



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Preserving Historic McDaniel Street Cemetery in Eastex - Jensen

From the **Board President**

January 2025

Dear Friends and Fellow Descendants,

This annual report highlights some of WCA's activities in the cemetery and Eastex-Jensen community, recognizes descendants and the friends whose support makes operating the Association and maintaining the cemetery possible, and presents WCA's financial position as of December 31, 2024.

McDaniel Street Cemetery, which contains multiple family cemeteries, is an important historic anchor deeply ingrained in the identity of the Eastex-Jensen community. (It is sometimes referred to as Westcott Cemetery by the neighborhood). Our vision is to preserve the integrity of these early settlers' homestead cemeteries for future generations of descendants while creating a place of community pride, serenity, and learning for people living and working in Eastex-Jensen. With your support, we are making progress.

A year ago this month, the WCA board of directors met in a facilitated retreat to create a strategic plan that would guide us as we implement the Vision Plan, continue routine maintenance, operate the Association, and build reserves for sustainability and emergencies. As of December 31, 2024, donations and pledges in the amount of \$45,929 (18% of the \$250,000 goal we set at that retreat) have been received. Initially, we planned to raise all these funds by the end of 2026, my final year on the board of directors. However, last spring, extreme weather events—the Derecho followed by the summer's Hurricane Beryl—depleted WCA's Emergency Reserve Fund, and we recognized that we would need to extend this ambitious timeline and our fundraising strategies beyond 2026 in order to implement all the elements of the Vision Plan. We invite your participation in making McDaniel Street Cemetery a greenspace asset to be enjoyed by the neighboring northside community and descendants for generations to come.

--Sara Haynes Founding President, Westcott Cemetery Association



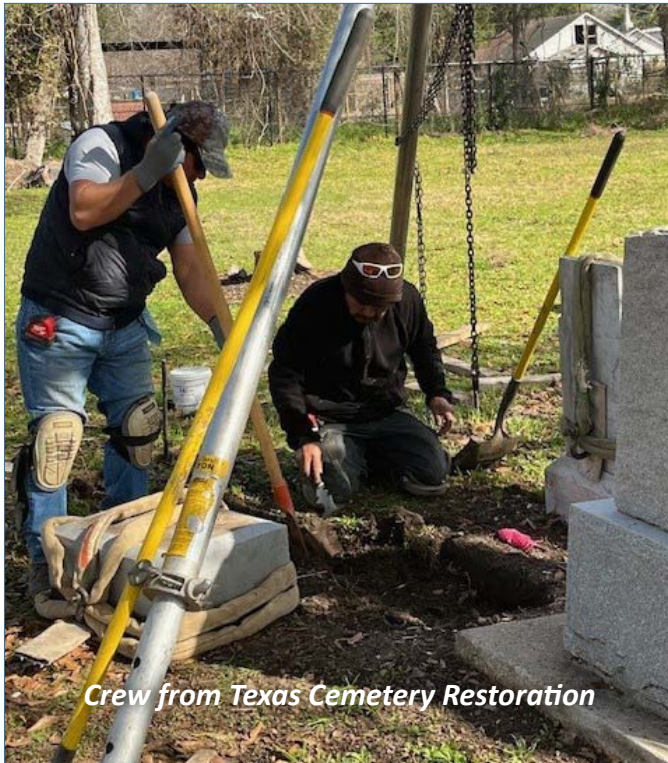
Around 1849, Richard D. Westcott moved his family to Harris County, Texas, and purchased a large tract of farmland with a sawmill on it. The Westcott family homestead cemetery was established on that property and formally dedicated for community use in 1893. Over time, the land was sold to a small group of intermarried neighboring families including the McDaniel, McDonald, Cours, Farmer, Newton, and Schuller families. John Farmer, who owned land just west of the cemetery, also retained a portion of that property for the cemetery. The earliest burial is reported to have taken place in 1850, with interments continuing into the early 1960s.

Today, the cemetery is situated between I-69 (Eastex Freeway) and the Hardy Toll Road, off Jensen Drive and East Crosstimbers, at the curve of McDaniel Street and Schuller Road. During the cemetery's 110-year history, the surrounding area developed from white rural homesteads to a primarily African American residential neighborhood. Today, the community is mostly Latinx.

