



CONSTELLATION

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Mueller hosts Town Hall meeting, highlights District's past and vision for the future

By **Katisha Draughn**
Public Affairs Office

More than 500 Baltimore District employees attended a Town Hall meeting at the Sheraton Baltimore Hotel Dec. 11 to listen to Col. Peter W. Mueller, District commander, as he reflected on the District's proud past and discussed its dynamic future.

"This Town Hall is an attempt to share with you all that you have done this year," said Mueller.

Mueller reviewed the District's mission statement which states: *Baltimore District operates corporately to deliver*



(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo)

Col. Peter W. Mueller, Baltimore District commander, speaks to employees at the Annual Town Hall meeting Dec. 11. Mueller shared his command philosophy, celebrated the accomplishments from the past year and shared his vision for the upcoming year.

innovative and effective solutions to our customers' engineering challenges in a manner consistent with our values and our principles of environmental stewardship. Mueller emphasized the word *corporately*, which means to act as one body. District employees have acted as one body by their exceptional display of teamwork, Mueller said.

"When we get our job done, we are doing it together as a team," he said.

The teamwork District employees displayed did not go unnoticed as Mueller highlighted major accomplishments from various project delivery teams such as the Walter Reed Military Advanced Training Center, the Whitney Point Section 1135 Project, the Spring Valley Pit 3 Formerly Used Defense Site Munitions Recovery Operation and the Fort Detrick Remote Truck Inspection Station.

He also praised the Real Estate team for leasing approximately 34 apartments and 150 bed spaces for the wounded Soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Mueller also discussed two challenging issues that have affected many employees this past year — the ongoing \$2.4 billion Base Realignment and Closure project and the National Security Personnel System. In reference to NSPS, Mueller said he is confident that Baltimore District will learn and be able to adjust as the new program comes on board.

With so many accomplishments in 2007, Mueller said he looks forward to another successful year as the District begins to manage various projects and programs including the Civil Works program, the Continuing Authorities Program, the Mid-Bay Island Restoration Project and the Enhanced Use Leasing Program.

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U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District

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Commander's Comment

Happy New Year!

By Col. Peter W. Mueller
Commander and District Engineer

I hope each of you had a pleasant and uplifting holiday season. The holidays are an important time to relax, spend time with family and celebrate the upcoming year. It is also a time to reflect and to remember our service members serving away from home, fighting the Global War on Terror. This year that includes six of our Baltimore Teammates. As we enter the New Year, I would like to highlight some of our team's *Proud* accomplishments from 2007 and look at what's ahead for a *Dynamic* 2008.

We completed construction on the Military Advanced Training Center at Walter Reed two months ahead of schedule; expanded WRAMC facilities through our responsive lease program; began implementing the new Integrated-Design-Bid-Build acquisition strategy; broke ground for the \$1.4 billion National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency project; started the munitions recovery operation at Pit 3 of the Spring Valley formerly used defense site; completed repairs to the Washington D.C. Tidal Basin Gates; provided support to Arlington National Cemetery's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier project; awarded the construction contract on the Whitney Point Lake Section 1135 project; initiated the new levee safety program; implemented Rapanos regulatory guidance; exceeded 5 of 6 small business goals; and continued efforts on the Water Treatment Residuals Project. Additionally, nine of our District teammates volunteered to deploy on contingency and hurricane recovery operations. We truly accomplished our mission!

Throughout the year our support staff made significant contributions. Teams conducted community outreach to local high schools, universities and minority community organizations; achieved and exceeded all budget projections under the first North Atlantic Division Regional budget; established a District Logistics museum; trained 327 District employees in safety

courses and programs; helped get the District ready to transition to the Army Corps of Engineers Information Technology organization; provided legal support to the BRAC program and many other customers; completed 5,177 contract actions; and provided media and fiscal law training to District employees.

We must be excited as we look forward to the year ahead. We will continue to work on our multi-billion dollar BRAC program. We will implement the Water Resources Development Act 2007 legislation, and work on the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Plan and the Native oyster study. We will continue our flood damage reduction study for Fairfax County and complete feasibility reports for Montoursville, Greenbury Point, Tidal Middle Branch and Lower Lycoming Creek. We will continue our support to 23 military installations and manage the Enhanced Use Leasing program for the Army. Our Realty Services Field Office will continue tackling their significant mission as our own "Quiet Professionals". We will also maintain exceptional water quality and deliver clean drinking water to Washington D.C., Arlington County, Va., and Falls Church, Va.

