

The PHA Experience



Vol. II No. 3 (Issue 7)

A Community Newspaper for and about Residents

Summer 2005

PHA Homes Sellout at Blackwell and Grays Ferry



Krishan Lewis, Alicia and Krishan Jr. are eager to move into their new home at Greater Grays Ferry Estates.

Talk about pent-up demand. PHA has been selling new homes just about as fast as construction crews can build them. Both the Lucien E. Blackwell Homes and Greater Grays Ferry Estates sold out their Phase One homes in a matter of weeks after the properties were advertised.

Real estate experts say families like the Lewis' see PHA as a place where they get a top quality house at an affordable price. Families must earn at least \$21,000 a year but not more than \$55,000 to be eligible to buy one of these homes. Monthly mortgage payments run about \$700, which for many families is less than they now pay in rent.

The director of PHA's Homeownership Department, Linda Staley, says the response shows what the public thinks of PHA. "The public respects PHA because of the type of beautiful homes we build for rentals. Now, when they see our name associated with homes for sale they're eager to buy," says Staley.

Aside from the income guidelines, families must have good credit to get a mortgage. For families who have had problems with their credit, PHA hooks them up with credit counseling services to work on repairing the record.

Several lending institutions are working with PHA to provide mortgages to these new buyers,

but Wachovia Bank has led the way in that effort. According to Linda Staley, Wachovia has even stationed representatives in the sales offices to help counsel applicants on what they need to do to get through the process.

If you meet the income requirements and are hoping to buy a new PHA house, more opportunities are coming. Another 62 homes go on sale at Grays Ferry shortly, more go on sale at Blackwell in the spring and not long after that homes go on sale at Martin Luther King Homes and later next year at Falls Ridge.

For more information on PHA home sales please call 215-684-8015.

Asia Coney: The Heart and Soul of Tenant Support Services, Inc.

By Valerie Manlove
Resident Writer

People are always asking about TSSI. Who are they and what do they do?

To understand TSSI you have to understand Asia Coney because she is TSSI.

Some 20 years ago, unforeseen circumstances found Asia moving into the Tasker Homes housing project with her two sons, then aged 9 and 11.

Horrified at the conditions she

found there, she immediately joined a fledgling movement aimed at getting Tasker Homes renovated. A self described product of the activism styles of the 60's and 70's, she organized a volunteer resident group, starting with a president, vice president, secretary, etc., which evolved into a massive organization of Tasker residents who lobbied and protested to have the project renovated.

The struggle was long, much

longer than she'd expected when she conceived the idea. During the struggle she lost a child, but she continued to fight determined to achieve the goal. She knew instinctively that what she was doing was morally right and that ultimately, she would win not only the battles, but also the war.

Having cut her baby teeth with that accomplishment, she has continued to this day to be an activist, advocate and lobbyist for public housing residents.

"I'm part of a dying breed," she says, but there are still changes to be made out there."

Now, however, she fights with dialogue and negotiation having learned to "disagree without being disagreeable."

At the time of her appointment as assistant program coordinator, TSSI was a small organization whose efforts at helping residents consisted mainly of hosting several golf tournaments during the

Cont. on Page 5



Asia Coney

Fundraising Success for Southwark Teens



Drill Team on the move wearing new uniforms.

Teenagers in the Southwark neighborhood of South Philadelphia proved that if you have good ideas and good people to get projects accomplished you can achieve almost anything. These teenagers live at PHA's Courtyard at Riverview development at 4th Street and Washington Avenue and work with Southwark's Youth Committee. The committee works to change the quality of life for

young adults. They meet almost every week and put together different projects that benefit the community.

This summer the focus of the youth committee was raising money for the Southwark Drill Team. The team needed 60 new uniforms including hats and boots. Organizers, including Barry Perrin, a social service director, thought the best way to

raise the money was to conduct a series of fundraisers.

The fundraising began with a weekend dinner sale; flyers were posted and word spread quickly. Moms, grand moms and others worked the kitchen. Dads handled the money while the kids took orders over the phone and prepared the plates. The food was scrumptious, complete with

Cont. on Page 13

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Pre-Apprenticeship Grads Join Operating Engineers Union

Two graduates of PHA's Pre-Apprenticeship Program were recently accepted into the Operating Engineers Union. Shown Monroe and Tamika Watson are the first PHA graduates accepted by this prestigious apprentice program.

Monroe and Watson were among 25 people selected from a competitive group of over 300 candidates. Applicants submitted a written test and inter-

viewed for the position.

The Operating Engineers training is a four-year program. Apprentices start out earning about \$19 an hour. After completing the program, an apprentice becomes a journeyman with a starting wage of nearly \$31 an hour.

Al Williams, who teaches at the Pre-Apprenticeship Program, says the relationship with the Operating Engineers Union

has been two years in the making. PHA got help from Ed Coryell, president of the Carpenters Union, who praised the program for producing quality graduates.

Shown (pronounced "Shawn") Monroe says his appointment to the Operating Engineers apprentice program is a life changing experience. He was accepted to the Philadelphia Police Academy. But Shown is married and has four children (with a fifth on the way), and decided that construction work was a better choice for him.

Shown says he likes the challenge that the job offers. Members of the Operating Engineers operate and maintain heavy machinery at construction sites. "If you don't have a certain touch, the machine can throw you around. Every machine does something different," he says.

Monroe graduated from the Pre-Apprenticeship Program in June. He says the program is challenging, makes you hustle,



Shown Monroe says his appointment to the Operating Engineers apprentice program is a life changing experience

develops your character, and prepares you for working in the trades.

Before entering the program, Shown worked as a residential counselor with mentally challenged patients. He had a high school diploma and a semester of college and wanted to change his life. His wife encouraged him to enter the Pre-Apprenticeship Program after reading about it in The PHA Experience.

Cecil Preston, the union's

business agent, believes that in the future the Operating Engineers will become actively involved with PHA's Pre-Apprenticeship Program by providing a professional from their union to work as an instructor.

Joel Crook, the Operating Engineers Apprenticeship Coordinator, notes that there are quite a few women in the union. He says having a good attitude is as important as having mechanical ability.



As part of Go Forth and Learn, hundreds of PHA kids came to the J.F. Street community center to hear stories read by Eagles player Adrien Clark. This celebration was also part of Sunoco Welcome America.

Housing Choice Voucher Family Self-Sufficiency Program

OFFERING THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

EDUCATION:

GED CLASSES
ADULT EDUCATION
COMPUTER CLASSES

EMPLOYMENT:

JOB READINESS CLASSES
JOB PLACEMENT
CAREER DEVELOPMENT
EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING
PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

HEALTH:

BEHAVIORAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH
FAMILY HEALTH CARE CENTER
GROUP FAMILY THERAPY
NARCOTIC ANONYMOUS (NA) MEETINGS

LIFE SKILLS:

BUDGETING AND HOME OWNERSHIP COUNSELING

SOCIAL SERVICES:

COMMUNITY RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
& SOCIAL SERVICES (CRDSS)
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT (PHA)

YOUTH PROGRAMS:

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM
YOUTH ART PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH CAMP

215-684-4416



Power99 Host Shamara with residents at Hillcreek live broadcast were part of another successful summer with the PHA Partnership with programs at Liddonfield, Bartram Village, Oxford Village and Hillcreek

Letters to the Editor

Do you have a success story of your own or an issue of concern? Do you have a comment on an article you read in the PHA Experience? Write to us at: **Editor, PHA Experience, 12 S. 23rd Street, Phila. PA 19103**

Skills for Life - a Happening Program for Teenagers

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Young people all over Philadelphia are signing up for a very "happening" program. Skills for Life helps kids set life goals and put their plan into action.

