



## 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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## Charlotte Housing Authority Receives CAFR Award

The Charlotte Housing Authority (CHA) has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (CAFR) by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for the agency's comprehensive annual financial report.

"CHA is proud to receive this award for 2012. This is the seventh consecutive year we have received this award. It is a reflection of the professionalism and dedication of our staff for maintaining excellent financial reports," commented Joel Ford, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for CHA.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents an important achievement by a government and its management.

"Attaining this award demonstrates a significant accomplishment by CHA's Finance Department. This team works very hard year round to keep our financial records and reports up to date and accurate," said Heather Franklin, Interim Chief Financial Officer.

An impartial panel judged CHA's CAFR to meet the high standards established within the GFOA guidelines for the CAFR awards.

GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 17,500 government finance professionals with offices in Chicago, IL and Washington D.C.

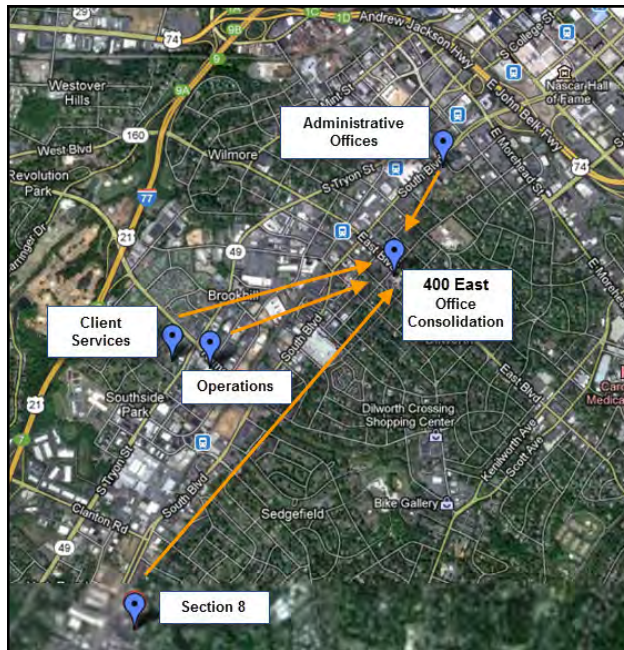




## CHA Office Consolidation is Underway

Consolidation of four office locations into a single, main office was identified by CHA as a key component in providing excellent service to customers. In December 2010, CHA purchased the office building located at 400 East Boulevard for the office merge. Located at the corner of East Boulevard and Euclid Avenue, the 53,000 SF building sits on 1.9 acres of land.

The four offices to be consolidated are located at 1301 South Boulevard (Administrative Offices), 316 Benjamin Street (Client Services), 135 Scaleybark Road (Section 8), and 2600 Youngblood Street (Operations). Having all four offices at this central location will better serve those who rely solely on public transportation.



Before employees can move in, renovations must take place. In June 2012, construction documents were completed, permits were issued, and a construction contract was fully executed. CHA issued a *Notice to Proceed* on June 15, 2012 and the Tyler 2 construction team began the demolition phase of the project.

“We are excited to have renovations underway for the new office building,” Real Estate Interim Direc-

tor of Development Michelle Allen said. “We have already begun to work on the move process to ensure the transition goes smoothly for all employees and our clients continue to receive a high level of customer service during the process.”

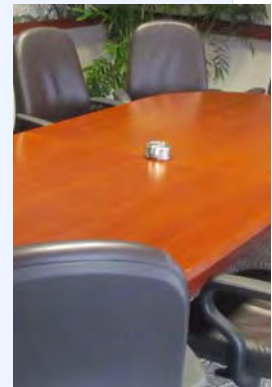
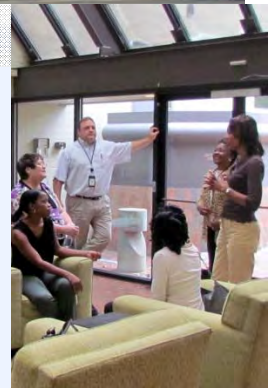
by December 3, 2012.

“This is an important step for our agency,” Interim Chief Operations Officer Shaunté Evans commented. “Our goal with the move is to achieve greater operating efficiencies. This, in turn, will allow us to more effectively serve our customers.”

CB Richard Ellis will be working with CHA to help staff with the office transition from the packing of the current offices to the final office set up at 400 East.

Construction completion on the east wing is scheduled for late October with Client Services and Section 8 departments slated to move in on or around October 29, 2012.

The west wing is projected to be completed a month later with remaining staff moving in





## Ilesha Tillman is Back to Self-Reliance

Ilesha Tillman came to CHA after the City of Charlotte's Code Enforcement team deemed her current rental uninhabitable.

CHA Relocation coordinator Evelyn Brawley helped her and her family move into Savanna Woods off of Marsh Road.

Ms. Tillman was thankful for the opportunity to live in a safe environment and get her kids into a good school district.