As we close out 2007, we should all be proud of our many accomplishments. These are only realized due to our hard working, dedicated, dynamic workforce. People are the most important element in any organization, and Baltimore District exemplified service to our Nation by ensuring our customers were given the highest level of services and by working tirelessly with local, federal and state agencies. Your individual and team effort is very much appreciated and does not go unnoticed. We will face many challenges and hurdles along the way, but with teamwork, dedication and communication, we will be able to tackle any obstacle! Team Baltimore is doing a fantastic job! I am proud and honored to serve with you and I am excited to see all the great things we will accomplish together in 2008.

Army Strong, Engineer Ready, ESSAYONS!

Town Hall Meeting
(continued from the cover)



(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo)

Steve Garbarino and Kevin Brennan, PPMD, before the Town Hall meeting. More than 500 District employees attended the meeting, which gave insight into the success of Baltimore District and its future.

“I am always amazed at the number of installations that want to use the EUL program to help improve conditions at their installation,” he said.

Mueller said he is proud of the District’s support of ongoing contingency operations and asked employees to remember all the Soldiers and Civilians who are currently

away from home fighting the Global War on Terror.

After his presentation, Mueller opened the floor for questions. Employees had the opportunity to ask the Commander about NSPS, the Army Corps of Engineers Information Technology organization and the Appropriations Bill.

Afterward, Mueller presented Commander’s Coins to 23 employees who were recognized for their exceptional performance on the job.

Dale Duncan received a Commander’s Coin for her work in preparing for the District Holiday Party while managing her challenging workload.

“It felt very good and I felt very much appreciated,” said Duncan, a design manager in Engineering Division. “I was very happy for everyone who received coins.”

Jeff DeFosse, a supervisory park ranger at Tioga-Hammond and Cowanesque Lakes, received a Commander’s Coin for his leadership and administration of the Natural Resources Management Team. “I felt very honored and thankful that my supervisor felt my work was worthy of recognition.”

DeFosse said he was pleased with the Town Hall and Mueller’s presentation on the success of Baltimore District.

“I enjoyed the opportunity to hear Col. Mueller discuss his knowledge of the District and his priorities for continued success for the Baltimore District and the Corps of Engineers.”

Our Dynamic Future

Quick Poll: What do you want to see Baltimore District accomplish this year?



Carlen Capenos
Executive Office

“Continue to execute the mission efficiently and effectively while keeping the morale of employees up and continue to have us all working together as a team.”



Bruce Ware
Construction Division

“Have a good, safe and quality start to the Baltimore District Base Realignment and Closure Construction program.”



Sandy Gore
Programs and Project Management Division

“I would like to see the District help strengthen the Civil Works program.”

Drill teams travel the world looking for answers below the surface

By Christopher Augsburger
Public Affairs Office

If a building is only as strong as its foundation, then how strong is the foundation? This is a question that U.S. Army Corps of Engineers districts and other agencies in the construction business frequently ask, and many come to Baltimore District for the answer.

From the Portuguese Dam in Puerto Rico to Ellis Island in New York, Baltimore District's Field Exploration Unit finds itself in the middle of nearly every type of project. Whether the challenge is building a dining facility on a military installation or evaluating seepage problems through a dam, the FEU helps to lay ground-

work for any major design and construction effort.

The FEU is part of the Geotechnical Branch. Project managers call upon the FEU teams to collect sample materials such as rock, concrete and soils from the footprint of a job site. These samples are then tested to help engineers design the best foundation for a specific structure. FEU teams are also asked to install gauges, instruments and other data-collection equipment deep into the ground to measure such things as water and earth movement or soil strength.

"What's below the surface is as important as what is above the surface," said Mary Dan, a project manager in the Civil Works Programs and Project Management Division. "I've used the FEU on the Bloomsburg [levee] and the C&O Canal Rewatering Project. In my humble

opinion, good subsurface data is crucial to designing projects that work," she said.