PHA families who have been involved with the



Skills for Life students looking good at the Lighthouse. program call it a godsend program because it gives students who are struggling in school a chance to succeed. The Skills for Life Program prepares students for the next step in life, whether it's college or a trade school.

The Skills for Life Program targets residents 14 to 15 years old, who live in public and assisted housing. These are students who score below the academic standards and are in need of after school help.

The program provides students with a monthly stipend. Skills for Life was formed to keep young people out of trouble while helping them build skills in math, science, literacy and computer science. In this program the student's academic progress is tracked from 9th thru 12th grade to ensure that progress is being made. The goal of the program is to ensure that all students make the transition from academically struggling to academically succeeding. Results show the program to be a great success through the graduation rate, awards received and acceptances to college.

Emillio Alvarado said, "The program taught me how to do productive things with my time." According to Program Manager, Patrick Ameen Akbar, "The Skills for Life Program has enabled hundreds of students to take the next step in life. They learn the importance of academic achievement, goal setting and career selection. Our students are attaining life skills to help them become self-sufficient and independent."

The Skills for Life Program is offered year round. When school is in session, students meet five days a week from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. The program provides homework help. There are also speakers and workshops dealing with issues kids are faced with today including: drug abuse, addiction and gang violence.

Another component of the Skills for Life Program



Skills for Life program director Patrick Ameen Akbar joins four successful students from the program.

is the Explorers Program where students explore different careers. During the summer, students are given the opportunity to participate in the summer employment component of the program with the Philadelphia Youth Network. Students work 15-to-20 hours per week, and are paid the minimum wage.

The program is held in seven locations throughout the city. This gives parents and students the opportunity to request a site that is close to home or school. Starting in September, open houses will be held at all sites. To be eligible for this program, you must be a PHA resident and meet income guidelines.

For more information please contact the Program Manager, Patrick Ameen Akbar at 215.684.1196 or check the PHA web site - www.PHA.Phila.gov - for the locations and phone numbers.

The PHA Experience • Summer 2005

Senior Programs Events...

September (Grandparents Month)

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| September 15 | Senior Town Meeting
Raymond Rosen
10:00AM — 12:00PM |
| September 21 | Senior Craft Show & Sale
Wilson Park
11:00AM — 2:00PM |
| September 23 | Harvest Health Fair
Emlen Arms
11:00AM — 3:00PM |
| September 28 | Trip - West Side Story
Three Little Bakers - Delaware
9:00AM — 4:00PM |

October

- | | |
|------------|--|
| October 13 | Senior Town Meeting
TBD
10:00AM — 12:00PM |
|------------|--|

November

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| November 5 | Black & White Ball
Wilson Park
7:00PM — 10:00PM |
| November 18 | Pre-Thanksgiving Luncheon
TBD
11:00AM — 3:00PM |

www.pha.phila.gov

BLUMBERG ONE STOP PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM

Parenting

Improve relationships with your kids
Sept. 6th to Dec. 13th 6 to 9 pm

Early Childhood Development

What to expect as a parent
Sept. 15th 6 to 8 pm

High School Selection Process

Understand options for school and course selection
Oct. 29th 6 to 8 pm

Nutrition & 30 Minute Meals

Cooking demonstration class
Dec. 16th 6 to 8 pm

Financial Management

Tips on setting financial goals
Dec. 15th 6 to 8 pm

Program is offered in partnership with Temple University
For further information call: Deb Smart at (215) 204-0398



All classes are held at Blumberg Self-Sufficiency Center
1516 Judson Way (23rd & Jefferson Street)

Asia Coney and TSSI Are Always There to Help

Con't from Page 1

year, then dividing the proceeds, usually a few hundred dollars, among the resident councils around the city.

Under her direction, TSSI is now deeply involved and has input into ways of improving the lives of PHA residents. TSSI primarily connects residents to services, but if it's something they can handle in their office, they will. TSSI staff goes all around the city helping residents with all kinds of problems, financial, maintenance, etc.

TSSI helps organize Christmas for hundreds of families in public housing. "The idea is not to remind them of what they don't have, but for each parent to know

that on Christmas morning each child will have several gifts under the tree."

There's a scholarship program to Community College directed toward those intending to major in computer science. They've set up four computer labs at conventional sites around the city, and organize the distribution of donated computers to be sent where needed.

Any resident with questions or concerns is encour-

aged to contact TSSI staff at 215-684-1016, fax them at 215-684-1917, or send an email to www.phillytssi.org.

I'll leave you with Asia's motto for achieving goals. "First, you gotta believe, you gotta be determined, your idea's got to come from a moral sense, and you've got to have a good feeling about what you're doing that comes from your gut, and you've got to be open to every opportunity that comes your way."

Dare To Be Great

Smoking: A Hazard for All

By Corporal Daniel J. Richmond

Years ago, everyone smoked. Today we know better. Smoking kills! But what we've recently figured out is that other people's smoke is a major health hazard, killing 35,000 people a year. This secondhand smoke, also called environmental tobacco smoke (ETS), is especially dangerous for children and pregnant women. ETS or passive smoke is the third leading cause of preventable death in the United States.

Smoke from burning cigarettes, pipes and cigars contains the same cancer-causing chemicals that the smoker inhales, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Smoke is considered environmental tobacco smoke (ETS). Anyone who breathes ETS takes these toxic chemicals into their lungs. Once inside the body, these carcinogens enter the bloodstream via the lungs and travel throughout the body.

When ETS reaches the victim's heart, it reduces the amount of oxygen, making the heart work harder. The lining of the arteries may be damaged, leading to heart diseases in nonsmokers. An analysis of the ETS suggests that forty cancer-causing chemicals are present. Children are susceptible to asthma, bronchitis and pneumonia if exposed to ETS. Secondhand smoke is linked

to low birth weight, sudden infant death syndrome, miscarriages and increased risk of ear infection in children.

What can you do? Most smokers want to quit, but smoking is a hard addiction to break. Let your friends and family know you care about their comfort and health and, that you believe they care about yours. Politely ask them not to smoke around you or your children. Don't become critical or judgmental about their smoking. Try to come up with a fair solution. For example, create a smoking room or a place outside your home where friends can smoke. Work with your smoking friends to come up with a solution; listen to their ideas. Try to compromise and leave the door open for future discussions if you don't succeed at first. Insist that baby sisters and caretakers not smoke around your children. Avoid public places where you know people will be smoking. Finally, support a smoker in quitting, if they ask for help.

For a long time, it didn't seem polite to ask smokers to stop; that was before we understood the risks of ETS. Today things are different; tobacco smoke is dangerous, and nonsmokers want to protect themselves from secondhand smoke. Most smokers will cooperate to avoid the dangerous effects on your family. Research indicates that most families are smoke free. At least two out of three people have smoke-free homes and cars. Are you one of them? Join the majority and save some lives today.