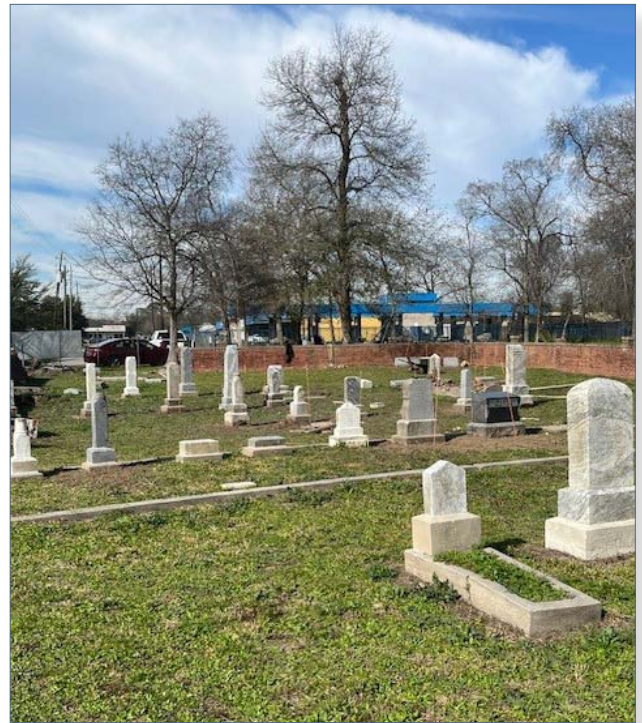
WCA was formed in 2018 by three Westcott descendant siblings. Working with Texas Historical Commission, in 2020 the previously unnamed property containing the Westcott and other family cemeteries was collectively named McDaniel Street Cemetery and designated a Historic Texas Cemetery. WCA became the legal conservator of the cemetery, responsible for its care and maintenance, in October 2021.

Winter 2024

Texas Cemetery Restoration was back in the cemetery in early February to complete the work begun in 2022 to reset the rest of the grave markers.



Crew from Texas Cemetery Restoration



WCA joined the Greater Northside Chamber of Commerce (GNCC), serving one Houston's most historic and resurgent communities.

Board Retreat



WCA held its first facilitated board retreat at the offices of the Houston Chronicle. The board began developing a three-year strategic fundraising plan to raise \$250,000 to implement the Vision Plan, add to the Cemetery Emergency Fund, and the Association Reserve Fund. The retreat was facilitated by Cindy Lucia, who graciously volunteered her time.



The three security cameras, funded with a grant from Outreach Strategists LLC in 2023, were reprogrammed and re-installed in new locations, and Houston Tool Bank volunteers built and donated two picnic tables for the cemetery – just in time for the third annual Descendants Day.



Descendants Day was held on April 28 with members of the Farmer, Montgomery, Newton and Westcott families attending.



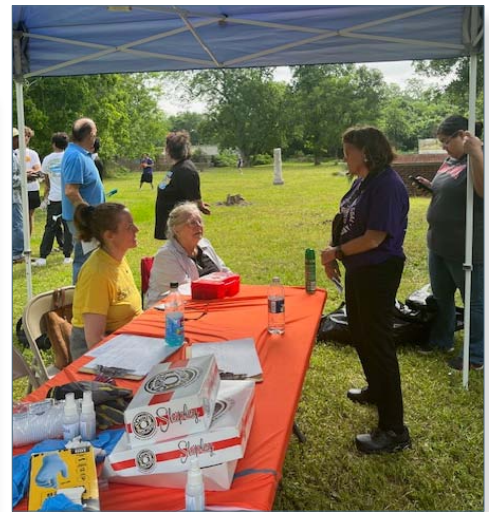
Tom Newton with WCA board members, Loida Casares



L to R: Perry Baraban, Sara Haynes, Gayle Roane, WCA co-founder siblings



Descendants Day



*Sara Haynes with
Farmer descendant,
Nephi Ferguson*

Special thanks to WCA advisory council member Mister McKinney, and the volunteer youth groups with Houston Area Youth Council on Service and Leading Ladies; and to Iglesia Vision Global for providing the parking and restroom facilities.



WCA installed two limestone quarry blocks at the curve of McDaniel Street and Schuller Road (in front of the temporary front fence) as barriers to car impacts.

Spring 2024

On May 16, the powerful windstorm known as the Derecho took down 8 trees in the cemetery and damaged the temporary front fence on McDaniel Street, where one of the limestone barriers is positioned. The security cameras were irreparably damaged in this storm as well.



Summer 2024

Hurricane Beryl felled another 10 trees in the cemetery in July, causing more damage to the temporary front fence and parts of the permanent perimeter fence.



