



BREAKING GROUND, BUILDING STRENGTH

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On Monday, August 4th we held a groundbreaking ceremony for our Community Outreach Center and Movie Theatre Development. These ceremonial events bring together community leaders, residents, all the finance folks and partners who made other development and this day happen. Everyone is thanked, politicians help celebrate the day, and the pictures with hard hats and shovels commence. Something else also happened – we continued to strengthen our relationship in this community. We always say “community building happens at the speed of trust” and this event is a continuation of more than a decade worth of building trust.

We frame the event as the continuation of our collective efforts to create “home” in the 24:1 footprint that is now the Normandy Schools Collaborative. It’s not just the house where you live but more importantly the life in and around where you live. In our case a grocery store, a bank and soon a movie theatre, and community outreach center are part of the fabric of the place we are helping to create. We are trusted, in part, because we listen to voice of the community and get stuff done over and over again.

The groundbreaking was in the City of Pagedale but the mayors of Pine Lawn, Vinita Park, Cool Valley and representatives from Wellston also came to celebrate the day. The leaders of these communities recognize the success of our 24:1 collaborative and see the real life value for everyone involved. The event continues to affirm our commitment to this community and its residents. Building trust in this work is paramount if any success is to occur. Trust only happens if your work is continuous, sincere, and always in partnership with those you serve. Yes we “broke” some ground but what we really did was to continue to “build” our partnership with everyone in the 24:1 footprint.