Chef Cyndy's Cooking With Kids

By Cynthia Lofton, Resident Writer

Cooking together can be a rewarding and enjoyable experience for parents and their children. It also gives adults the opportunity to spend some quality time with the kids. And after all, you do have to feed them and eat yourself.

What you eat affects your appearance, your health and the way you feel. What about a smoothie? Smoothies are refreshing, taste good, and very good for those who plan to improve health, maintain and repair the body. Smoothies will relieve and relax and also satisfy your taste buds. Here are two great health drinks.

Peach Refresher - peaches supply us with natural resources that help our bodies prevent infections, cancers, heart disease, and strokes. They contain nutrients that decrease blood pressure and menopausal symptoms.

¾ cup nectar or apple juice
1 sliced banana
1 cup low-fat peach yogurt
2 cups peach slices
2 cups ice

Stress-Free Strawberry - We have times in our lives where stress is built up. The body needs vitamins and nutrients that we use for daily activities. This drink is packed with those nutrients and vitamins we need to replenish those we have lost.

2 cups strawberries
½ cup strawberry nectar or low-fat milk
1 cup peaches
1 cup low-fat plain yogurt
2 cups ice

Making a basic Smoothie

1. Pour all liquid ingredients into the blender
2. Add all frozen ingredients
3. Blend at mix setting for 30 seconds, then blend at smooth setting until smooth
4. Move the stir stick around counter-clockwise while machine is running.
5. Serve immediately

These drinks will taste great and make you feel great too...enjoy!

A Message from the Executive Director

Two recent studies show an amazing turn-about in the perception of what Public Housing means in Philadelphia. Remember when public housing meant "projects," those places where no one from the outside dared trespass? High crime and low standards were the rule. Families looking for a house to buy didn't want to be anywhere near these sites.

Thanks in part to PHA's rebuilding program, the studies show that real estate values in neighborhoods surrounding our new sites are growing two and a half times as fast as property values citywide. What that says to residents of PHA housing is clear - non-assisted families want to live next door to you. At sites such as Richard



Carl R. Greene

Allen, Cambridge Homes and Greater Grays Ferry Estates, PHA housing is the best in the neighborhood. The homes are beautiful and residents are taking great pride in keeping them that way. In turn, values of houses nearby are increasing with families moving back in.

PHA has integrated itself and its communities back into the neighborhoods. The same is true

for clients in the Housing Choice Voucher Program. There was a time not that many years ago when this program had numerous problems and faced strong opposition from community groups. Sure, there are still critics but because of the sweeping changes made under the Moving to Work Program, landlords, clients and PHA have worked together to make this a program that helps

low-income families lift themselves up and work toward economic independence. Again, that benefits not only PHA clients, but the neighborhoods they live in as well.

To our thousands of clients we say, thank you for working with us to improve your own lives, upgrading your neighborhoods and making PHA a positive force for change in Philadelphia.

The PHA Experience

The Residents' Newspaper

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Resident Writers
Valerie Manlove,
Cynthia Lofton

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People You Should Know



Warren Knight

Warren Knight is the Special Assistant to the Director of Tenant Support Services, Inc., Asia Coney. He's a man who wears many hats by answering calls for help from residents and resident councils.

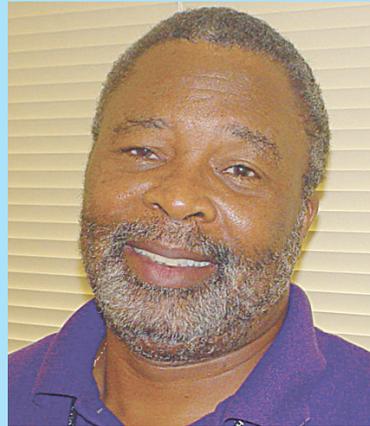
Warren first began with PHA and TSSI six years ago after working for the state Department of Public Welfare in its Youth Division. Before that, Warren had taught for several years in Philadelphia high schools.

Besides helping residents on issues such as employment and maintenance, Warren also supervises the use of the grants that fund TSSI activities. He writes reports and provides the assistance necessary to maintain that funding and obtain more of it.

Warren worked in PHA's Pre-Apprenticeship Program when it first began and he's still involved with it. He recruits and interviews participants and follows up with case management and job retention.

Knight is a graduate of Delaware State University and has done graduate work at Temple and Lincoln Universities. He has three daughters. One plays basketball for the University of Miami, another is a model and the other is married with a family.

"Don't give up. Take advantage of every opportunity that's offered!"
You can contact Warren Knight at 215-684-1014.



Charles Lanier

Wesley Charles Lanier, Program Manager in the Housing Choice Voucher program, came to PHA almost six years ago. Before coming here, he worked for several nonprofit groups that run affordable housing programs in the Philadelphia area. Lanier says he was attracted to PHA by the direction it was taking under Executive Director Carl Greene.

Charles is a graduate of Cheyney University where he majored in business and economics. He was the second student to sit on the board of trustees at the school and later became a full member of the board. He also

has a master's degree from Southern New Hampshire University in community economic development.

Currently, Lanier supervises the recertification process for PHA residents in the Housing Choice Voucher program. Before that, he worked as an asset manager, developing SPARKLE Plus and other special programs specially tailored to our residents needs.

Charles sees residents on a daily basis to resolve issues and he says his door is always open to them. He advises residents to keep copies of their paperwork, be on time for their appointments, and know what they want to talk about. And Lanier believes the change to rent simplification will help residents save money, become self-sufficient and eventually buy a home. Charles' phone number is 215-684-4480.



Tonya Penn-Harper

Tonya Penn-Harper is the Regional Asset Manager for the Philadelphia Asset and Property Management Corporation, a subsidiary of PHA that manages our tax credit sites. She works with residents and other asset managers helping families to qualify for admission to PHA's newly built or modernized homes.

Richard Allen, Cambridge, Mount Olivet, Suffolk Manor, Greater Grays Ferry Estates and Lucien E. Blackwell Homes are under Penn-Harper's supervision.

All are tax credit sites, meaning they have private investors. The rules for admission are stricter than for PHA sites that are not privately funded. Penn-Harper says she's always been an advocate for the residents.

Tonya came to PHA in November 2003 and, before that, worked in Chicago for the Chicago Housing Authority. She is a graduate of Florida A & M University with a degree in architecture construction engineering and has 20 years experience in affordable housing.

Penn-Harper believes that the higher admissions standards at PHA's tax credit sites will make residents better prepared for the next step, homeownership. She says her most memorable experiences are when she gives residents the keys to a brand new house. It makes all the hard work worth it.

You can reach Tonya Penn-Harper at 215-684-3952.



Margaret Fahringer

Margaret Fahringer, PHA's Accessibility Coordinator, has helped make the agency a model in the design and construction of accessible housing for disabled residents. She is a landscape architect who came to PHA in September 1992 after working in San Francisco where she specialized in designing parks to be accessible.

When Margaret first arrived, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was very new and PHA had no accessibility coordinator. The agency also had just two years to put together a special plan required by HUD to serve disabled residents.

"At PHA, there's always another challenge around the corner. I never dreamed that we'd be building so much," Fahringer says.

Five percent of all new or remodeled units owned by PHA are accessible, meaning they need things such as ramps, grab bars, and chair guards. Margaret reviews all of our plans for housing and community centers and spaces to see that we meet this goal. She works with disabled residents to meet their needs.