One of only seven FEUs in the Corps, Baltimore District's team possesses a particularly special set of skills. It is one of only a handful of Districts that own specialized drilling equipment, such as a tilt bed drill rig. Different than standard drill rigs that sit flat on a surface, a tilt bed drill rig allows teams to drill at steep angles, such as those found on earthen embankments at dams and levees.

When the FEU gets called to action, it usually forms a four-person team to deploy to the job



(Photo by Bill Kriner, Engineering Division)

Members of the Baltimore District Field Exploration Unit drill through soil and rock at Wolf Creek Dam in Kentucky. The team, using a tilt bed drill rig, provided daily samples to Nashville District during their deployment in February 2007 as part of a major rehabilitation effort underway to address seepage problems within the dam's foundation.

site. These teams typically consist of a driller, junior driller, a helper and a geologist from the District's Geotechnical Branch.

"The role of the inspector or field geologist is primarily to identify, classify and log soil and rock core samples that pertain to work plan specifics," said Maria Orosz, one of the geologists in Engineering Division who deploys with the FEU teams.

"We also serve as the point of contact in the field to communicate between office and field personnel," she said.

After receiving a mission, the team usually takes a variety of different equipment to a site, according to Bill Kriner, the chief of the FEU.

"Equipment can include a drill rig, a supply truck and a pickup truck for support, while the geologist takes along a mobile office van," said Kriner.

Baltimore District also has access to truck-mounted drill rigs, skid rigs, large rubber-tired drill rigs — also known as "swamp buggies"— and portable drilling equipment that can be carried by hand. In addition to land-based equipment, the District also owns a floating platform that allows teams to conduct drilling in the water for projects in canals, rivers and other bodies of water.

This specialized equipment, combined with Kriner's 36 years of experience, makes the Baltimore FEU unique. While the FEU teams continue to work diligently on the increasing workload in Baltimore District, and in particular with military construction projects, members of the team also find themselves in places far from home.

For example, Baltimore's FEU team has an integral role in Nashville District, where the Corps is studying seepage issues at Center Hill Dam and Wolf Creek Dam. Wolf Creek Dam sits on the Cumberland River in south central Kentucky and provides hydropower, flood control, water supply and water quality benefits for the Cumberland River system and surrounding region. However, the dam began experiencing seepage problems in 1968, and major rehabilitation efforts are underway to improve the long-term reliability of the dam.

"We were conducting test borings through soil and rock," said Thad Bergling, chief of the Geology and Investigation Section. "We provided daily samples to Nashville District so they can make the appropriate decisions on how to proceed."

The Baltimore FEU continues to support Baltimore and other districts across the country, with work scheduled in Maine and Massachusetts for New England District and a return trip to Nashville District in April.



(Photo courtesy of Engineering Division)

Doug Baughman, EN, watches an auger being removed from the ground at Engineering Proving Ground in Fort Belvoir, Va. Baughman is a member of a four-person Field Exploration Unit team sent to job sites to collect samples of materials such as rock, concrete and soils which are tested to help engineers design the best foundation for a specific structure.

Gateway to our nation's waters: Operations

Story and photos by
Jennifer Walsh
Public Affairs Office

Chris Correale has dedicated herself to the Corps for more than 30 years. However, the Corps path was not one she always envisioned following.

"I originally started out in college with the intent of being a Spanish teacher," said Correale, chief of Operations Division.

As fate would have it, her core requirements at Catawba College in Salisbury, N.C., included taking a science class. Correale decided to take chemistry, which was a subject she struggled with in high school.

"I decided I wasn't going to let it get the best of me and really devoted a lot of time to it," said Correale. "I found out I could be successful at it and decided to switch my major to chemistry."



As the chief of Operations, Correale is responsible for managing the operation and maintenance of the District's federally-maintained flood damage reduction and navigation projects, overseeing coastal construction management and supervising the regulatory program.

As Correale progressed through college, her career chips began to fall into place. During the summers, she worked for the Wilmington District in North Carolina as an aide in the Planning Division. This led to a permanent position as a chemist in Wilmington's environmental resources branch when she graduated. Over the years, Correale advanced through the ranks in Wilmington District and in 1991, she decided to take a job as the chief of Hazardous, Toxic and Radioactive Waste Branch in Baltimore District.

