

DATE: October 22, 2009

Barton College Community Day of Service aids Preservation of Wilson

Fifty students and faculty from Barton College gave aid to Preservation of Wilson during Barton College Community Day of Service on October 21, 2009.

One task was a continuation of the BB&T Lighthouse Project, where members of the Barton College Habitat for Humanity Chapter took over. This new group is now referred to as the POWER Team – *Preservation of Wilson Economic Restructuring* Team. The three historic homes worked on are located in the 300 block of Tarboro Street in the Old Wilson Historic District.

BB&T's Corporate Information Security Department, had worked with Preservation of Wilson recently to assist in the marketing efforts as the non-profit recruits new owners to revitalize architecturally unique properties. Many of these houses have been vacant and boarded up for years. Windows broken and wide open, locks unbolted, and with garbage and debris everywhere.

The Lighthouse Project purchased the tools necessary to secure and stabilize the houses, provided equipment to clean them out, and supplied the proper computer equipment to help Preservation of Wilson get their message out.

As Preservation of Wilson continues to receive options on properties, Barton College Habitat for Humanity Chapter will be the first in line to begin the process of marketing these houses to preservation minded buyers by making them presentable for viewing.

As part of Day of Service, students also worked at the Mayor Wilson House on Warren Street and the William-Woodard-Banks House, home to the interior design firm of Barnes and Flippin located at 501 Board Street. As the preservation group markets the Board Street house for restoration, Day of Service offered the manpower to remove donated items as Robert Flippin, a member of the American Society of Interior Designers begins to downsize his business.

Mr. Flippin has donated short-end rolls of thousands of yards of designer upholstery fabric and other decorative items. Barton College volunteers moved out the remainder of the donations and set up the inventory in the Mayor Wilson House.

Preservation of Wilson committee members are working out the details for a

large fundraiser. A date has not been set yet. Board member Eliza Stephenson is spear heading this effort.

Preservation of Wilson is a nonprofit corporation that provides leadership in the revitalization efforts of Wilson County's unique architectural properties. It actively promotes historically, architecturally and culturally significant properties. For information, call Kathy Bethune at (252) 234-7694.