"I get thank you cards and photographs of people's children. That's a pretty rewarding job," she says. "The fact that we do so much new construction has just been fabulous to see what we can do."

Margaret points out that accessible housing helps everyone because it's housing to last a lifetime and makes life much more convenient. She advises disabled residents to contact their property asset managers to request any accommodation.

For general information, you can contact Margaret Fahringer at 215-684-5781.

How to Get Your Personal Experience Into Your Paper

Tell us about your "Experience" as a client of the Philadelphia Housing Authority. Simply give us a call and tell us your story! Our paper reaches all of our residents including: Traditional Sites, Scattered Sites, and Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program. Join our resident journalism classes which are conducted every other Friday from 10am -12pm; you will learn about the newspaper business and become one of our published writers. Either way, this is a golden opportunity, so reach out. It's easier than you think! Call 215-684-8645 or email anne.martinez@pha.phila.gov.

Simplifying Rents for PHA and its Customers

You have enough complicated issues to deal with in life. The way your rent is calculated shouldn't be one of them. At PHA it no longer is.

PHA introduced Rent Simplification in May. As clients come in for re-certification, they have been meeting with coordinators to review program guidelines. The following month, any rent adjustments appear on customers' bills. Rent Simplification will not affect any resident until their re-certification appointment occurs (on the anniversary date of their lease). All residents will be switched over to the new rent program by June 2006.

The greatest benefit of Rent Simplification, according to PHA, is that rents will be reduced for the majority of residents. For many others, rent will stay the same. Only 5% of PHA's residents will see a rent increase over \$50 as a result of the switch to the new system.

There are lots benefits to the new system. For example, re-certification will happen every two years, rather than each year. The new system allows resident households to increase their income over a two-year period without a rent adjustment. This means more money in your pocket now and a chance to save for future goals.

If the rent increases \$25 or more through Rent Simplification, and this increase creates a financial hardship, residents can notify PHA fifteen days before their re-certification appointment. A committee will review these applications, and send customers results by mail.

The goal of Rent Simplification is to allow residents to become more independent and concentrate on self-sufficiency. The program also simplifies rent calculations and record keeping for both PHA and the residents. It means

PHA doesn't have ask all those intrusive questions about your life and expenses.

PHA believes this is a win-win situation because it allows PHA to operate more effi-

ciently and gives residents a better opportunity to get ahead. Change is always a little unsettling and you probably have questions. To make sure that all families get the time

and attention they deserve PHA management is asking residents to wait until their re-certification appointment to discuss any issues related to Rent Simplification.

Residents Run Gift Shop at Courtyard at Riverview



MAHA Gift Shop operators Hazel Jones and Mary Wells are surrounded by Inez Hatcher, Rey Reyes and Joyce Johnson. The gift shop, which was started by Courtyard Residents, Hazel Jones and Mary Wells, allow homebound residents to shop conveniently for birthday and holiday gifts for their loved ones. The gift shop also allows the Southwark Development Corp. Committee to raise money for its programs. The gift shop is located on the first floor of the Courtyard at Riverview building, in the library.



Keep your child healthy, provide them with healthy snack alternatives!



WIC helps me feed my child

Income Guidelines

Family Size	Weekly	Bi-Weekly	Monthly	Annually
1	\$341	\$738	\$1476	\$17,703
2	\$457	\$913	\$1978	\$23,736
3	\$573	\$1145	\$2481	\$29,767
4	\$689	\$1377	\$2984	\$35,798

Call for income guidelines for additional family members

Fruit Smoothie

Ingredients:

- 2 cups of pineapple or orange juice
- 1 cup fresh or frozen strawberries
- 1 banana or mango
- 1 cup of cold evaporated or whole milk
- 3 ice cubes

Place all ingredients into a blender. Blend until smooth. Pour into cups and enjoy.

Serves: 2 children

It's free and enrollment is easy. For women who are pregnant, breastfeeding, or have children under the age of five.

Call

1-800-743-3300

www.northwic.org

Community Partners Help PHA Make Success Stories A Reality

What is CORA Newman?



Deborah Williams

CORA Services is a private, not for profit human service corporation, with over 30 years of service to the Philadelphia Region.

The Neumann Program, located at 1000 Orthodox Street in Frankford, serves people between the ages 16 and 21, who lack a high school education and who want to become employable.

Deborah Williams, the Program Director, says they help young people complete their high school education, give them job training, computer and clerical skills, teach them how to look for a job, and instruct them on life skills.

Williams says CORA Neumann keeps class sizes small (12 to 14 students) and offers lots of individual attention. Classes are interactive and the program runs one year. "We find that people coming into our program are visual and auditory learners. They need to have someone explain concepts to them," she says.

CORA Neumann also helps its students get part time jobs, which improves their resumes and attractiveness to employers. A related service provided by CORA Neumann is Homeownership Counseling and Housing Search Assistance. Williams says they offer one-on-one counseling and seminars that prepare clients for various aspects of finding, securing and managing personal housing.

If you're between 16 and 21 and interested in getting your GED or finding private housing, call the CORA Neumann Center at 215-535-2957.

What is CORA Beacon?



Meredith Barr

CORA Services Beacon Center is based at Grover Washington, Jr., Middle School at 201 Olney Avenue. The Beacon Center serves individuals, age 21 and older with evening programs to help students obtain their GED, learn to speak English and gain US citizenship. The center also offers Homeownership Counseling and Housing Search Assistance.

Meredith Barr, the Assistant Director at CORA Beacon, says they serve working adults and people who want to reenter the work force, but need a GED. She says that most of the people they serve are in their 40's. "The program classes meet three evenings a week for two and a half hours each evening. But students work at their own pace," Barr says.

CORA Beacon, similar to the program at CORA Neumann, offers lots of individual attention. Barr says the ultimate goal of the program is to help clients get a better job. "Every person has an individual service plan created for them (at Cora Beacon). We really focus on helping students define their goals and work toward goal achievement," she says. "Each person's plan is very different."

You can contact the CORA Beacon Center at 215-455-8269.

Alicia Serrano

Alicia Serrano came to the CORA Neumann Center looking for a different way to graduate high school and get into college.

Alicia was attending Benjamin Rush Middle School in Northeast Philadelphia when her grandmother pulled her out in



Alicia Serrano

2002. There were plans for home schooling or a boarding school, but they never materialized.

Her grandmother moved to South Carolina and Alicia was left

Diane Brown

Diane Brown loves helping people and has a very cheerful attitude. Brown, who's 45, works at Wal-Mart in northwest Philadelphia answering phone calls and directing shoppers to the



Diane Brown

right department. She especially likes helping seniors who visit the store.

Brown is also helping herself by attending GED classes at the

Newman Success Stories

to live with other people, but none of those people could enroll her in school. The tragedy was that she was popular in school, enjoyed it and had good grades. She also became pregnant after her grandmother moved away.

Alicia had been out of school for two and a half years when she learned about the CORA Neumann Center. At CORA, a student can gain a GED certificate in six to nine months. Alicia looked into the twilight program at Frankford High School, but had she chosen that route she'd be going to school until she was 21.

Last November, Alicia entered the CORA program and this past June she received her GED. Now, she's making plans to attend college. She'd like to attend Temple University and get a degree in business. For now, Serrano holds down two jobs, at a hair salon and a market research firm.

