

Spirit of Lewisville Award – 2019

First Baptist Church of Lewisville

Neighborhood Services identified multiple serious code violations at a single-family residential property in 2015. Items that needed to be addressed included an overgrown tree damaging the roof, deteriorated paint, chipped siding, a damaged garage door, and massive amount of garbage outside and inside the house.

When City staff met with the homeowner, it became apparent that she would not be able to complete the needed repairs or cleanup on her own. There also were multiple health and code issues found inside the house that needed to be resolved. Other residents in the neighborhood also expressed concern for the welfare of the homeowner. The standard enforcement process could have resulted in the resident being forced to vacate the house due to health and safety concerns.

However, First Baptist Church of Lewisville stepped in as a good neighbor. Through many months of counseling, fundraising, and volunteer labor, church members assisted the homeowner with a major renovation of the house. Not only did First Baptist Church make full repairs to the exterior of the building and bring it back into compliance with City housing standards, church members also worked extensively to clean and repair the interior to ensure that the resident could remain in her home in a safe and healthy environment.

Options for the City were extremely limited, and without intervention by First Baptist Church the outcome could have been a severe long-term negative impact on the resident. Through the initiative, compassion, and dedication of its members, First Baptist Church made a lasting positive change for this resident and her neighbors.