



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**RECA's Annual "Christmas in October" Project to Benefit the Blackland CDC  
100+ RECA Volunteers Will Completely Renovate Shared Conservatory and Play Spaces**

(AUSTIN – October 14, 2015) – More than 100 volunteers from the Real Estate Council of Austin (RECA) will convene at the Blackland Community Development Corporation (CDC) this Saturday, Oct. 17, to redesign and renovate its shared conservatory and play spaces. These major improvements will offer residents a place to spend quality time with their families, friends and neighbors.

District 1 Council Member Ora Houston will be on hand at 8 a.m. to make brief comments about the project.

For more than six months, RECA's young professional group, the Leadership Development Council (LDC), has led the charge for the organization, developing detailed renovation plans, fundraising and gathering the necessary tools and machinery for the big day.

"Working with the Blackland CDC has been a great opportunity for RECA to continue its involvement in the community," said LDC class member and Buie & Co. Public Relations Vice President Ashley Kegley-Whitehead. "The CDC's work adds value to the lives of so many; our class is thrilled to have played a small part in the organization's ability to better fulfill its mission of housing affordability."

In 1983, the Blackland CDC was created to provide neighborhood stability through transitional and permanent supportive housing for families of moderately low to very low incomes. Its mission is to retain the Blackland neighborhood as an inclusive, affordable place families can thrive through a variety of social services and housing options.

"We could not be more grateful for RECA's generosity and its interest in the Blackland Community," said Blackland CDC Chair Bo McCarver. "The work the LDC has done and the funds it's raised have made a positive and lasting impact on the neighborhood. It has also brought greater attention to the critical issue of affordability in East Austin and that's always a good thing in my mind."

Since 1991, RECA's Christmas in October project has served local community groups in need, contributing more than \$1 million in the process. Last year's project benefited SafePlace, which helps individuals and families affected by sexual and domestic violence. The project won a "National Make a Difference Day" award from *USA Today*. Learn more [here](#).

This year's volunteer event will take place from 8:00 a.m. through noon at the Blackland CDC, located at 1902 East 22nd St., Austin, TX, 78722. If you would like to attend or arrange a story beforehand, please contact Ryan Poulos at (512) 320-4151 or [ryan.poulos@reca.org](mailto:ryan.poulos@reca.org).

*The Real Estate Council of Austin (RECA) addresses issues affecting the commercial real estate community in Central Texas. With more than 1,700 members, the non-profit, advocacy organization represents a broad spectrum of the Central Texas economy, ranging from landowners and developers to the various service professions that facilitate the industry. Commercial real estate development brings new jobs to Central Texas while protecting existing jobs and increasing tax revenue, which is used to fund our public schools, city services, infrastructure and parks.*

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