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WVAHA Collection

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President's Message



It's hard to believe a full year has passed since our last Annual Conference at Glade Springs. My goal as President is to continue leading this Association in the right direction and to take what those before me have accomplished and use that so we may continue to grow and be influential in many aspects.

It is vitally important that the Association strengthen the relationships that have been developed over the years, not only within our membership, but also with those that have an impact on our industry.

In March, 2012, I was fortunate to be able to attend NAHRO's Legislative Confer-

ence. Tony Bazzie, Legislative Chair, does an excellent job in preparing the WVAHA Position Paper and scheduling appointments with our Congressional leaders. If you have never attended, I would encourage you to step up and assist Tony and the Association in conveying our desire for change that is fair, balanced and can meet the needs of all parties involved.

I look forward to this coming year and am anxious to work with all of you again in this capacity.

*D. J. Haynes, President
West Virginia Association
of Housing Agencies*

Mount Hope Executive Director Retiring

Nancy Martin, Executive Director of the Mount Hope Housing Authority will retire December 31, 2012. She began her career with the housing authority in November, 1997. She has spent the last three years studying

ministry and is now an Accredited Lay Pastor, Presbyterian. Upon her retirement she will become the Commissioned Lay Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Oak Hill, West Virginia. Congratulations to Nancy!

Thank you for your many years of devotion to the West Virginia Association of Housing Agencies. We wish you the best of luck.

Huntington, WV Housing Authority opens New Site Based Learning



The residents of Northcott Court and surrounding areas expressed an interest in having a place in the community with computer access to conduct job searches, complete homework assignments, and gain or brush up on their knowledge of computer operations. The Huntington WV Housing Authority, acknowledging the desire of the residents, began contacting their community partners to discuss ways to meet that need.

ITT Technical Institute (ITT-Tech) responded by donating twelve (12) computers to the project and agreeing to collaborate with HHA in making the center a reality. As a result, on May 25th HHA hosted a Grand Opening event to announce the creation of the Northcott Court Learning Center (NCLC) available for use by all the residents of the Fairfield West community.



Representatives from both HHA and ITT-Tech were on hand to welcome guests that stopped by to tour the facilities, ask questions, and complete the enrollment process required to access the center. The casual atmosphere facilitated a free flowing exchange of ideas and suggestions between the guests and staff, several of which have already been implemented. The announcement also sparked the interest of local media that included television Channels 3, and 13, and the Herald Dispatch which covered the story in the days that followed.



The announcement also sparked the interest of local media that included television Channels 3, and 13, and the Herald Dispatch which covered the story in the days that followed.

Thirty-two (32) individuals attended the event; seventeen (17) of which completed the enrollment process and several others took packets home to complete and return. Richard Eid, Chair, School of Information and Technology at ITT-Tech, assisted with the event by providing information about upcoming computer classes and speaking with residents about areas of interest for instruction over the coming months. Sheila Walker, HHA's ROSS Service Coordinator (RSC), supplied the attendees information about the opportunities offered by the RSC Program in the areas of career readiness, job placement assistance, and basic life skills. Representatives from HHA's YouthBuild, Family Resource Center, and ROSS Homeownership programs were on site providing an overview of their respective programs and inviting participation.

Though it is unclear whether it was the opening of the NCLC or the ice-cold lemonade being served that attracted a crowd, the results are what counts and should be considered another HHA success. In addition to announcing the NCLC, the event provided an opportunity for HHA to reach out to the residents and increase awareness about the programs and services available, at no cost, to assist them in gaining self sufficiency and improving their overall quality of life.



*Submitted By: Sheila Walker, ROSS Service Coordinator
Huntington WV Housing Authority*

RCHA Awarded Community Challenge Planning Grant



In 2011, the Randolph County Housing Authority (RCHA) was awarded a HUD/DOT Community Challenge grant. This grant program was initiated by the US Departments of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Transportation (DOT) “to foster reform and reduce barriers to achieving affordable, economically vital, and sustainable communities.” An emphasis is placed on projects that promote mixed-use development, affordable housing, the reuse of older buildings and structures for new purposes, and similar activities with the goal of promoting sustainabil-

ity at the local or neighborhood level. DOT & HUD chose to issue the NOFA jointly in order to better align transportation, housing, economic development and land use planning.

RCHA and its local partners are using this grant award to develop strategies related to economic development, housing, community facilities, and transportation in Randolph County. By July 2012, the accomplishments included:

A county-wide study of housing and transportation. This study looked at the population centers in the county, the top employers and their locations, the transportation options and routes

for commuters, and the availability and affordability of rental and for-sale housing near the employers or transit routes.

A Bus Transit Plan which assessed the opportunities and risks of expanding the existing bus routes to increase ridership and better support commuters.

Neighborhood-specific plans for Highland Park and Highland Meadows, including strategies that address housing, public transportation, and walk/bike options.

