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## Tulsa Partners selected for national pilot

# Save the Children to announce pilot project for Tulsa child safety

**S**ave the Children is turning to Tulsa Partners to help find better ways to keep children safe in disasters.

J.R. Thomas, National Director of the Domestic Emergencies Unit for Save the Children, will conduct a press conference on Monday July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the Crosstown Learning Center, 2501 East Archer. He will announce a \$70,000 grant to Tulsa Partners, Inc., to work with children, their teachers and their families over the coming year. *Save the Children* is an independent humanitarian agency assisting children in need in the United States and more than 50 countries worldwide.

This Tulsa initiative will help prepare and protect children in fires, floods, tornadoes, and other disasters. Lessons learned in this Tulsa pilot will be used in other communities around the nation.

“We’ll be targeting more than 500 children, their schools, and 20 child care centers this year,” said Tim Lovell, Executive Director of Tulsa Partners, Inc., a nonprofit agency using public-private partnerships to build a disaster-resistant community. “In an emergency, schools and child care centers are critical facilities; if parents can’t have safe, caring places for their children, they can’t get to work protecting and rebuilding the community. So we want to help the children, their schools, their child care centers, and their families all stay safe.”



A special neighborhood project in the Kendall Whittier area is also planned as a part of this pilot. Other partners and activities of this multi-faceted initiative will be highlighted at the press conference, and the media will be invited to observe a disaster preparedness workshop for children presented to participants of the Crosstown Learning Center’s Summer Camp program.

For more information, contact Tulsa Partners, Inc., at 918-632-0044 or see [www.TulsaPartners.org](http://www.TulsaPartners.org).



# Tulsa Partners Hosts Fourth Annual Nania Awards Banquet

*Event Celebrates Partners, Volunteers, Staff*



Over 60 guests gathered at the Southern Hills Marriott on Thursday, June 21 for Tulsa Partners' Fourth Annual Nania Awards Banquet. Keynote speaker for the evening was Albert Ashwood, Director of the Oklahoma Dept. of Emergency Management. Steve Penrose, President of the Tulsa Partners, Inc. Board of Directors, served as Master of Ceremonies.

Sponsors for the evening included State Farm Insurance – Platinum Sponsor; Bank of Oklahoma – Gold Sponsor; Public Service Company of Oklahoma – Silver Sponsor; Williams Companies and Neal McNeill – Bronze Sponsors.

“Nania” is a Cherokee word meaning “All Together,” and the Nania Awards were established in 2004 to recognize organizations, businesses and individuals who have displayed outstanding leadership in bringing people “all together” at the grassroots level to build disaster-resistant communities.

## The 2007 Nania Award winners



Steve Penrose & Albert Ashwood



Michael Neal & Steve Penrose



Paul Kane & Valerie Stump

**Albert Ashwood.** As the Director of the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management (OEM), Ashwood oversees the agency responsible for preparing for, responding to, recovering from and mitigating against the effects of emergencies and disasters. In his tenure with OEM, he has managed state efforts for dozens of presidentially declared disasters, including the terrorist bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building on April 19, 1995. Ashwood spent two weeks at ground zero in New York City following the events of September 11, 2001 helping establish and implement debris removal operations. He currently serves as President of the National Emergency Management Association.

**The Tulsa Metro Chamber.** The Tulsa Metro Chamber is a leading member of Tulsa Partners' Disaster Resistant Business Council, encouraging its membership to create business continuity plans and hosting sessions for small business owners to learn more about disaster planning. The Chamber served as a sponsor of the 2006 “A Day without Business” business continuity conference. The Chamber leaders take these business continuity plans so seriously that they are developing their own in-house disaster-survival plan, exemplifying their determination to lead by example, in both word and deed, to help Tulsa become a disaster-resistant community.

**The Home Builders Association of Greater Tulsa.** The HBA is an organization of more than 1,000 members that includes builders, remodelers, contractors and suppliers from throughout the greater Tulsa metropolitan area. In addition to its annual Parade of Homes and Home & Garden Show, HBA's mission is to advocate for the home building industry while promoting ethical business practices and standards and supporting the community through education and philanthropic efforts. The Home Builders Association of Greater Tulsa serves as a primary sponsor of and the general contractor for Tulsa Partners' Millennium Center for Green and Safe Living at the Tulsa Zoo.