Alicia credits her teachers at CORA for making her dreams possible. "The teachers were almost like family. They were very attuned to what all the students had going on in their every day life," she says. "Even now, they still call me back and check up on me."

Alicia says science was her favorite subject and she did well in math, too. The most difficult subject was language arts (English) because she got confused identifying parts of speech.

When she received her GED test results in the mail, Alicia did not want to open the envelope. She was afraid of what she might find out. "Then, when I opened it and I saw my test scores, it was like 'Oh, my God' and I started freaking out," she says.

Alicia had passed her GED even though she felt she had not prepared herself enough for the math component of the test. Her

success taught her an important lesson. "I can do basically anything that I really want to do. There are a lot of people in the world who do care and who are willing to help you out."

Viniesha Robinson

For 21-year-old Viniesha Robinson, the third time was the charm. She had enrolled twice (in 2000 and 2002) at the CORA Neumann center and left both times because her daughter had health problems. However, the CORA staff encouraged her to keep on trying and she is near her goal of attaining her GED after entering the program for the third time last November.

As we went to press, Viniesha was expecting word on the fifth and final part of the test. She had great scores on the first four parts.

Viniesha Robinson left high school when she was 16. An unexpected pregnancy and family issues proved too great a distraction. She had to repeat her freshman year twice. The social scene was also difficult as classmates teased her about her appearance and dress. By her own account, she had no friends.

From the first time Robinson attended classes at CORA, she knew she had found a great place. "There was so much support and so much love that I wasn't receiving from home," Robinson says. "The director of the program, Deborah Williams, is really inspirational. She's somebody I wanted to be. She's a very strong woman. She has everything together."

Viniesha says once she receives her GED, she plans on going to Community College of Philadelphia with a major in business and a minor in communications. She says her training at CORA Neumann taught her about herself and gave her the ability to dream again. "I've learned that I can do anything. I learned how



Viniesha Robinson

to ask for help and not be afraid of the answer. I came out unafraid of a challenge."

Viniesha has also learned that it's okay to struggle and that many people have challenges just like hers. "I'm excited because I honestly did not think I could get through this," she says. "I usually quit when something's too hard for me, but Miss Deborah taught me that you don't have to quit. At least, show up."

And just showing up led to a life-changing breakthrough for Viniesha Robinson.

Beacon Success Stories

Veronica Fauntleroy

Veronica Fauntleroy couldn't be happier since she started working toward her GED at the CORA Beacon Center. She loves the individual attention that she receives from teachers. "When I first started (the GED program), I was kind of nervous. But, the teachers talked to me and explained that everybody comes back to school once in their life," she says.

Veronica, who is 34, left high school in the tenth grade. She has three children, ages 19, 16 and 14. Her goal is to get her GED and a good job. In her words, getting a GED, "is my chance to do something I've always wanted to do."

Fauntleroy says her goal is to work in an office, for the Postal Service, or as a correctional officer. All these jobs require a GED, and she figures it will take her six months to reach her goal. Veronica's oldest child has already graduated from high school and that achievement has inspired her to follow through at CORA Beacon.

Fauntleroy's favorite subject is math. She likes seeing the results that develop from each math problem. The small classes at CORA Beacon give her an advantage she never had before because she can get help more easily. Her teachers, she says, sit down and explain everything. Now, Veronica is just so thrilled knowing that she's going to accomplish "the goal I should have accomplished years ago."

In the past, Veronica has worked in childcare and has done housekeeping to support her family. But those jobs don't offer



Veronica Fauntleroy

the same satisfaction or chance to move up that her dream job would.

Now, Veronica Fauntleroy is having the time of her life learning the way she never learned before. "I'm just so happy to be going back to school. It's the happiest time of my life. When this opportunity came along, I jumped on it," she says. "Who knows, I might take some college courses."

Chad Sisk is 'Soul Superior'

page 10



Chad Sisk, aka The Soul Superior, stands for more than just music.

Although he lost his sight, good things have followed. Sisk says, "God gave me the gift of music through my voice, and I want to use it to reach out and inspire others." With this in mind, Sisk started his own company, Bluezion Entertainment, which means, "Life in the City of God." Sisk feels that by forming Bluezion Entertainment his company will, by faith, gather artists with a similar spiritual grounding. He wants to produce awesome entertainment that will help people help people.

Sisk's music incorporates morals, faith, respect, responsibility, family values, love, honor, loyalty and the will to please God. He also produces songs for other inspiring artists. He says, "I do whatever needs to be done to get the album out." Sisk writes and promotes music that he feels has a "backbone" and stands for something. According to Sisk most of his music comes from wisdom, meaning that he creates music based on knowledge he has learned from other people.

Besides producing and songwriting, the "Soul Superior" spends his time on other projects. He's a graphic artist, an actor, does video production, is an intern at TV channel 12, and in his spare time he teaches young people. Sisk has starred in many plays in the Philadelphia area, at venues such as the "Painted Bride," and the "Village of Arts and Humanities." He recently performed in a play titled Choices.

The Soul Superior has a self-titled album, which will be released in September. The CD consists of eleven tracks of wisdom. If you are interested in learning more about Bluezion Entertainment or the Soul Superior, check out his web site www.bluezion.biz.

Chad Anthony Sisk, a Philadelphia native and PHA resident at Cambridge Homes, refers to himself as the "Soul Superior". This name came about because of Chad's love of music and his religious beliefs. Chad decided to switch from gospel to soul music when he realized that he could reach a broader audience by shifting his focus.

Recently the "Soul Superior" became legally blind, which he says was a blessing in disguise.

The PHA Experience • Summer 2005



According to the Fannie Mae Foundation, "buying a home remains the largest single financial transaction that most Americans will ever make, and owning a home is the surest path to wealth creation for most people." The Partnership CDC believes this and is a community organization dedicated primarily to promoting homeownership and economic development in West Philadelphia. The CDC is a HUD approved agency providing one-on-one housing counseling to first-time homebuyers leading them step-by-step through the home purchase process and also operates the largest Home Buyers Club (HBC) in the City of Philadelphia.

The Home Buyer's Club (HBC) is a seven-week evening program that teaches individuals everything they need to know about purchasing a home and provides an introduction to basic financial literacy. Classes are held three times per year at Mercy Hospital of Philadelphia and Emmanuel Church of West Philadelphia. The HBC provides a group-learning environment with emphasis on personal finance, budgeting, credit repair, insurance, and the home purchase process.

The CDC Housing Counseling program serves the general public across the City of Philadelphia. Clients receive counseling in the areas of Pre & Post Predatory Lending, Tax Lien, Foreclosure Prevention, Pre & Post Home Purchasing, Rental Counseling, Tenant Counseling, Budgeting, and OHCD (\$800) settlement Grant counseling. Credit repair services and information on receiving grants for purchasing a home are also available.

If you are interested in purchasing a home, making repairs to your home, participating in the Housing Counseling Program or The Home Buyer's Club, please contact:

Shawn McGett (smcgeth@thepartnershipcdc.org)
 Samol Heng (sheng@thepartnershipcdc.org)
 The Partnership CDC
 4020 Market Street
 Philadelphia, PA 19104
 215-662-1612

www.pha.phila.gov

What's For Lunch?