Storm Destruction

Citizens of West Virginia are likely to remember the severe storms that began on June 29th for a long time. These storms fueled by a summer heat wave and brought 70 mph winds, rain and frequent lightning. American Electric Power declared the power outages the worst in the history of West Virginia.

Within our Charleston-Kanawha Housing Authority communities, South Park Village was hit the hardest. All 80 apartments lost power for several days. Utility lines and several trees were left lying on the ground, food spoiled and many buildings suffered visible damage.

This community however pulled together. The CKHA Family Service Coordinator collaborated with the Hope Valley After-School Program staff, local residents, the CKHA Maintenance Crew, the City of Charleston Office of Emergency Management, the WV De-

partment of Health & Human Resources and Manna Meal, our local food pantry. As a result, food and water was distributed in the community room by resident volunteers and DHHR visited to assist qualifying residents with food replacement applications.

Another important resource that had been implemented weeks before the storms was our new CKHA Facebook page. It proved to be a valuable form of communication with news updates and pictures. Our address is: www.facebook.com/CKHAWV.

Also coming in October, the United Way will be conducting Disaster Preparedness Workshops that will be open to all of our Section 8 and Public Housing clients. CKHA plans to make this an annual program.



CKHA Family Service Program Update

In January, the Charleston-Kanawha Housing Authority launched a Family Service Program (FSP) through a 3-year HUD grant. Much has happened since then so we wanted to share some of our early program successes that have occurred over the last 8 months.



The Summer FSP Art Camp produced numerous posters and essays that were entered in NAHRO's "What Home Means to Me" Poster Contest. Three of these CKHA students each won first place on the state level in all three divisions ranging from K-12. Currently their posters have advanced to the national level of competition.

Three on-site *Computer Centers* have been revived through a partnership with the West Virginia State University Extension Service. Activities include: Internet surfing, computer literacy training, homework, job related issues and individual assistance.

Emergency Response was needed this summer due to the severe weather conditions that created power and water outages. The FSP collaborated with various community organizations and resident volunteers to provide food and water as well as arranging on-site opportunities for SNAP clients to fill out food replacement applications.

The *Fraud Workshop* is an example of one of the collaborations with our Senior Service Coordinator, Susie Halstead. This workshop provides an informational packet to participants that will help them identify, avoid and report scams.

Budgeting Workshops are facilitated by Apprisen. This timely activity was primarily developed to address our resident's current concerns regarding the new lease changes that include paying the rent on the first of each month with a reduced grace period of 5 days and an increase in late fees.

The Bike Program provides donated bikes to adults that are participating or volunteering in the FSP and demonstrate, through a screening process, that they need bike transportation for on-going work, school or training purposes.

Disaster Preparedness Programs are provided through the United Way. Program participants will gain a better understanding of how to be better prepared for unforeseen circumstances that may occur in the future.

Also coming in February, The Kanawha Valley Community & Technical College *Financial Aid Program* will occur. The ten sessions include: time management, study skills, registration, admissions, advising and applying for financial aid.



For more information on any of these programs please contact John Harper, CKHA Family Service Coordinator at: 304-348-6888 extension 13.

St. Albans Summer Lunch Program A Success

Audrey Rowe, USDA Food and Nutrition Director from Washington, DC; Jim Harmon, Regional Director with USDA in the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office; Gloria Cunningham, Coordinator for the WV Summer Food Service program and other representatives from New Jersey and Pennsylvania, chose St. Albans Housing Authority's Summer Food Program to visit on August 7, 2012. Sylvia Sherrod, Executive Director, said she was honored to be chosen by the group. "They brought their media with them and took pictures of the kids during the lunch program that will appear in the USDA National Magazine." Ms. Sherrod received very positive feedback from the group who seemed very impressed with the way St. Albans HA runs the program.



The Summer Food Program staff is made up of tenants who do all the cooking and getting the food ready to distribute to two sites. Seventy-five kids are fed each day. Ms. Sherrod noted the program started out serving sandwiches but she noticed after a week or two the kids began throwing the food in the trash. Around 1996, she came up with the idea

of the Authority providing their own menus and meals. The menus consist of pizza, hot dogs, chicken nuggets, beef and bean burritos, fish sticks, chicken quesadillas and much more. Ms. Sherrod also stated that they find that with a variety of foods popular to the children, they are able to assure that more kids are eating and getting a good nutritious meal during the summer months.

The St. Albans Fire Department was present with their "Fire House" and gave demonstrations of fire safety and what to do in case of a fire in your house. The kids and the representatives loved seeing the smoke billowing out of the fire house. It was a great day for everyone!

Current WVAHA Scholarship Recipients Offer Thanks for Support

This past year has been a very exciting for me. I had some very engaging and informative classes, including Structural Steel Design. In this class we learned and actively designed the steel super structures of buildings. I discovered that this section of civil engineering is one that I would really like to pursue as a career.