"There was no more room for growth in Wilmington," said Correale. "I wanted to grow more so I came to Baltimore."

Correale continued her career with a brief detail in 1997 as the acting deputy chief of Operations, Construction and Readiness Division at HQUSACE. By 1998, she had settled down in Baltimore District as chief of Operations Division.

As the chief, Correale is responsible for managing the operation and maintenance of the District's federally-maintained flood damage reduction and navigation projects, overseeing coastal construction management and supervising the regulatory program.

Within the Operations Division there are four branches that carry out the Operations mission — the regulatory branch, navigation branch, flood damage reduction branch and the management support branch.

The regulatory branch handles requests



Chris Correale, chief of Operations, points out Raystown Dam to Lisa Biehl, a program support assistant in Operations.

for permits for activities such as discharging dredged material or doing work in the navigable waters of the United States. For example, permits may be issued for placing a boat dock in tidal waters or for work on transportation projects such as the Intercounty Connector.

The navigation branch is responsible for maintaining navigability in federal channels in the Chesapeake Bay, its tributaries and the area adjacent to Washington, D.C. The branch is also responsible for any hydrographic surveying necessary to support the navigation mission; coastal construction management; and the District's debris removal operations in the harbors of Baltimore and Washington, D.C.

The flood damage reduction branch maintains all the federally-operated flood damage reduction projects. This includes 15 dams and many smaller projects such as concrete channels and levees. The branch also performs periodic inspec-

tions to identify FDRPs in need of improvement. Members of this branch include park rangers and staff at Corps-operated lakes.

The management and support branch manages the money coming into the Operations Division and prepares the division's annual operating budget. In addition, the branch develops project and program budgets and provides financial guidance to the division.

Although all the employees in Operations Division fall under one of the four branches, they do not all work under the roof of the City Crescent Building.

"We have a lot of field offices," said Correale. "Debris teams have offices at Fort McHenry and Washington, D.C., and there are people at Poplar Island while construction is underway."

There are also three regulatory field offices located within the region and all of the dams have staff there except for Arkport and Aylesworth dams.

Currently, there are about 200 full-time

and seasonal employees in the Operations Division. During the summer months, the division hires additional part-time employees to help with the increase in visitors at Corps lakes.

While some of the Operations employees know they will spend their day on a debris boat or conducting nature programs at a lake, Correale never knows what tasks the day will bring.

"A typical day is you come in thinking you're going to do one thing and then something else happens," said Correale. "It could be anything from a newspaper article that involves a Corps project, or a permit that requires a response or a customer concern that needs my attention."

Regardless of the task at hand, Correale appreciates the work that needs to be done.

"I've always felt excited about my job whether I was working in Operations, Planning or Engineering," said Correale. "The work has always been fun."

Correale said the best part about her work is being able to help people grow in their positions, both technically and as leaders.

"Watching people grow is the most rewarding part of my job," she said.

Although Correale finds her work rewarding, she also knows the importance of having time to unwind. Correale said she enjoys going to the movies, reading books and spending time with friends. When she has the opportunity to take a trip, she enjoys visiting her brother and her sister, who live in different states. Regardless of where she is, she finds a way to relax and prepare herself for the week ahead.

"I think people need to take the time to recharge their batteries," said Correale.

Even though she enjoys a good vacation, Correale said she cannot imagine returning home to work for anyone but the Corps.

"I like what I'm doing," said Correale. "This is a great place to work, we have great people in Operations and we do great things to serve people every day."

Did you know...

- When Correale was in college, she worked part-time as a short order cook at the student union building.
- She collects both modern and old fountain pens.
- Her favorite movie is "Finding Forrester" because it shows that people rise to the expectations that are placed on them.
- She enjoys reading mysteries, courtroom dramas and spy novels.
- She is retiring in March 2008.

District outlines inclement weather plan

Winter is here and some District employees may be wondering where they should tune in for information on District delays and closings during inclement weather.

Baltimore District has established a hazardous weather hotline, (410) 962-1804, for employees to call for the latest information on District closings and delays.