With multiple bids in hand to remove the 18 fallen trees, the WCA board selected Dr. Lopez Tree Landscaping – referred by next-door neighbor Houston Car Wash – which offered a volume discount and the flexibility to remove half the trees in August, with the rest to be removed in the future, pending the availability of funds.

Fall 2024

Board members Lloyd Prince and Sara Haynes visited with neighbors, including District H Councilmember Mario Castillo, who served as co-Marshall of the 10th Annual Jensen Jubilee parade on October 19 in Shady Lane Park.



*CM Mario Castillo and
WCA's Sara Haynes*



*Greater Northside Management
District's Executive Director,
Rebecca Reyna with
WCA board member Lloyd Prince*



*Sara Haynes with
Super Neighborhood 46
board president Lupita Talley*

Art in the Heart hosted its 3rd Annual Trick Art Treat on October 28, and board president Sara Haynes was on hand at WCA's decorated information table with treats for the children.

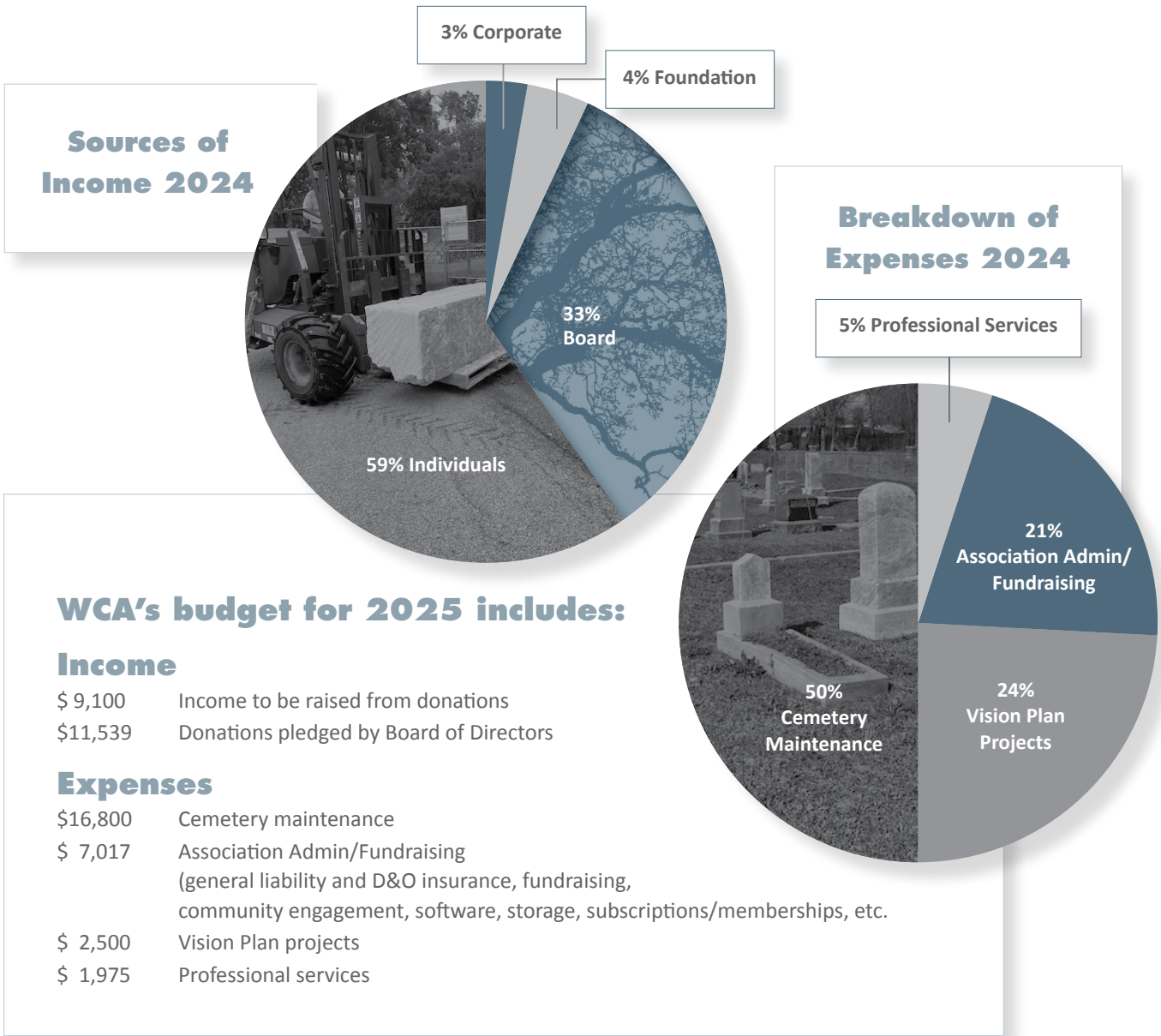


In December, WCA was selected to present the session "Cemetery Associations: Turning Your Vision Into Reality" at the April 2025 Texas Historical Commission's Real Places Conference in Austin, Texas. Sara Haynes and preservation consultant Steph McDougal, who authored WCA's Vision Plan, will conduct the workshop.

