

Gathering promotes University Area improvement

NORTH TAMPA — All who are interested in improving the neighborhoods in the University of South Florida area are invited to a gathering of the University Area Community Development Corporation Partners Coalition Thursday (Jan. 24), where attendees will learn about programs and initiatives happening in the University of South Florida area, have a complimentary breakfast and network with others.

The event is being held from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the University Area Community Center, 14013 N. 22nd St. Reservations are required by contacting ccedeno@uacdc.org. There is no charge to attend.

Celebrating 20 years of community service, The University Area CDC is a non-profit public-private partnership whose mission is children and family development, crime prevention and the growth of commerce. Its primary focus is the redevelopment and sustainability of the at-risk areas surrounding the Tampa campus of the University of South Florida.

The CDC has championed change in the economic, educational and social levels of the community through youth programs, adult education, affordable housing, workforce and resource assistance and community engagement. The organization has spearheaded change and accomplishment in the community, resulting in more than \$80 million in construction development. It has handled the creation and operation of a 50,000 square foot, state-of-the-art Community Center Complex and was instrumental in creating a 28-acre campus containing Muller Elementary, a nationally recognized magnet school, Bowers Whitley, a career-centered high school, Junior Achievement



Courtesy of Luis Viera

North Tampa residents receive assistance in 2017 at the University Area CDC after Hurricane Irma. The University Area Community Development Corporation Partners Coalition will have a complimentary breakfast on Thursday, Jan. 24, where attendees will learn about area programs and initiatives.

Enterprise Village, a Health Care Center and Community Library.

On Saturday (Jan. 19), the CDC staff site leaders and volunteers will tackle landscaping, painting and other projects around the community. Over the holidays, it organized a toy drive for needy children in the community.

Funds provided through a diverse portfolio of grants and foundations, private contributions and public appropriations help residents participate in most programs free of charge, according to the organization. For more information about the University Area CDC, call (813) 558-5212 or go to www.uacdc.org.

— *Times staff*

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