

Channel 2 (WBRZ) News at 5, Wednesday, 7/30/03

THE MELROSE EAST NEIGHBORHOOD, DUBBED "MALL CITY" IS ON THE ROAD TO REVITALIZATION.

AN INVESTOR IS MAKING A COMMITMENT TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND ITS CHILDREN.
NEWS TWO'S SUMMER JACKSON TELLS US MORE ABOUT THE CHANGES TO A FORGOTTEN SECTION OF THE CITY

A TRUCK LOAD OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES THAT TOTAL 650-DOLLARS WAS DONATED AND UNLOADED AT BROADMOOR ELEMENTARY. B-G-AND-G INVESTORS DONATED THE SUPPLIES.

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"WE'RE JUST THRILLED THAT WE HAVE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, ESPECIALLY FROM THE MELROSE EAST AREA. IT SEEMS TO BE COMING ALIVE AGAIN."

THE SCHOOL SUPPLIES ARE JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG FOR B-G-AND-G INVESTORS. COMPANY OWNER HOWARD GYLER SAYS SOME STUDENTS WHO ATTEND BROADMOOR, COME FROM THE MELROSE EAST COMMUNITY FORMERLY CALLED MALL CITY.

GYLER'S COMPANY AND OTHER PRIVATE INVESTORS HAVE POURED 2.7-MILLION DOLLARS IN REHABILITATING PROPERTIES IN MELROSE.

"WE FEEL THAT FOR OUR RESIDENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN THE SOLUTION IS IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SO WE FELT THE RIGHT THING TO DO WAS TO HELP THIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS. TO HELP OTHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS. TO HELP THE KIDS TO HAVE THE RIGHT MATERIALS TO LEARN."

PROPERTIES IN MELROSE EAST WERE ABANDONED OR RUNDOWN AND THE NEIGHBORHOOD WAS OVERTAKEN WITH DRUGS AND CRIME.

BUT, ONE BY ONE. GYLER SAYS INVESTORS AND PROPERTY OWNERS HOPE HELP TO TURN THAT NEIGHBORHOOD AROUND. JUST SINCE JANUARY. B-G-AND-G REHABBED THIS APARTEMENT COMPLEX, CALLED MONET PLACE. IT ONCE ONLY HAD 3-OCCUPIED APARTMENTS, THE REST WERE ABANDONED. NOW IT'S FULL.

"IT'S A LOT OF BIG CHANGES THAT HAVE BEEN GOING ON AND THEY ARE DOING A REAL FINE JOB."

GYLER SAYS 2-OTHER REHAB PROJECTS ARE IN THE WORKS. AS WELL AS THE PURCHASE OF OTHER BUILDINGS.

HE SAYS HE HOPES THE CHANGES IN MELROSE EAST, WILL INSPIRE OTHER BUSINESSES TO HELP SCHOOLS AND THE COMMUNITY.

SUMMER JACKSON NEWS TWO LOUISIANA.

MONEY WAS ALSO DONATED TO BROADMOOR ELEMENTARY TO BUY BOOKS. INVESTOR HOWARD GYLER SAYS HE HOPES THE MELROSE EAST COMMUNITY WILL LOSE THE NAME OF "MALL CITY." THE REHABILITATED APARTMENTS ARE FOR LOW-TO-MODERATE INCOME RESIDENTS.