Financial Summary

YEAR	INCOME	EXPENSES	NET INCOME	BALANCE
2024 Budget	\$17,676	\$24,337	\$(6,661)	\$23,754
2024 Actual	\$26,224	\$30,686*	\$(4,462)	\$11,020
2025 Budget	\$20,639	\$29,532	\$(8,653)	\$ 2,368

* Includes \$9,000 in unplanned expenses to remove fallen trees.



2024 Honor Roll



**WESTCOTT,
CEMETERY**
ASSOCIATION

Corporation

Hearst Corporation, Inc.
Morgan Stanley

Foundation

Morgan Stanley Foundation

Descendants

Jan Adams
Perry Baraban
Michael Burnett
Penny Dunn
Dale Dunn
Sara Westcott Haynes
Gayle Roane
Laura Westcott

Individuals

Gina Biondo
Brigitte Z. Bosarge
Suzanne Brooks
Rogene Calvert
Loida Casares
Joseph Cooper
Kate Farris
Catherine and Keith Frazier

Thomas Gegeny-Lopes
Barbara Haas
Bob Ittner
Carolina Jimenez- Marcos
Betty Key
Stan Leek
Lois Lewis
Tebben Lewis
Tom Looney
Steph McDougal
Lona McManus
Lyle McManus
Patricia Mione
Margaret O'Donnell and Rick Herman
Peter Patout
Leigh Sinclair
Justin and Perla Steen
Anibeth Turcios
Vann Vaughn
Susan Williford
Nina Zilkha

In-Kind

Iglesia Vision Global
Teresa B. Southwell

Ways to **Get Involved**

WCA thanks the volunteers with Houston Tool Bank for building the two picnic tables for the cemetery. Thanks, too, to Robert Medrano and his friend, Rose, for keeping eyes on the cemetery and helping to pick up trash and report issues.

If you have the time and skills to contribute, WCA needs an experienced volunteer to help develop and manage The McDaniel Street Cemetery Volunteer program.

WCA also seeks to create opportunities for descendants to become more involved. WCA is not organized as to privilege or prioritize any one ancestor or family. All people buried at McDaniel Street Cemetery are equally important and valued.



1. A small group of descendants to serve as the establishing committee of a descendants' council and to provide feedback to the board of directors about general topics, as well as projects that more specifically relate to their ancestors.
2. A group of descendants who would like to help organize the annual Descendants Day events in April.

WCA is committed to transforming the historic McDaniel Street Cemetery into a vibrant landmark that draws people to Eastex-Jensen, benefiting the entire community.

WESTCOTT
CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Preserving Historic McDaniel Street Cemetery in Eastex - Jensen

Make a Financial or In-Kind Gift:

We would be pleased to help you make a gift, whether through a cash contribution or in-kind for materials or labor for specific elements of our Vision Plan. For those who are working, please check your employer's matching gift opportunities as well.

WCA gratefully accepts one-time gifts, which may be used to support general operations or may be restricted at your direction to the Cemetery Emergency Fund, Association Reserve Fund, or a project described in the Vision Plan.

In addition to one-time gifts, we recognize donors who pledge to support WCA over the next three years. This type of support provides financial stability, allowing the board to focus on completing projects in the cemetery and positioning the Association for the future to maintain these improvements.

GUARDIAN

\$5,000+ per year for 3 years (\$417 per month) for a total of \$15,000

ADVOCATE

\$2,500 per year for 3 years (\$209 per month) for a total of \$7,500

SUPPORTER

\$1,000 per year for 3 years (\$84 per month) for a total of \$3,000

Three-year pledges may be paid on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis.

Donate Online at

www.westcottcemeteryassociation.org

Mail your check to

4000 Purdue Street, #106, Houston, TX 77005.

Make a gift of

ELIGIBLE SECURITIES and FED FUND WIRES

WCA treasurer Lona McManus, with Morgan Stanley,
is pleased to provide more information.

