



Mission

To lead, develop, and execute community-wide strategies that meet the broad range of housing needs for families who cannot otherwise attain conventional housing.

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Modernizations to Come for Two Senior High Rises

The Charlotte Housing Authority (CHA) closed on a \$42 million dollar transaction that will be used to modernize two existing senior communities, Strawn Tower and Parktowne Terrace. Funding comes from the City of Charlotte, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, low income housing tax credits, tax exempt bonds, and CHA.

"The mission of the Charlotte Housing Authority is to house our very low income seniors in a safe, quality, and service enriched environment. With this funding, the renovation of two of our older senior properties can begin in 2012," commented Joel Ford, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for CHA.

The proposed modernization of both properties will result in 170 apartments for Strawn Tower and 163 apartments for Parktowne Terrace. The first floors of each high rise will include outdoor sitting areas, offices, multi-purpose rooms, a commercial kitchen, and a dining hall. The second floor of Strawn Tower will be converted into amenity areas, supportive service areas, and additional offices. The residential units of both apartment communities will be completely renovated to include new energy efficient HVAC systems, kitchens, bathrooms, flooring, painting, and Energy Star appliances and fixtures. The renovated buildings will be LEED certified. Parktowne Terrace is part of the City of Charlotte's Power Two Charlotte Energy Conservation program.



"What is great about this project is the economic impact it will have by providing 700 construction related jobs. Of these jobs, there will be opportunities for Section 3 and CHA residents. Included are three apprenticeship positions where someone can gain on-the-job skills. Business opportunities for Minority Women Business Enterprises and Small Business Enterprises are also available," commented Chairman Ford.



Families in Shelter Now Have a Place to Call Home

On any given night in the City of Charlotte, more than 6,000 people face homelessness. To The Sisters of Mercy from the St. Matthew and St. Gabriel parishes this did not sit well.

“The feeling was that we could do something,” states Sister Therese Galligan, Sisters of Mercy. “We could help to mobilize people in our two parishes.”

“Little by little we began to see what we needed to do,” Sister Jean Marie Kienast, Sisters of Mercy said. “And we knew that it wasn’t just a matter of moving people from a shelter into permanent housing. They also needed the resources to help them to continue to make the transition.”

Across the city, The Salvation Army (TSA) and the Charlotte Housing Authority (CHA) were meeting about the very same thing. After working together on a temporary transitional housing program for homeless families in 2008-2009, TSA and CHA began looking for ways to structure and fund a longer-term transitional program. A solution took momentum when TSA and CHA met with the two Catholic parishes.

“The parishes didn’t want to just do a band aid solution,” responds Deronda Metz, Director of TSA’s Center of Hope. “They wanted to do something long term. And they understood long term success depended on getting families into housing and working with them from there.”

As the plan evolved, the City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, and the YWCA came on board and the Supportive Housing Innovative Partnership (SHIP) was formed.

Through SHIP, families who were in the shelter could now stabilize in a community setting, while receiving the supportive services they need to maintain permanent housing for the long term.

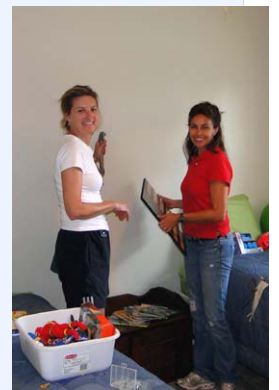
John Burns, CHA Client Services Director remarks, “It’s a community wide problem that affects public, private, and faith so the public, private and faith communities have come together to address the problem. It couldn’t be done without this type of partnership.”

Through monetary and furniture donations, as well as a lot of man hours, volunteers from St. Gabriel and St. Matthew completely furnish the apartments as well provide some basic food needed for the families to get started.

“Being able to have a place for me and my kids to call home and having a social worker on the premises has been a big help,” states SHIP Participant Monica Ferrar.

Services provided through SHIP are made possible through foundations and private donors as well as in kind staff and services from Mecklenburg County. Currently, SHIP has placed 60 families who were in the shelter into a mixed-income environment. Out of the 60 families involved in the three year program, 89% are now employed and four of them graduated out of the program in the first year.

“The Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness requires a lot of coordination,” states Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx. “When we’re working together, the impact of our efforts is so much stronger. And I think SHIP is proving that.”