*On June 30, the City of Tulsa Citizen Corps office closed, with the CERT and Safe and Secure programs and Citizen Corps Council administrative support going to the American Red Cross Tulsa Area Chapter. Tulsa Partners, Inc. became a stand-alone, non-profit entity. Below is an excerpt from Tim Lovell's speech given at the Nania Awards Banquet on June 21, 2007.*

Good evening. It is my privilege to speak to you one last time as both the Executive Director of Tulsa Partners, Inc. and as the Public Private Program Manager for the Tulsa Citizen Corps... I can sum up my comments in one word: Excellence. Because when you are talking about Tulsa Citizen Corps, Tulsa Partners, Inc., or its predecessor Tulsa Project Impact, you are going to talk about Excellence. The number of awards and the amount of recognition we have garnered since 1998 bear witness to the excellence of our programs, but it doesn't really explain why we have achieved such excellence. To explain that, we need to look at our volunteers, our staff, and our partners.

First and foremost, I want to speak about the excellence of our volunteers. It is because of the work of our volunteers that we have received national recognition as a best practice community. Our volunteers and our volunteer leaders have devoted countless hours to the development of programs that would support our first responders and facilitate our community's ability to withstand disaster. To our volunteers, I want to say thank you. You have made Tulsa a safer place to live...

Secondly, I want to speak about the excellence of our staff. This will be the last opportunity to recognize the incredible support and service that the staff and contractors of our office have provided to the volunteers and partners of our many programs and initiatives. They have

made it look easy—and as you all know, excellence is not easy. They will be going to other jobs both within and outside the city system, offering the same quality of service they have provided us...

On a third point, I want to highlight the importance and excellence of our partnerships. Since Project Impact, our endeavors have always used public private partnerships to build a disaster resistant community. This evening is a testament to the success and excellence of those partnerships. As you can see from the works of the recipients of this year's Nania Awards, as well as those from previous years, we have done amazing things in our collaborative ventures... All of these activities have been carried out using the shared resources of a variety of partnering entities and individuals. These connections go a long way to strengthening the fabric of our community, making it more resistant and responsive to the needs that come with disasters.

Now, what about Tulsa Partners, Inc.? When I was first recruited by Ann Patton to come work in the Tulsa Project Impact office, I was asked to create a 501(c)(3) to support the work of our public private partnerships. Tulsa Partners, Inc. has exceeded any expectations I had for it when it was incorporated in December of the year 2000. It provides to our community a conduit for businesses, non-profit agencies and individuals to focus on preparedness and mitigation activities. After June 30, I will become the full-time director of Tulsa

Partners, Inc. We will continue to utilize public private partnerships to promote the building of a disaster resistant community, and have a variety of projects planned.

We will continue to support the Disaster Resistant Business Council and its works on business continuity and emergency preparedness planning. We have been asked to host a Hospital Preparedness Workshop in Tulsa this Fall as well as to expand our Long Term Care Facilities Workshops to the Oklahoma City area. We have been asked by Save The Children... to do a demonstration project in Tulsa, working with children and child care facilities... We will continue to work with the City of Tulsa and the Tulsa Area Emergency Management Agency on disaster mitigation, including offering assistance with the update of the City of Tulsa's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan... Finally, we will continue to work... on the development of a Millennium Center for Green and Safe Living at the Tulsa Zoo. This project will highlight ways to live safely and in harmony with nature, building on the message of sustainability that is often discussed during disaster recovery and rebuilding efforts, and has always been a key message of our brothers and sisters in the environmental movement.

I thank you for your time, and look forward to seeing you at a future Tulsa Partners' event.

### **Citizen Corps Staff Says Good-Bye**

- Christina Williams
- Cassandra Love
- Penni Chandler
- Jessica Hill
- Tim Lovell
- Crystal Kline
- Carolyn Mathews
- Mary Finley
- (Liliana Crossley, not pictured)



## Volunteers Needed for PGA Tournament Fundraising Opportunity

*Catch All the Action While Supporting Tulsa Partners*

Make plans now to volunteer with Tulsa Partners during the PGA Tournament, August 6-12 at Southern Hills Country Club. We will be staffing a concession booth during the tournament to raise funds for our work in building a disaster-resistant community. Those who volunteer receive free tickets to use when not working their shifts at concessions.

If you are interested in participating, please email [tulsapartners@earthlink.net](mailto:tulsapartners@earthlink.net) or call 918-632-0044. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old and attend an orientation session; more details will be available soon.



## Tulsa Partners Continues Support of the Tulsa CERT Program

*Local Grants Provide Training  
and Materials*

Another CERT class completed basic training with their final exercise Saturday, June 30, thanks to Tulsa Partners' grant from the George Kaiser Family Foundation. The class was held at Tulsa Community College's Northeast Campus. In addition to the five classes already conducted this year, the grant will fund one more class, which will be offered to childcare center employees and parents in conjunction with the Save the Children *Safe Kids* project [see page 1].