Corps employees may visit www.nab.usace.army.mil — the District's Web site — for information on District operations, or tune into several TV and radio stations. Every effort will be made to provide initial updates by 5:20 a.m. and periodic updates thereafter.

Please clip the card below and keep it in a convenient place for use during a hazardous weather event.



CENAB Hazardous Weather Plan

Employees should report to work unless an announcement is made stating otherwise.

Hazardous Weather Hotline (410) 962-1804 or 1-877-349-9523

Telecommunications Device for the Deaf 1-800-735-2258 or (410) 962-1804

● CODE YELLOW

Corps of Engineers offices in the Baltimore metropolitan area are opening 2 hours late. Offices will open to the public at 10:00 a.m.

● CODE BLUE

Corps of Engineers offices in the Baltimore metropolitan area are opening 4 hours late. Offices will open to the public at noon.

● CODE RED

Corps of Engineers offices in the Baltimore metropolitan area are closed for the day. Offices are closed to the public for the day.

● CODE ORANGE

Corps of Engineers offices in the Baltimore metropolitan area are closed and/or under a District-wide activation of the All Hazards Notification & Accountability Plan.

LISTEN TO RADIO STATIONS 1090 AM, 820 AM, 93.1 FM, 101.9 FM, 102.7 FM, 103.5 FM, 105.7 FM, & 106.5 FM

WATCH TV STATIONS CHANNELS WMAR 2, WBAL 11, WJZ 13 & WBFF 45

Fort Miles Cleanup Underway...



(Photo by Chanel S. Weaver, Public Affairs)

Geophysicist Brian Junck pulls an EM-61 MK2 electromagnetic conductivity instrument across the sands of Cape Henlopen State Park near Lewes, Del., the site of the former Fort Miles Military Reservation. Under a \$2.1 million contract awarded to Weston Solutions, Inc., the Non-Time Critical Removal Activity will comb three Munitions Response Areas within the bounds of the 2,000-acre park for unexploded ordnance and other remains of training and testing conducted by the Army during World War I and II. Operations began Nov. 26 and are scheduled to run through February 2008.

Play it safe on the roads this winter

By John Houvener

Safety and Occupational Health Office

The emergency rooms in this area are busy enough, so to help give them a break this winter, play it safe and follow these 10 tips for safe winter driving.

1. Respect the winter weather. Plan extra time for your trip. A trip that normally takes 30 minutes in May might take you 45 minutes to an hour in the winter.

2. Wear your safety belts. You have to be protected, no matter what season it is. Make it a rule: Everyone must be buckled up before the vehicle moves.

3. Don't Drink and Drive or Drive and Talk/Text. At least 30 percent of those winter-driving crashes that lead to visits to Baltimore and D.C. area hospitals involve alcohol or driver distractions. Remember that your reaction time is impaired when drinking and when you're distracted. You will have even less reaction time in hazardous conditions. If you drink, don't drive, and if you don't have a hands-free device, stay off the phone while driving.

4. Winterize your vehicle's safety kit. You should always have a safety kit and in the winter it should include some special additions such as: a blanket, a small shovel to dig out snow, a flashlight, a first-aid kit, jumper cables, ice scraper/brush and lock deicer. These things don't take much room and could save you some frustration and/or a trip to the emergency room.

5. Conduct a pre-trip inspection. Use the checklist we have provided for you in Appendix H of the Safety and Health Requirement Manual (DR 385-1-1) for your own vehicle and for your government vehicle. Check the antifreeze. Make sure you have proper tires to handle the weather. Be sure you have enough gas for each trip. Check to make sure your wipers are in good shape.

6. Be ready for changing conditions. Make sure you have good all-season or winter tires that can handle different types of weather.

7. Don't get overconfident if you have a large vehicle. The bigger the vehicle, the tougher it is to stop. A sport-utility vehicle might get through some tough conditions more easily, but it won't stop any faster, and it may roll over if you make a turn too fast.

8. Know how to react to trouble. If you have antilock brakes, don't pump them. Press them down as hard as you can. If you go into a skid, turn the steering wheel in the direction you want the front of the car to go; that will keep the vehicle from skidding out of control. Then prepare to counter steer two or three times.

