

# **DAC Achievement Award Nomination Form**

## **Nominee Information**

**Nominee Name** - GSF Properties Inc. – Angela Garrison, Vice President

## **Nominator Information**

**Nominator Name** - Angela Rivas, Community Coordinator, City of Fresno, nrt

**Nomination Category** – Organization

**Nominated for:**

- Improving the quality of life for individuals with disabilities.

## **Nomination Statement**

Last year the City of Fresno entered into a partnership with GSF Properties Inc. and launched the I Love My City campaign. The campaign serves to assist low income residents in making necessary home repairs that support neighborhood revitalization. GSF Properties Inc. has gone above and beyond completing home repair projects that improve the quality of life for disabled residents such as installing wheelchair ramps, replacing dilapidated fences and landscaping yards.

One of the most notable projects they completed was for Sabrina Garner a long time resident of the Columbia neighborhood. Several years ago Ms. Garner was involved in an automobile accident that left her a quadriplegic. Ms. Garner is a mother of six who has to rely on her family to care for her and assist her in doing things she was able to do independently in the past. Ms. Garner shared with City staff her desire to be able to go into her backyard and watch her children play. Unfortunately at that time her backyard was not landscaped. GSF Properties Inc. heard of Ms. Garner's wish and responded by recruiting staff volunteers and providing funds to renovate her backyard. The project was completed in four phases. In the first phase GSF Properties constructed a fence to

keep Ms. Garner's dogs from digging and pottying throughout the yard. Secondly, they installed privacy slats on an existing chain link fence so that Ms. Garner could have privacy while enjoying the outdoors. GSF Properties then poured a cement slab outside the back door so her bed could easily be rolled out into the yard. Lastly, they installed automatic sprinklers and landscaped the yard with bark, grass and a tree. Ms. Garner's backyard was completely transformed. GSF Properties' compassion and generosity improved Ms. Garner's quality of life by creating a picturesque backyard for her, her children, and grandchildren to enjoy for years to come.

Another project GSF Properties completed recently was for Teresa Mejia. Ms. Mejia is a senior resident who has lived in the Vang Pao neighborhood for over 30 years. She is 71 years of age, has limited mobility, and lives on a fixed income. Although Ms. Mejia has limited use of her legs she uses a walker to get around and manages to stay active and get involved in the community. She regularly attends weekly Neighborhood Revitalization resident meetings and supports community initiatives and community events. At one of the Neighborhood Revitalization meetings Ms. Mejia said she could no longer enjoy her home and that she needed help cleaning up her front yard. She shared how beautiful her garden used to be when she was in good health and was able to walk. It was filled with many plants, flowers and green grass. Her garden made her happy and enhanced her quality of life.

Upon hearing this sad news, the Neighborhood Revitalization Team contacted GSF Properties Inc. to ask if they would consider Ms. Mejia's property for a landscape improvement project. When GSF evaluated the lawn they found over 20 one gallon jugs in the front yard. The lawn and curb strips were all dirt and weeds and there was no sprinkler system. GSF Properties Inc. landscaped the front yard with water conserving plants, trees and mulch. They even installed a new sprinkler system.

Ms. Mejia can now enjoy her home and garden. She goes outside more often now to talk with neighbors or tend to her garden. She proudly reports that neighbors pass by and compliment her front yard. She says she uses the opportunity to share information with others about neighborhood improvements, and invites her neighbors to community meetings. She also takes the time to educate them on how to use the City of Fresno's One Call Center number 311.

GSF Properties Inc. has made a big difference in the lives of these families by restoring their joy and pride in their neighborhood. The organization continues to partner with the City of Fresno's Neighborhood Revitalization Team through the I Love My City campaign and is committed to completing additional projects that positively impact the lives of individuals with disabilities throughout the City.

## LETTER OF SUPPORT #1

July 29, 2019

Dear Disability Advisory Commission,

I feel GSF properties should be nominated for a community service award because they made it possible for me to go outside. I had not been outside since my accident. GSF properties made my backyard look nice and helped keep my dogs out of whole area. I used to be worried about my 7 year old daughter going outside to play, especially in the front yard because I live on a very busy street and there are always stray dogs running around. GSF properties laid a cement slab outside my door so that I could be wheeled out to the back yard in my bed. All of the volunteers were really nice. I would like to thank the City of Fresno for all their assistance and referring me to GSF properties. I would also like to thank Mercedes Sanchez for coordinating the project. Thank you and God bless you!

Sabrina Garner (Dictated to Angela Rivas)

## LETTER OF SUPPORT #2

July 30, 2019

Dear Disability Advisory Commission,

I nominated GSF Properties Inc. for the Disability Advisory Commission 2019 Achievement Award because this organization has stepped up and assisted the City of Fresno's Neighborhood Revitalization Team in meeting the need for home repairs for many elderly, disabled and financially challenged residents of our city. GSF Properties Inc.'s Vice President Angela Garrison's generosity is parallel to none. Over the last two years she committed her company to complete over 50 home repair projects. GSF Properties Inc. not only generously finances the projects by purchasing materials and supplies, their team of professionals volunteer their time, talents and energy to completing the home repair projects.

The GSF Properties Inc. team has enhanced the quality of life for many individuals with physical disabilities by installing wheelchair ramps, replacing dilapidated fences and landscaping yards. However, GSF Properties Inc. goes above and beyond meeting the home repair needs of these individuals. They greet homeowners with a smile and spend time getting to know them. Recipients of their assistance always have great things to say about the GSF staff volunteers. I feel honored and privileged to work with GSF Properties Inc. It is my hope that you will earnestly consider them for the Disability Advisory Commission 2019 Achievement Award.