You may reach her at 713.903.5042.

2025 Board of Directors



OFFICERS



Sara W. Haynes is WCA's founding board president and is currently serving her third and final three-year term in this role. Her connection to the cemetery is through her maternal grandfather's Westcott mother and grandparents. Sara formed WCA as a nonprofit in 2018 with her two surviving siblings. She graduated with a B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin, completed the Nonprofit Executive Certificate program at University of Houston, and is a graduate of Leadership Houston's XXV Class. She has more than 30 years of volunteer and professional experience in the nonprofit sector in Houston, particularly with start-up organizations.

Loida Casares has served as WCA's secretary since 2019 and was re-elected for a final three-year term in December 2024. She spent her formative years living next door to her father's barbershop on Jensen Drive near Bennington in the late 1960s. After her family moved to the Bonita Gardens neighborhood, Loida's interest in the cemetery grew. She is an active volunteer with several nonprofits and is passionate about restoring the cemetery. Loida is the local strategic account manager at the Houston Chronicle, a Hearst newspaper.



Lona McManus has been serving as WCA's treasurer since 2022. She was re-elected to another three-year term at the final 2024 board meeting. Before joining Morgan Stanley as a financial advisor, Lona worked as a professional fundraiser at cultural organizations and Texas Medical Center institutions in Houston for twenty years. She earned her MBA in 2020. Lona's professional mission is to support people in making strong financial decisions and advancing the causes they care about. Her work in the community focuses on arts and culture, education, equity, and inclusion. Personally, she enjoys sitting in a dark theater watching plays and listening to chamber music.

DIRECTORS



Penny Dunn grew up in the Crosstimbers neighborhood, where her family lived for generations. She has many relatives buried in the cemetery. As a young person, she attended the graveside services of her great-great grandmother Montgomery. Penny taught at Sam Houston High School while raising eleven children. She volunteered with Historic Hollywood Cemetery for many years. Over the years as she visited our cemetery, she witnessed its beauty decline. Penny joined the WCA board in 2022 and was re-elected for another three-year term at the last board meeting of 2024.

Daniel Moreno was elected to a three-year term on the board in December 2024. A fifth-generation Houstonian, Daniel was raised in a small neighborhood near the Tidwell and Airline area. He holds a degree from the University of Houston's Conrad N. Hilton Hospitality Program. His career includes leadership roles at River Oaks Country Club, Texas Corinthian Yacht Club, and The Petroleum Club of Houston, all of which are governed by boards of directors. He is currently the General Manager and Chief Operating Officer at The Briar Club in Houston. When Daniel was growing up, his maternal great-grandmother, Mary Gertrude Abbott, would often take him to the cemetery to visit the grave of her father, Charles Abbott. Many other relatives are also buried there. The board looks forward to working with Daniel.



Lloyd Prince is serving the second year of his first three-year term. Lloyd was born and raised in the Eastex-Jensen neighborhood, not too far from the cemetery, and graduated from Sam Houston High School. As a young man, he worked offshore in the oil and gas industry. Twenty-five years ago, his family built the Prince Boxing Complex on Jensen Drive. Lloyd is an amateur genealogist who has researched his family history and the Westcott family history. He periodically volunteers with Oak Park Cemetery.

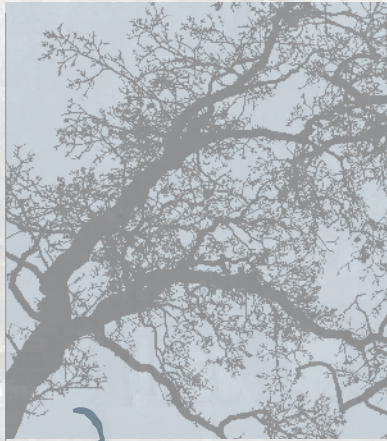
2025 Advisory Council

Juliana Dearman
Mister McKinney
Peter Patout
Gayle Roane
Nina Zilkha

Representatives of the following community organizations also serve on the Advisory Council:

Greater Northside Management District
Houston Northeast Community Development Corporation
Super Neighborhood 46

WCA wishes to thank former Advisory Council members **Dylan Carroll, Todd Figura, and Vann Vaughan** for their several years of service.



**WESTCOTT,
CEMETERY**
ASSOCIATION

713.906.7784
4000 Purdue Street #106
Houston, TX 77005

www.westcottcemeteryassociation.org