Kids who took part in PHA's Summer Food Program asked that question with excitement and anticipation. The program changed dramatically this year by switching to a hot lunch menu. Pre-cooked meals were delivered by a local catering company and heated at each Summer Food site.

Licensed Nutritionist, Barbara Myers, helped design the new menu. "And then we had caterers bid on them," according to Troy Robinson, Community Relations Asset Manager.

He says that no meal was served more than twice during the season. The meals were more nutritious as well as tasty.

"We tried to minimize the amount of fat in both the breakfast and lunch menus," Myers says. "We also increased the amount of raw fruits and vegetables and added whole grain starch." To build strong bones, low fat milk was served at every meal. Fruit was the main dessert with an occasional sweet item like a cookie.

Myers says a major goal of the program is to build good eating habits in people at a young age to avoid health conditions such as obesity, heart disease, and cancer. Robinson says they concentrated on eye-catching food combinations that are also nutritious. The results were impressive.

"At Raymond Rosen and Norman Blumberg, parents came in droves with their children for lunch. We had an overwhelming response rate to the program," Robinson says. "We can hardly wait for next summer."



Children at Morton Homes who took part in the Summer Food Program dig in and enjoy themselves. The switch to hot lunches had some kids asking "What's for supper?"

HCV Satellite Based Offices

Reginald K. Seabrook - Project Management Coordinator for Blumberg Blumberg Development
 1516 Judson Way, 2nd Floor
 Phone #215-684-4374
 Fax # 215-684-8080

Team F (Tyana El-Bedawi) - Ext. 4-4463 Project Base
 1516 Judson Way, 2nd Floor (23rd and Jefferson)
 Supervisor - Reginald K. Seabrook
 (215) 684-3131 (Fax #215-684-8080)
 Areas: Blumberg Clients, Scattered Sites, Conventional Sites

FSS STAFF

Team A (Jenneane Tillar - Ext. 4-3051) South Philadelphia Office
 1172-1174 South Broad Street
 Asset Manager - Bret Holden
 (215) 684-3030 (Fax #215-684-3066)
 Zip Codes: 02, 03, 06, 07, 12, 42, 45, 46, 47, 48, 53,

Phylliss Gibson - FSS Administrator Blumberg Development
 1516 Judson Way, 2nd Floor
 Supervisor - Linda Staley
 Phone #215-684-3098 (Fax # 215-684-8080)

Team B (Saeema Saunders - Ext. 4-1359) West Philadelphia Office
 5207 Walnut Street
 Asset Manager - Shannon Donohue
 (215) 684-1448 (Fax #215-684-1366)
 Zip Codes: 04, 31, 39, 43, 51

Camille Johnson - ESS Coordinator for FSS Blumberg Development
 1516 Judson Way, 2nd Floor
 Supervisor - Phylliss Gibson
 Phone #215-684-8114 (Fax #215-684-8080)

Team C (Edward Highsmith - Ext. 4-3065) Northwest Germantown Office
 5538-A Wayne Avenue
 Asset Manager - Lydia Armstead
 (215) 684-3050 (Fax #215-684-3055)
 Zip Codes: 18, 19, 26, 27, 28, 29, 38, 41, 44, 50

Gilbert Vega - ESS Coordinator for FSS Blumberg Development
 1516 Judson Way, 2nd Floor
 Supervisor - Phylliss Gibson
 Phone #215-684-2057 (Fax #215-684-8080)

Team D (Glenda F. Wright - Ext. 4-3126) North Philadelphia Office
 642 N. Broad Street
 Asset Manger - Sophia Alexander
 (215) 684-4376 (Fax #215-684-4966)
 Zip Codes: 05, 06, 07, 08, 21, 22, 23, 25, 30, 33, 34, 40

Christeen Johnson - FSS Intake Worker Blumberg Development
 1516 Judson Way, 2nd Floor
 Supervisor - Phylliss Gibson
 Phone #215-684-3124 (Fax #215-684-8080)

Team E (Natacha Jimenez - Ext. 4-1559) Northeast Philadelphia Office
 4346 Frankford Avenue
 Asset Manager - Shane Manila
 (215) 684-1330 (Fax #215-684-1340)
 Zip Codes: 11, 14, 15, 16, 20, 24, 35, 36, 37, 49, 52, 54

Edwina Young - FSS Intake Worker Blumberg Development
 1516 Judson Way, 2nd Floor
 Supervisor - Phylliss Gibson
 Phone #215-684-3105 (Fax #215-684-8080)



Philadelphia Housing Authority
Building Beyond Expectations

MTW/Family Services Program Homebuyers Club Workshops

(Please plan to attend both sessions when registering for a workshop.)

<p>Workshop 1 Sponsored by Bank of America</p>	<p>Workshop 2 Sponsored by Countrywide Home Loans</p>	<p>Workshop 3 Sponsored by Citizen's Bank</p>
<p>Workshops: 6:00P.M. to 8:00P.M.</p> <p>FSS Center–North 1516 Judson Way, Community Room, Blumberg, 23rd & Jefferson Street</p> <p>Call to register: Mr. Gilbert Vega at 215.684.2057 or Ms. Camille Johnson at 215.684.8114</p>	<p>Workshops: 10:00A.M. to 12:00P.M.</p> <p>FSS Center–North 1516 Judson Way, Suite 203-B, Blumberg, 23rd & Jefferson Street</p> <p>Call to register: Mr. Gilbert Vega at 215.684.2057 or Ms. Camille Johnson at 215.684.8114</p>	<p>Workshops: 9:30A.M. to 11:30A.M.</p> <p>Strawbridges Building 8th & Market – 13th Floor Community Area</p> <p>Call to register: Mr. Gilbert Vega at 215.684.2057 or Ms. Camille Johnson at 215.684.8114</p>
<p>Wednesday September 7, 2005</p> <p>First Time Homeownership Orientation Learn how to use your Housing Voucher (Section 8) to purchase a home.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Budgeting & Money Management Learn how to define income and expenses.</p> <p>Wednesday September 14, 2005</p> <p>Credit Repair Learn how to establish, maintain and repair credit.</p>	<p>Tuesday September 13, 2005</p> <p>First Time Homeownership Orientation Learn how to use your Housing Voucher (Section 8) to purchase a home.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Budgeting & Money Management Learn how to define income and expenses.</p> <p>Tuesday September 20, 2005</p> <p>Credit Repair Learn how to establish, maintain and repair credit.</p>	<p>Thursday September 15, 2005</p> <p>First Time Homeownership Orientation Learn how to use your Housing Voucher (Section 8) to purchase a home.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Budgeting & Money Management Learn how to define income and expenses.</p> <p>Thursday September 22, 2005</p> <p>Credit Repair Learn how to establish, maintain and repair credit.</p>

Lots of Senior Programs Available at PHA

For many PHA "seasoned citizens" the Senior Program is a great way to stay active, meet new people and have a good time.

Senior Programs are divided into four categories:

- Health and Fitness
- Intergenerational
- Advocacy
- Volunteers

The Health and Fitness Program provides health screening and fitness activities for seniors including: blood pressure screenings, weight management classes, healthy cooking, Tai Chi classes, HIV testing, the Senior Café (combining stretching exercises and a morning social café), and a variety of other activities.