Sincerely,

*Angela Rivas*

### LETTER OF SUPPORT #3

**This letter is in support of the nomination for GSF Properties Inc. whose company pillars are excellence, leadership, service and community. GSF Properties is nominated for their excellence in service and representing community efforts that ultimately improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities.**

Their visionary volunteer partnership, **I Love My City Campaign** with the City Of Fresno's Neighborhood Revitalization Team has successfully and directly impacted many of Fresno's residents including those with disabilities. This partnership is first of its kind with the City of Fresno. GSF Properties leadership envisioned providing their 200+ staff with volunteer opportunities where it would make the most impact in in people's lives, in neighborhoods and in our city. In addition, provide their staff and business partners with an opportunity to give back and to be a contributor to our city which would connect them with something bigger than themselves. By partnering with the COF's Neighborhood Revitalization Team, who helped to identify the needs and projects located in our cities most blighted neighborhoods. These community service projects were then evaluated and completed with excellent customer service and skills. Ultimately, these repairs would improve the quality of life for residents, neighborhoods and our city.

Last year, GSF Properties... **I Love My City Campaign** committed to completing projects which supported several residents including wheel chair ramps, ADA shower compliant, landscaping projects, fence replacements, ally clean ups and removal of junk and rubbish. These services were offered to eligible home owners and individuals, seniors, with disabilities, or financially unable complete the repairs. These efforts also supported the Mayor's Restore Fresno initiative and the Neighborhood Revitalization Team. GSF Properties contributed dozens of hours and tens of thousands of dollars required to complete each of these projects. Due to the unprecedented generosity of GSF Properties the Mayor named December 13th, 2018 "GSF Properties Day " and featured GSF's work in his 2019 State of the City Address.

I strongly recommend GSF Properties for their extraordinary service and generosity contributed to those people and neighborhoods that were least likely to attain these services, repairs and improvements. Through this partnership GSF Properties truly modeled their company pillars excellence, leadership, service and community. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

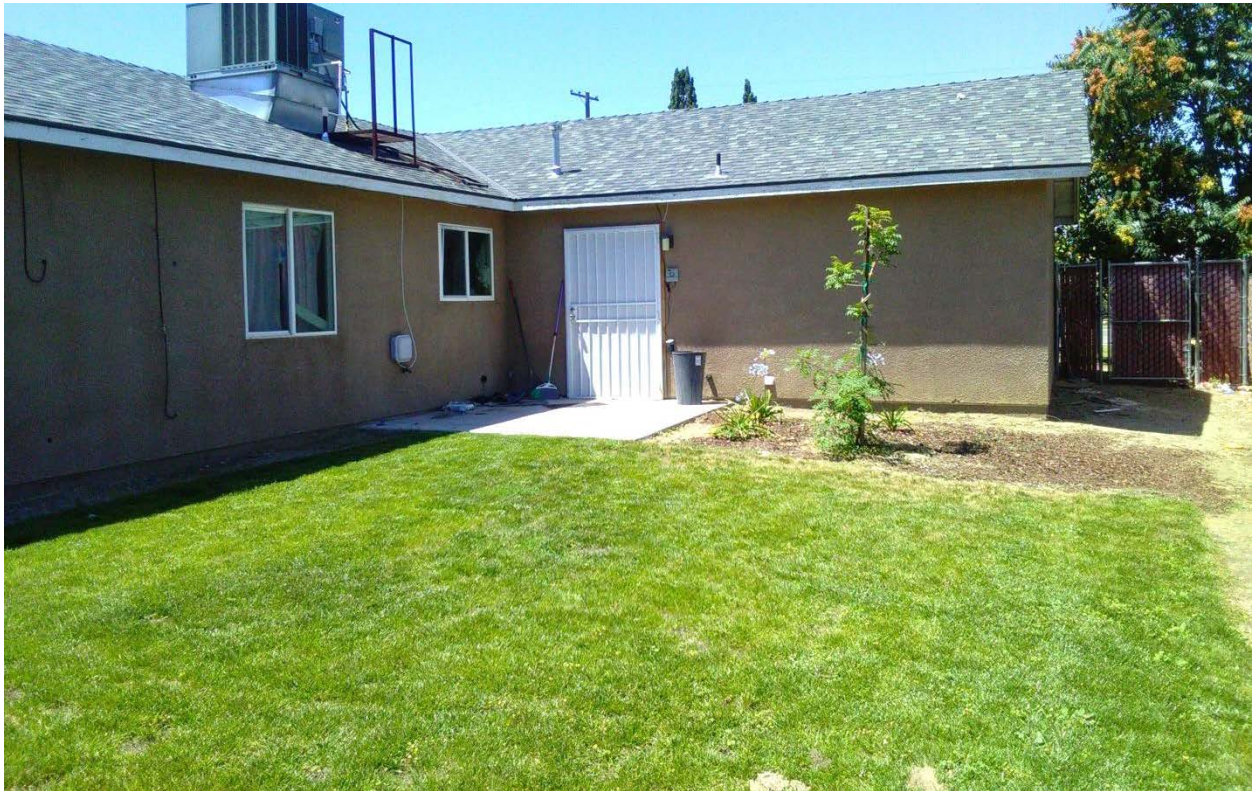
Alice Green  
City of Fresno  
Neighborhood Revitalization Team

Sabrina Garner  
BEFORE





Sabrina Garner  
AFTER





Sabrina Garner



Teresa Mejia

-BEFORE



Teresa Mejia  
-AFTER





Teresa Mejia

