AND HEAD OF GENERATIONS TO COME.

As families continue to rely on guidance from the greater good, the African proverb “It takes a village to raise a child,” becomes as relevant and timely as ever, lifting the mindset of neighborhoods above economic downturns and turf tug-of-wars, to cultivate the character and integrity of its residents. The village is not a throwback to the good old days or restricted to your neck of the woods; it is an extension of hope, and is accessible to everyone, challenging the world to pitch in and rebuild belief in common decency.

Since 2010, the WorldVentures Foundation has manifested positive change in the global village, establishing sustainable financial and environmental solutions worldwide. Their approach has been nothing short of innovative—an inspired coherence between non-profit affiliates and a network of volunteers, empowering children and families through service excursions and DreamTrips VolunTours, building lasting friendships and altering the course of at-risk communities in Guatemala, India, Cuba, Africa and the continental U.S.





LEAVE BETTER

Prior to *A View from the Edge* in Duluth, Georgia, WorldVentures Foundation volunteers participated in three service excursions at the Boys & Girls Clubs in Atlanta. Established in 1974, the Carver/Eastside Club was the oldest of the clubs visited (and the oldest in Atlanta), and it looked every bit its age—a red brick façade flanked by large Atlas Cedars, rose from gently sloping terrain, transitioning to waxy corrugated siding overlooking a fractured parking lot, dumpster and tired basketball hoop. But despite its appearance, the Carver Club had a great vibe. Inside, trophies and certificates of completion lined the walls; evidence of spelling bee performance were posted in the foyer; above the door of the entrance, a touchstone of self-worth, “I believe in myself and my abilities,” was scrawled in black script; and wherever you looked, testaments to a values-based culture greeted you—posters of Thurgood Marshall, George Washington Carver and Harriett Tubman, not to mention signs that promoted fairness and justice, trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, citizenship and caring.

No one knows the Carver Club better than Terry Walker Moore. Terry’s service background extends to a decade with the

Girl Scouts Foundation, and as Executive Director of the Carver/Eastside Boys & Girls Clubs, she nurtures her club through service that is proactive and empathetic. “Carver is a small club, but we do great things,” Terry said. “We mentor 145 kids a day, between the ages of 8 to 16 years of age. When you enter Carver, no matter what’s going on, you’ll leave better.”

THE HEART’S CONTENT

When you meet a WorldVentures Foundation volunteer, you realize immediately that altruism is not counterintuitive; it is integral to our humanity and beliefs. The need to give back, as generic as that sounds, has become a password of late, syncing personal and public responsibility, and signaling an enthusiasm that is infectious, germane and a result of clarity that is gradually becoming mainstream. Volunteers come from all walks of life, and with like mind and motivation, bring about awareness through action.

WorldVentures Foundation volunteers arrived at the Carver/Eastside Boys & Girls Club on October 16, 2014, to scrub the club—providing much-needed clean up to the gym, classrooms, kitchen, bathrooms and exterior lot. For many volunteers, just stepping into the Boys & Girls Clubs had real significance. Mardie Wilson, active

duty Air Force, lives with his wife and four children in Hawaii, but Macon, Georgia is where he was born and raised. “When I saw the opportunity to come to Atlanta to give back through a service excursion to the Boys & Girls Club, it was a no-brainer,” Mardie said. “My dad committed suicide when I was young. It was tough for my mom, my siblings and me. My mom was a single parent and she had to raise us by herself. So, when I got out of school, I went to the Boys & Girls Club to do my homework and they made sure I was doing everything I was supposed to. When I saw this opportunity through the WorldVentures Foundation, it touched my heart. Giving back to the Boys & Girls Club has been inside of me my entire life.”

GOOD BUILDS GOOD

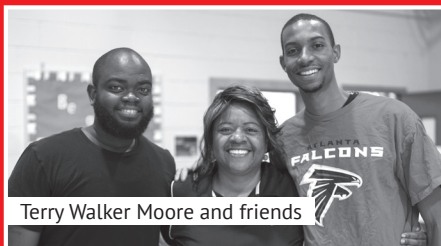
Affiliations, such as the long-standing alliance between the WorldVentures Foundation and the Nancy Lieberman Foundation, continue to build awareness by improving the quality of life of children in underprivileged communities. Thanks to the monumental efforts of WorldVentures Representative April Consulo and her team, a newly constructed blue and orange DreamCourt was created for the W. W. Woolfolk Boys & Girls Club in Atlanta, to provide kids a safe place to play.



April Consulo & friends from
W. W. Woolfolk Boys & Girls Club



Mardie Wilson



Terry Walker Moore and friends

“Even if I never make a dime, this is worth it,” April Consulo said. April and her team raised funds for the new DreamCourt in just four months’ time. “I feel blessed to be standing on this court. This is one of the things that is so near and dear to my heart. This court is so beautiful. It starts here with these children.”

Standing on the court with Field Liaison Dan Stammen, and Director of the Boys & Girls Clubs, Chris Williams, Executive Director of the WorldVentures Foundation Gwyneth Lloyd added: “We do this work together because it brings us together. I don’t know anyone in the world as generous, cohesive and caring as people from WorldVentures. What happens is the community starts to have pride. Good builds good.”

As WorldVentures Foundation volunteers continue to reach into communities to lift generations through service that transcends country allegiance and language barriers, they also reinforce the network of care that nurtures the global village, establishing friendships and fellowship wherever they go, and strengthening the belief that good, does in fact, build good. ▮