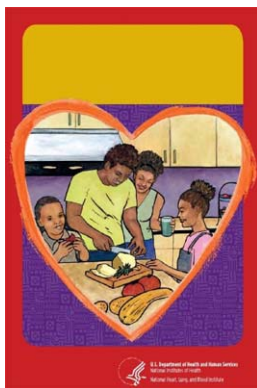


Arbor Glen Seniors Receive Holiday Gifts and Companionship

On December 12, 2011, seniors from CHA's Arbor Glen community were provided holiday gifts and companionship from the Home Instead Senior Care of Charlotte's *Be A Santa to a Senior*® initiative. The organization, which provides senior-in-home care in the Mecklenburg County Area, has been providing seniors in the community gifts for eight consecutive years.

"Many older adults continue to struggle in a down economy, particularly those who live alone with no family nearby to help provide resources," said Roberta Farnum, co-owner of the Home Instead Senior Care office serving Mecklenburg County.

In addition to getting referrals from CHA, Home Instead Senior Care has partnered with Friendship Trays, local businesses like Dilworth Coffee, and area churches. To date, donations have been provided to over 7,500 seniors through the campaign. For more information about the program, visit www.beasantatoasenior.com.



CHA Begins Third Year of Heart Health Program For Families

CHA's recently kicked off its quarterly With Every Heart Beat is Life Program. The 11 session program is part of a partnership between HUD and The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute to help African Americans prevent heart disease.

The programs focuses on increasing knowledge on heart disease risk factors and promoting healthy lifestyle behaviors that include better eating choices and physical activity. This is the third year CHA has hosted the sessions. Since its inception, 134 people have successfully completed the program.

Past participants have noted benefits such as being linked to a medical home and report they maintain regular medical appointments as well as overall health improvements that include weight loss, blood pressure reduction, and knowledge of food labels.



Charlotte Housing Authority Scholarship Fund Now Accepting Applications

The Charlotte Housing Authority Scholarship Fund is now accepting applications for the 2012 – 2013 school year. To be eligible for the scholarship, students must reside in a household receiving assistance from the Charlotte Housing Authority and be a named occupant on the current lease.

Scholarships range from \$500 to \$3,400. The **deadline** for submissions is March 1, 2012.

For additional eligibility requirements and to obtain an application, please contact Millard McCluney at 704-336-5782 or mmcluney@cha-nc.org.

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HUD Awards \$4.9 Million for Regional Sustainability Planning



In November 2011, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded \$4.9 million to the Centralina Council of Governments to pay for regional sustainability planning. The funds, in part, will be used to access the affordable housing stock and needs across a 14 county region in NC and SC, including Mecklenburg County.

CHA staff led the affordable housing working group and will be actively involved in the regional analysis of existing and needed affordable housing and an analysis of regional policies that may either hinder or facilitate the development of affordable housing.



"This region made a really compelling case that it is ready to tackle the tough issues by aligning its investments and strategies for the future and engaging people in the region to do that," Shelley Poticha, Director of HUD's Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities, said after the announcement.

The competition for the funding was fierce, with 468 applications requesting more than \$500 million in funding from communities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Overall, 12% of applicants, or 1 out every 8 that applied, received funding. The average Community Challenge grant is \$610,596, and the average regional grant is for \$2.31 million

Students at Savannah Woods and Tarlton Hills Receive Afterschool Tutoring



CHA has partnered with Above and Beyond Students, Inc. (ABS) to bring afterschool tutoring to 20 students who reside at the Savannah Woods and Tarlton Hills communities. ABS focuses on providing a quality, afterschool program to students in lower income neighborhoods that cannot afford traditional tutoring programs.

"Nothing compares to the value of one-on-one instruction," states ABS Executive Director Carmen Blackmon. "We are thrilled to be able to offer our afterschool curriculum to the youth in the two CHA communities."

The ABS curriculum is designed to equip students with academic and social excellence that will prepare them to be productive citizens. The sessions began on November 14, 2011, are being held twice a week, and will continue until the end of March 2012. Students range from kindergarten to sixth grade and receive instruction from actual teachers from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. Some goals of the program include enhancing reading and math skills, homework assistance that emphasizes completion and accuracy, and family participation.

"Since being involved in the afterschool program, my son's reading, penmanship, and recognition of words have improved. I also do not have to push him to do his homework anymore," Molicka Brandon, parent of ABS afterschool student said. "The tutors make learning fun."

ABS, which is free to the students, is funded through federal grants, donations, and fundraisers. More information about the program can be found online at www.aboveandbeyondstudents.com.

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Moving Forward
Families Advancing to Self-Reliance



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