9. Leave some space. Follow the three-second rule. After the vehicle in front of you passes a stationary object, you should be able to count for at least three seconds before your vehicle passes the same object.

10. Defuse road rage. One-fourth of drivers in a recent AAA survey admitted they have expressed anger at other drivers. To avoid becoming a road-rage statistic, leave more room between yourself and other drivers. Stay out of the left lane if you're going slow and drive defensively. Relax, it isn't worth a trip to the emergency room.

Have you heard about \$afety Buck\$?



Safety achievement is invaluable and plays a key role in the success of the District. Most of the district leaders have been issued Safety Bucks and ALL leaders are encouraged to appropriately recognize safe behavior in all our delivery processes. The Safety Bucks program provides a procedure for leaders to reward their employee's efforts to promote safety and safe behavior. The award focuses on safety performance and safety training and all district employees are eligible for recognition. The core program consists of incentive awards or "Safety Bucks" that an employee can use to purchase items from the Employee Activities Association catalog. To become more familiar with the program go to <https://nabinfo.nab.usace.army.mil/policies/District/regs.htm>.

Corps' DCG visits Morgan State University

By Chanel S. Weaver
Public Affairs Office

Visit Morgan State University on a weekday between the hours of 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. and you will usually see students enjoying their lunch or cramming in some last minute study time before they head to their next class. But on a Thursday in late November 2007, approximately 100 students crowded



(Photo by Chanel S. Weaver, Public Affairs)

Maj. Gen. Ronald L. Johnson, deputy commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Dr. Reginald L. Armory, chair of the civil engineering department at Morgan State University, listen as Carl Page, a laboratory technician at MSU, gives a tour of a Morgan chemistry lab Nov. 29.

into the auditorium of the college's engineering building during their lunch period, eager to hear about professional and career development opportunities.

They came to listen to Maj. Gen. Ronald L. Johnson, deputy commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as he discussed the benefits of being a federal employee and encouraged college students to pursue careers with the federal government.

Situated in Baltimore City, Morgan State University is a historically black college that produces more African-American scientists and engineers than any other college or university in the state of Maryland. Johnson said the upcoming workload for the Corps demands a need to recruit these students.

"We need more engineers to handle our increasing workload," said Johnson.

Some of the benefits of serving as a federal employee include the opportunity to work on high-profile projects and to travel around the globe, said Johnson during the Nov. 29 visit to the school.

"The Corps offers responsibilities and opportunities that will certainly pad your resume," he said.

Johnson also spoke to the students about some of the personal obstacles he faced in life and challenged the students to rise above adversity in order to succeed.

"It's not where you come from that matters; it's where you are going," he said.

Martin Luther King Jr. Observance



Date: Friday, Jan. 18

Time: 10 a.m.

Location: To Be Determined

Excellence is the key...



(Photo by Jennifer Walsh, Public Affairs)

Col. Kenneth O. McCreedy, Fort Meade Installation Commander (far left), and Col. Peter W. Mueller, Baltimore District Commander (far right), present Commander's Coins and a team award to District employees for the contract and legal support they provided to Fort Meade for the Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant contract. They are (from left to right) Dr. Jimm Rich, CT; Shelly Taylor, OC; Donna Leketa, CT; Carlen Capenos, EX; and Cathey Robertson, CT.

Getting into the Holiday Groove



(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo)

District employees dance to holiday tunes at the District's Annual Holiday Party held at the Radisson Hotel Dec. 14. The Holiday Party committee planned a fun-filled afternoon for District employees with activities such as the best holiday sweater and tie contest; an appearance by Santa Claus and his reindeer girls; the new "Are You Smarter Than a DA Intern" game; door prizes; a raffle drawing; and holiday music.

News You Can Use

Speakers Bureau Update

J.T. Hand, OP, spoke to the Maryland Marine Club Nov. 20. Hand discussed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its role in supporting the Port of Baltimore.

Angel Tree Program a huge success!

The Employee Activities Association 2007 Angel Tree Program was a huge success. Employees provided gifts for 200 needy children throughout the Baltimore area. Sue Jones sends a big thank you to all who participated.

Combined Federal Campaign Update

District's Goal: \$80,000
Total Raised: \$83,009