The Intergenerational Program provides socialization and education between seniors and young people through arts and crafts projects and lunch outings. The Philadelphia School District has partnered with PHA to provide these services to seniors including computer classes sponsored by AOL's Earth Link.

The Senior Advocacy Program provides information to seniors about social services and financial issues through bi-monthly Town Meetings and workshops. The workshops focus on issues such as: awareness of fraud and ID theft, the importance of creating a will, and Fire Safety.

The Senior Volunteer Program provides volunteer opportunities for seniors and non-senior PHA residents. Volunteers serve as hosts for activities and events, and help with planning and preparation.

The Senior Program holds several annual events that



Program Manager Charmaine Morton makes sure her seniors stay fit, healthy and happy.

keep the seniors involved. Some of the events held are, the Super Bowl Friday Celebration, Jazz Festivals, Senior Prom, Annual Rainbow Tea Party and the Senior Summits.

The annual Senior Summit was held at Wilson Park

on July 29th and 30th. Then, a second summit was held on August 11th and 12th. The Summits provided a full program including breakfast, lunch and speakers that focused on important issues for seniors. The program topics included: Nutrition and Healthy Eating, The Quality of Life, Living Wills and Advance Directives. PHA resident Gertrude Williams said, "I really enjoyed the Senior Summit because it was very informative." "The Senior Summit was terrific and the booths were great," said Joyce Siler, the Resident President of Falls Ridge.

Senior Programs have daily events at all the Senior Centers, which are located at Wilson Park, Cassie L. Holley, Emlen Arms, Liddonfield Homes and Bentley Hall. The Senior Program is not only offered to PHA residents, but to any seniors interested. Transportation is available to and from senior centers, for seniors ages 55 and up.

According to Charmaine Morton, Manager for the Senior Program, "It's a very inspirational program, because you have so many years of experience and knowledge wrapped up in one room. The seniors have given the Senior Program staff more than we can give back. They make it our pleasure to serve them."

For more information on PHA's Senior Programs please call the Senior Program Administrative Office at (215) 684-1183. For the Health and Fitness Program call (215) 684-4895; the Senior Advocacy Program can be reached at (215) 684-8782; and contact the Senior Volunteer Program at (215) 684-5950.



PHA Pre-Apprenticeship Program Open Houses

WHEN: October 5, 6, 19, 20
12:00pm to 5:00pm

WHERE: Workforce Development Center
1905 Vare Avenue (right off of the expressway)

Here is your chance to become a skilled union member. Don't miss this opportunity!

Students are instructed in electrical, carpentry, roofing and painting trades. Union entrance exams available to participants.

Program is **math intensive**. Students learn Algebra, Geometry and Basic Math for union exams.

Qualified applicants must take aptitude & drug tests prior to admission.

For info call:
215.684.8049 or 215.684.8053

The next session will start in January 2006.

This 21-week session will end in June 2006.

Classes are Monday thru Friday 8:00am to 4:00pm.

Applications will be accepted during Open Houses beginning in October 2005.

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

1. Resident of the Philadelphia Housing Authority
 - Section 8/Housing Choice
 - Conventional Housing
 - Scattered Site
2. Positive attitude
3. Physically capable of lifting up to 60lbs
4. 18yrs. of age or older, or 18 before the end of the cycle
5. A high school diploma or GED is required. (If applicants have neither one, before they can be accepted into the program they must have taken steps toward obtaining one.)

Fundraising Success for Southwark Teens Drill Team

Cont. from Page 1
a choice of chicken, fish or pig feet. The side orders included macaroni & cheese, collard greens, string beans, candied

for the second phase of the fundraiser: the 3-on-3-basketball tournament. Again it took planning to design and circulate the flyers, get the referees,

The basketball tournament raised funds through a registration fee; food and drinks were also sold at the event. This event was also a great success; the games started at 10 a.m. and lasted all day.

Southwark teens showed teamwork at its best; to date they have raised \$2,000. The money has been used to buy material for uniforms and to cover the cost of the seamstress. In addition, hats were purchased and a sponsor was found to buy the boots. A Southwark consultant, Corliss Gray, even donated 10 uniforms.

Today the fundraising continues. Parents recently raised money to buy a freezer and stocked it with water ice for the kids to sell. The new goal is to purchase drums for the drill team.

This is an example of how the Southwark community has supported young adults. One parent even went a step further by creating a special space in her living room to honor the



Darnell Mack; Martin Rodriguez; Courtney Green; Korey Green; Delores Green; Inez Hatcher; Harold Mack; Ashley Sims; Cedric Green-Smith and Brittany Goring worked hard but had a lot of fun too.

kids. Inez Green calls it "The Wall of Fame." On this wall hangs the picture of every high school graduate in her immediate neighborhood. "The Wall" holds more than pictures: a certificate, a trophy or some other type of recognition is also included. Inez says the kids work harder just to get acknowledged on "The Wall." She says kids take pride know-

ing that others believe in them and this keeps them moving forward.

This is more than a story about young adults raising money. It's about kids working toward and reaching a goal. It's about a community functioning like a family, and parents supporting their children. It's about PHA residents building a better neighborhood.



Theresa Thorton; Althea Williams; Jerry Hatcher; Inez Hatcher and Doreen Green are all smiles over the amount of money raised for the Southwark Community's efforts to provide safe, quality activities for their kids.

yams, rice, bread, potato salad and drinks. The reaction was awesome. More than 700 people responded. Talk about community support!

Two weeks later it was time

reserve the park, stock the refreshments and hope that Mother Nature would keep the rain away. There were three age categories for kids 8 to 21 who thought 'they had game.'

PHA Student Interns

While many businesses avoid hiring students, the Philadelphia Housing Authority gives young adults the opportunity to gain valuable work experience while earning extra money.

The PHA student intern program was formed to offer temporary jobs for talented college students. The program has a variety of benefits including: helping students gain work experience necessary to enter the workforce, college credit and a decent hourly wage. The intern positions are in a variety of PHA departments, such as Finance, Human Resources and Property Management. These departments teach interns about the operating practices and procedures of the public housing programs. Aishah Layton, an intern from Rutgers Camden in the Office of Strategic Management says, "I like the intern program because it prepares me for the real world, while putting my college skills to work." Student Interns are assigned entry-level administrative work, which is designed to develop analytical and technical skills that are necessary to perform administrative and operational analysis.

PHA has fifteen college students currently enrolled in the intern program. Their majors are business, finance and accounting. Kelly Condon, a Management Specialist at PHA said, "the intern program is a nice way to get your foot in the door with a growing organization where potential long term careers are available."

The program is geared toward career advancement. After students complete their degrees, they become eligible to apply for positions as Technical Aids, which is a stepping-stone to a career at PHA in management. In this position employees rotate through different departments to gain an understanding of how the agency works.

PHA is currently looking for qualified college juniors and seniors. Candidates must be able to communicate and present ideas clearly; both written and verbal. Students should also be prepared to demonstrate the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships in keeping with PHA's teamwork philosophy.

Application materials will be accepted Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Mail or hand deliver submissions to The Philadelphia Housing Authority, Attn: Human Resources Dept., 2133 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103. FAX: 215-684-1279; or email to Jobs@pha.phila.gov or Kelly.Condon@pha.phila.gov.



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CUES will be happy to schedule you for a site visit, ask for Ms. Waters.