I have been active in the campus group Chi Alpha, and next year I will serve as president of the organization. This spring 12 members, including myself, spent our spring break in Nicaragua performing building repairs and light construction. It was an amazing experience seeing and experiencing construction methods and materials in a

third world country.

I thank you for all of your support in making these and other endeavors possible.

- Timothy Halbert

My freshman year at West Virginia University taught me a great deal about myself, others and the real world. The summer before school started, I was involved in a program called Adventure WV. This pre-orientation course was a lot of fun and allowed me to conquer my fears of being thrown into a huge new place where I was on my own. Once school started I moved into my dorm and met my roommate. Having a roommate is difficult even if the two are best friends. Everything turns out great though and by the end of the year we know each other so well and still keep in touch. With WVU being such a big school, the class sizes were a little overwhelming, but I soon got used to that. I also changed my major from Animal and Nutritional Sciences to Pre-Nursing. I even had extra time to be involved in a sorority: Sigma Alpha. My freshman year at WVU was very exciting and I am glad that I had the opportunity to gain new friends and independence.

- Christina Smith

My first year of college was amazing. It truly was a learning and growing experience for me. I achieved a 4.0 both my Fall and Spring Semester. During my Spring Semester, I was able to be a part of a class that was able to travel to Canada. The trip was magnificent; I am truly blessed with the opportunities Fairmont has granted me. During this year, I also participated in the Soup Opera's Walk-A-Thon. I was able to raise 450 dollars for the Soup Opera, and walked five miles in downtown Fairmont. The Soup Opera provides food to individuals that need it in the Fairmont area. It was a pleasure to be able to help others.

In this upcoming Fall semester, I will be the community chair for the Honors Program. This will require me to focus my efforts in creating community based projects and getting the Honors students involved. I am excited to see what the future continues to hold for me.

I am also curious as to if I will be eligible for the renewal of the scholarship. The last two semesters the money was extremely beneficial in helping me purchase my books.

Thank you for everything,

- Ashley Curry

**WEST VIRGINIA
ASSOCIATION
OF HOUSING
AGENCIES**

1901 Cameron Avenue

Phone: 304-428-6400

Fax: 304-428-5259

E-mail:

djhaynes@parkersburghousing.com

Visit us on the web:
www.wvaha.org

**Important Dates to
Remember**

NAHRO

National Conference
October 28-30, 2012
Nashville, TN

SERC-NAHRO

Fall Workshop
November 4-6, 2012
Savannah, GA

NAHRO

Legislative Conference
March 17-20, 2013
Washington, D. C.

WVAHA

Spring Workshop
April 22-24, 2013
Huntington, WV

PHADA

Annual Convention
& Exhibition
May 19-22, 2013
San Antonio, TX

WVAHA

Annual Conference
September 16-18, 2013
Glade Springs Resort
Daniels, WV

National Night Out on Crime

National Night Out on Crime was first introduced by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW) in 1984. Its purpose then and now is to promote emergency responder-community partnerships, crime prevention and neighborhood camaraderie.

According to www.nationalnightout.org, the campaign involves "citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials from over 15,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide. In all, over 37 million people participated in National Night Out 2011."

This year the Charleston-Kanawha Housing Authority communities enjoyed perhaps our largest celebrations. In CKHA style, our support of National Night Out on Crime took the form of block parties. Each neighborhood hosted their own unique versions of free activities that included things such as: a parade featuring emergency vehicles, food, water balloons, community decorations, walks, informa-



tional booths, youth fingerprinting, bingo, live entertainment, visits by emergency responders, dancing, school supplies and backpack giveaways, karaoke & more!

Furthermore, to carry on the momentum, CKHA Family and Senior Service Coordinators have developed a Fraud Workshop which will be conducted at various locations throughout August. Each participant will receive an informational packet that includes tips on identifying, avoiding and reporting scams.

Manuel C. Cartelle Scholarship Awarded to Goins

In special recognition of Manuel C. Cartelle's dedication and support of the WVAHA scholarship program the first Manuel C. Cartelle Scholarship was awarded to Lietta Goins. Lietta is attending Fairmont State University. WVAHA awarded four new \$1,000 scholarships at the Spring Workshop in April 2012. Russell Bibbee Memorial Scholarships were awarded to Kayla McCormick and Kristen Chandler. They are attending Marshall University. James Carabello was awarded the SERC-NAHRO scholarship and is also attending Marshall University.



Back to School Block Party

St. Albans Housing Authority held its annual Back to School Block Party Bash on August 11, 2012, which included a water slide, Jupiter jump, panning for gold and gems and all the food they could eat.

They gave out back packs, dictionaries, calculators and everything the children needed for back to school.