Tulsa Partners has also received a \$500 grant from Wal-Mart, which will be used to purchase training supplies for CERT basic training and continuing education classes.

## Latest Tulsa Partners Workshop to Target Hospitals

*Event to Focus on Preparedness and  
Continuity of Services*

The Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) and Tulsa Partners are teaming up to host a Hospital Preparedness Workshop on Thursday, October 11, 2007 at OSU-Tulsa. The workshop will target administrators, finance officers and safety personnel from Tulsa County's more than 20 hospitals.

The workshop's planning committee includes representatives from MMRS, Saint Francis Hospital, Hillcrest Hospital, Tulsa Health Department, and Tulsa Partners' Disaster Resistant Business Council and Disaster Management for Long-term Care Facilities Workshop Committee.

The workshop format is in the planning stages but will include a tabletop exercise, regional experts, and strategies for ensuring continuity of services in a disaster. "It is our hope that key hospital officials will come away from this event with new tools and strategies for leading their facilities through a crisis," said Kelly Deal, MMRS Director. "We're building on the lessons learned from Tulsa Partners' previous successful workshops and bringing this critical information to a new audience."

### Tulsa Partners

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Tim Lovell, Ann Patton, Bob Roberts

### Our Mission:

To create a disaster-resistant community and improve Tulsans' safety and well-being by reducing deaths, injuries, property damage, environmental and other losses from natural or technological hazards. Public-private partners will accomplish this mission in a manner that advances community goals, enhances Tulsans' quality of life, and creates a more livable, viable and sustainable community.

## From the Project Manager's Desk



**Bob Roberts**

Well, we know it's been a long, dry spell since the last newsletter, and we sincerely apologize. But this being Oklahoma, we're no strangers to "long, dry spells," right?

There has been a huge amount of activity going on, and I wanted to share some of those things with you this month. We've had several "Stakeholder Meetings" at the Home Builders Association, where we had representatives of our various organizations present. There's a report on our progress later in the newsletter.

We now have a formal business plan. When we first started working on this, I anticipated it might be as much as 10-15 pages long (oh-oh, too much work). As it developed, it slowly morphed into a 75-page document. But it's a huge step in our development and will be a great tool. As soon as we tweak a couple of final items, we'll have it available for view on our website.

And Corey Williams, our Development Director, has done a, dare I say it, HEROIC job in putting together our formal Request for Proposal (RFP) to send out to architects. That will be going out in the next couple of days, and we already have a number of architectural firms with LEED-certified architects (see *LEED*, under the Stakeholders' Meetings section below) expressing enthusiastic interest.

All in all, as I mentioned, a huge amount of activity, and I'm proud to have had the opportunity to be involved as we take the project to a whole new level of professionalism. I look forward to working with all of you (and promise to send more regular updates).

### Meet our leadership

#### – Brandon Perkins



Brandon Perkins is our representative from the Home Builders Association of Greater Tulsa. He is a native Tulsan and son of Lindsay and Diane Perkins. He currently holds the position of Vice President of Lindsay Perkins Development. Brandon and Lindsay have developed some of Tulsa's premier neighborhoods, including The Estates of Graystone, Devonshire, The Crescent,

Legacy Park, The Village at Legacy, The Enclave at Legacy, The Park at Oak Grove, The Vintage at Verdigris, and The Preservation District.

Since his father's retirement in 2006, Brandon has started Brandon Perkins Development, "celebrated homesites of lasting value." Brandon has also teamed up with lifelong friend and engineer Clint Briggs to form Perkins & Briggs Real Estate. They are currently developing Southern Trails Estates and The Village at Southern Trails.

Brandon is an active member of the Home Builders Association of Greater Tulsa. He currently serves on the

Board of Directors as VP/Secretary and is a member of the Budget and Finance committee, in addition to previously holding several leadership positions.

### Sponsor Profile

#### – State Farm Insurance

State Farm Insurance was a pioneer partner of Tulsa Partners, Inc. and has remained closely involved with Tulsa Partners' projects over the years. They have provided two members of the Board of Directors, Mike Gurley and John Westmoreland (retired), and have sponsored numerous events, projects and fundraisers. In 2004, they were one of the recipients of the inaugural Nania Awards.

In addition to this remarkable support, State Farm is also a leading sponsor of the Millennium Center. Mike Gurley is the chair of the Executive Committee, the company is a member of the Technical Committee, and State Farm has pledged \$50,000 in matching funds to advance the Center.