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121 N. Broad Street 9th floor • Philadelphia, PA 19107**

"YOU'RE RIGHT ON CUE FOR SUCCESS"

TeamChildren Offers Computers for the Brewing Technological Revolution

page 14

Imagine the increase in brain power in our region if this September every child who needs a computer at home had one. Since Teamchildren has just finished moving into its new home in Audubon, Pennsylvania volunteers have been working their fannies off collecting and refurbishing computers that are being donated every day to meet just such a goal.

Teamchildren has over 1,000 computers available for families in need. The project is now ready to expand its effort to help every family in our region receive the use of a computer in the safety and comfort of their homes. Their goal which is shared in partnership with PHA and by their donors of equipment, and volunteers is to literally END THE DIGITAL DIVIDE.

Teamchildren is searching for more families in need as donations of computer equipment keep pouring in. Sanofi Synthelabo, Genex Services, Radnor Township, Methatcon and Upper Merion School Districts are just a few of the companies, organizations and individuals that have recently donated over 500 more really great computers.

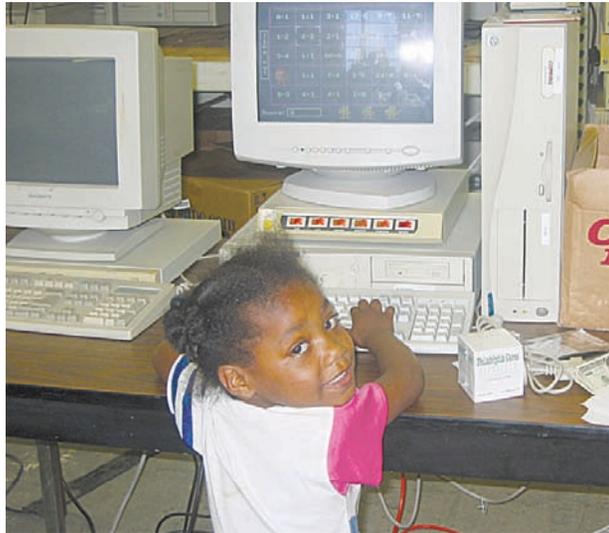
Illiteracy. For hundreds of years, this word has stigmatized those who cannot read. But in today's society, the word has an alternate meaning. Today, a lack of computer skills constitutes a form of illiteracy.

Unfortunately, for many in our area, affording a computer is simply impossible. As a result, the gap between those with employable skills and those without grows every day. Students who lack a computer in their homes have more difficulty completing assignments than those who do, and their computer skills are far behind those who own their own computers.

TeamChildren's mission is to bring these individuals into the digital age by providing the tools necessary for them to become technologically literate. TeamChildren, a 501(c) (3) organization, achieves this mission by refurbishing donated computers and distributing them to economically-challenged students, families, school districts and organizations.

To date, we have placed over 5,000 refurbished computers in new homes. Instead of ending up in landfills or being stripped for parts, these computers are now helping over 25,000 children Transform the Technology Divide, expanding and growing their educational and economic futures.

TeamChildren is now this region's leading Community Technology Center. Our current goal is to reach every child in need and to successfully transform No



This young lady shows that you can't start early enough on the road to computer literacy. TeamChildren has computers available for every child to be able to bridge the technology gap.

Child Left Behind from a concept to a reality.

Our previous track record should be an indicator of our future accomplishments.

The majority of computers we have distributed go to single women raising children without any economic support. Over a third of the children we have reached are emotionally or developmentally challenged. Aside from our great partnership with PHA, we have begun to develop relationships

with organizations such as Philadelphia Safe and Sound, the Venture Scholars Program, Temple CAN Program, Norristown Library, Tredyffrin-Easttown School District, and The Pathway School, to mention a few.

We believe in the power of ownership, and the strength of the community helping itself. We are a regional grassroots organization placing the power of change into the hands of the community. We believe our model is one that can be duplicated anywhere.

First, and most important, we document every family we help. Each family is required to write a letter explaining how a computer will help them or their family. Additionally, they must indicate why they cannot afford a new computer.

Second, each family is required to contribute financially. The administrative fee varies according to the type of computer anywhere from \$50.00 for a Pentium 233 to \$185 for a Pentium 3. Teamchildren because of our belief that every family needs a computer has not been able to generate outside funding to keep the project running. That is the reason they require a contribution from their recipients. The purpose of this fee is twofold: it helps to keep the project running, and, more importantly, it allows each family to take ownership of their computer.

Third, each family is required to volunteer a minimum of two hours on the day they pick up their computer. Volunteerism allows each family to see first hand the benefit of people helping people, and helps them to understand that they can work together to make a difference for everyone. This has created an organization largely run by those who require our services. Many of our steady volunteer staff began helping TeamChildren by volunteering those two hours in order to receive their own computer. Finally, we request that each family send in follow-up letters on a regular basis updating us on their progress.

To receive a computer please send a letter to: TeamChildren, 960 Rittenhouse Rd, Audubon PA 19403 or call 610-666-1795.

The PHA Experience • Summer 2005



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ACORN is Hiring



Philadelphia's Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) seeks energetic, talented people who want to work hard and transform neighborhoods. Be a part of the nation's largest union of low-income people. Work side by side with working families fulfilling the dream of making the city and state serve them better.

Contact: Human Resources
215. 765. 0042
paacornph@acorn.org
<http://pa.acorn.org/>

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Community Partners Training Programs



Job Placement/Job Coaching

Contact: Melanie DiBlasi 215-564-0015
Educational Data Systems Inc.
100 South Broad Street Suite 1210
Philadelphia, PA 19110

Job Retention for Employed Individuals

Contact: Al Williams 215-684-8052
American Community Partners
1905 Vare Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19145

Family Self-Sufficiency

Contact: Sherrie Davis 215-717-2727
MET
5008 Baltimore Avenue
Suite B
Philadelphia, PA 19143

Certified Food Handler

Contact: Dr. Sidney Jaffe 215-782-8810
Professional Health Institute
2311 W. Jefferson Street
Philadelphia, PA 19121

Child Care Provider & Child Care Assistant Training

Contact: Bernadette Brown 215-640-0880
ABO Haven
42 South 15th Street,
Suite 500
Philadelphia, PA 19102

GED (ages 16-21) & Housing Counseling

Contact: Debra Williams 215-535-2957
CORA Services Inc/ Neumann Program
1000 Orthodox Street
Philadelphia PA 19124

GED (adults 22 & older) & Housing Counseling

Contact: Anne Marie Schuld 214-455-8033
CORA Services
Beacon Center
Grover Washington Jr.
Middle School

Home Maintenance Repair Program

Contact: Bonnie Kaye 215-728-4712 or
Dennis Zimmer 215-728-4725
Orleans Technical Institute
1330 Rhawn Street
Philadelphia, PA 19111

Hospitality Training Programs

(Front Desk, Culinary, Housekeeping, Travel & Tourism)
Contact: Aaron Jones 215-336-7700, 324
Opportunities Industrialization Corp. Inc.
1231 North Broad Street, 4th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19132

Pharmacy Technician, Medical Billing Assistant Certified Nursing Assistant

Contact: Dorothy Jones 215-684-8250
Professional Healthcare Institute
1333 West Cheltenham Avenue
Melrose Park, PA 19027