"It was a good stepping stone and it helped me get my budget back on track," Tillman said.

After two years, Ilesha and her family were able to move back into the private market. She said her kids are so appreciative of their new home and she is so thankful to be back on her feet.

"Sometimes I just start crying. I always tried to stay positive. Now we are in a home with our own bedrooms; my kids are able to stay in the same great schools; and I know more good things are to come."



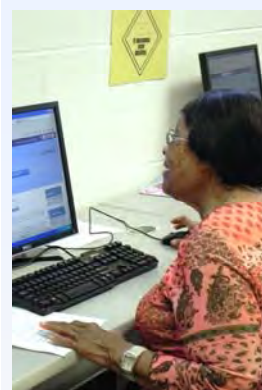
## B.A.D. Helps the Youth Be Good

Over the past six weeks, Brown Athletic Division (B.A.D.) has been hosting weekly basketball camps for youth up to 16 years of age at the Carole

Hoefener Center owned by CHA. Led by B.A.D. Founder Shaun Donovan with assistance from counselors including teens from the local community, the camp uses basketball fundamentals to teach valuable lessons that can be easily applied to today's youth. Some of the core values embraced by the camp are hard work, commitment, and teamwork. Although there is a cost to the camp, scholarships were provided by B.A.D. to kids who needed financial assistance.

"We wanted to make sure that any kid interested had an opportunity to take part in the camps," Donovan commented. "We didn't want anyone to be left out."

B.A.D. strives to create awareness about healthy lifestyles and its benefits, while promoting a strong work ethic, both inside and outside the classroom. In addition to the camps, programs like personal and group fitness training sessions, tutoring, and after school programs are offered.



## CHA Residents Conquer the Digital Divide

In June 2012, Autumn Place residents began tackling a computer literacy class held at the Carole A. Hoefener Center. The class meets every Tuesday and Thursday at 10:00 AM for up to three months. For many, taking the class is a very big step.

"It's my first time on a computer," Autumn Place resident Martha D. Lytch said. "I am proud of me."

The class covers a variety of topics which include: what components make up a computer; how to turn the computer on; and explanations of different computer terms. Once the students begin to get the basics, they go on to learn how to access the internet for research and ways to use email.

The class is taught by Faye Harvin who has been teaching computer classes for CHA for over six years. She currently holds the same class at Southside Homes for residents in the afternoon.

"I love working with the residents," Harvin said. "The moment they realize they can use a computer is priceless."

## Board of Commissioners



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## Hester Preston Remembers Life in Charlotte at Piedmont Courts

I came to Charlotte from Wheelwright, KY as a new bride in August of 1942. We moved into apartment #30 at Piedmont Courts. The apartment had three rooms (kitchen, living room, bedroom, and a bath). It was very nice and clean. The apartment was upstairs about 14 steps. We had a coal burning stove for cooking and coal burners for heat. Most people didn't seem very friendly but I recall meeting a lady who lived in another complex, her name was Cecil. I also met a young girl whose name was Mozell Bishop that lived in apartment #36.

I worked in a handkerchief factory for a few months as a hemmer. After that, I worked as an inspector in a hosiery mill. Later, I worked in a cotton mill as a pattern designer. Most jobs paid minimum wages except restaurants. I worked at a restaurant called Ship Ahoy and was paid 11 cents an hour.

My son was born while living there and I didn't work after that. Shortly after he was born we moved into apartment #224 that had 2 bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs. I had very good neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Marlowe. They helped me through a difficult time and, to this day, I have never forgotten their kindness.

I lived in Charlotte for four years and moved back to Kentucky in 1946 with my 18-month old son. My husband and I divorced and I remarried about a year later. My son born in Charlotte, whom I am very proud of, served in the US Army, married, and had two children. He had a heart attack and died before his 50th birthday. My second husband and I had three daughters. When he died in 1967, I went back to school and became a nurse. I worked and retired at the Veteran's Hospital in Lexington, KY. Currently, I have three grandsons, three granddaughters, and three great-grandsons.



-Hester Preston

## CHA's Web Site Recognized



The CHA web site, [www.cha-nc.org](http://www.cha-nc.org), has been selected for two awards of Distinction in the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Communicator Awards by the Academy of the Visual Arts. The site was recognized for its home page and in the category of charitable organizations/non-profit. With thousands of entries received from across the US and around the world, the Communicator Awards is the largest and most competitive awards program honoring the creative excellence for communications professionals.



"We are thrilled to receive this award," CHA Corporate Communications Officer Jennifer Gallman said. "We sought input from staff, customers, and the community at large and then began working with a reputable web development agency."

Gallman, who managed the website redesign and led all major web enhancements, worked with Charlotte-based web developer TechnikOne, to ensure the website provided key affordable housing information to the community.

"By working collectively, we have put together a valuable and informative communication tool for the entire community," remarked Gallman.

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**Moving Forward**  
Families Advancing to Self-Reliance



[www.cha-nc.org](http://www.cha-nc.org)