## Stakeholders' Meetings

Representatives of the architects, Tulsa Zoo, home builders, Institute for Business & Home Safety (the developers of the Fortified...for Safer Living program), Green Builder Magazine, and other experts and organizations that have a vested interest in the success of the Center... The primary purpose of the meetings was to review the building standards and features we'd be using for the structure itself, and that we'd be incorporating into the educational components. We were looking at four primary building standards:



- LEED (*Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design*, U.S. Green Building Council, [www.usgbc.org/leed](http://www.usgbc.org/leed))
- Green Globes (Green Building Initiative, [www.gbi.com](http://www.gbi.com))
- Green Building Guidelines (National Association of Home Builders, [www.nahb.com](http://www.nahb.com))
- Fortified...for Safer Living (Institute for Business & Home Safety, [www.ibhs.org](http://www.ibhs.org))

### The Millennium Center Business Plan

The Business Plan is the document that will provide us with, not only a road map as we move forward, but a tool for fund-raising, promotion, and marketing. It provides a breakdown of all areas of the Millennium Center Project, including (but not limited to):

- Spreadsheets for past and future development expenses, operating expenses and anticipated revenue;
- Memberships and descriptions of all pertinent committees;
- Overview of program development for both internal exhibits, public and school outreach, and professional development outreach;
- Exhibit philosophy and examples of potential exhibits.

## Disaster Mitigation for Historical and Cultural Properties

The City of Tulsa is moving into new territory as it undertakes a 5-year annual review of its Multi-Hazard Disaster Mitigation Plan. It will be including what may be the first study in the nation of mitigation strategies for cultural and historic properties, as discussed at the Preserve America Summit hosted by First Lady Laura Bush.

The Mitigation Plan reviews actions the City and individuals can take to protect life and property against 15 different natural and man-made hazards – including tornadoes, floods, transportation events, winter storms, hail, hazardous material incidents and others. But museums, historic buildings, and other treasures from Tulsa's rich past present a unique challenge, in that the normal structural activities – impact resistant roofing, floodproofing, tornado resistant SafeRooms, etc. – must be done in a way that doesn't impact the cultural or historical significance and integrity of the structure. In addition, many of these buildings, because of their age and unique construction, offer additional challenges to be addressed.

Tulsa Partners and City officials – including Public Works, emergency management, floodplain management, the fire and police departments, and other subject matter experts – will work with R.D. Flanagan & Associates, a nationally recognized leader in floodplain and disaster mitigation planning. Ron Flanagan and his staff developed the original City of Tulsa Mitigation Plan, and are looking forward to including this program to support the cultural and historic treasures of our community.



Tim Lovell (on left) with Laura Bush

## Disaster Resistant Business Council Encourages Others to Plan Ahead

An enthusiastic group of Tulsa Partners volunteers is working to help businesses plan to survive disasters, using a planning system named "Open for Business<sup>sm</sup>."



"We're building a disaster-resistant community, one business at a time,"

says Dave Hall, chair of the Disaster-Resistant Business Council.

The Council, a Tulsa Partners committee of volunteers, works with small businesses, nonprofit agencies and institutions including government

agencies and universities. The goal is to inspire, train and educate them to make plans and take actions to reduce disaster losses before a disaster strikes.

Does the owner know how to contact his employees and customers if a power loss shuts down his business? Would he be able to resume operations at an alternate location if a tornado wiped out his plant? The Council is encouraging businesses and nonprofits to ask and answer those and similar questions.

The primary planning tool is the *Open for Business<sup>sm</sup>* program, a simple workbook that guides business owners to develop business continuity plans. The workbook guides the owner through a

dozen steps toward developing his business-survival plan.

The *Open for Business<sup>sm</sup>* toolkit, developed by the national nonprofit Institute for Business & Home Safety, is available free of charge at [www.IBHS.org](http://www.IBHS.org).

The Council is in its second year of operation. They are focusing this year on childcare centers, working in conjunction with Tulsa Partners' *Save the Children* initiative.

Council speakers are available for speaking engagements to discuss the basics about business continuity planning.

### Council members include:

**Dave Hall, Chair**

State Farm Insurance

**Claudia Arthrell**

Family & Children's Services

**Dennis Currington**

Tulsa Metro Chamber

**Diana McClure**

Institute for Business & Home Safety

**Ann Patton**

Institute for Business & Home Safety

**Rick Myers**

Oklahoma Association of Contingency Planners

**Linda Muirheid**

Tulsa Health Department

**Tim Lovell**

Tulsa Partners

**Pam Nielsen**

Oklahoma Department of Insurance

**Bob Roberts**

RD Flanagan & Associates &  
American Red Cross

**John Wiscaver**

State Farm Insurance



