

The PHA Experience



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A Community Newspaper for and about Residents

March 2006



Moorel Bey won a writing fellowship from Walt Disney Studios.

(ABC/Byron Cohen)

PHA Resident Gets \$50K Disney Fellowship

Moorel Bey until a few weeks ago was a Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) resident. But that has all changed now that she has won a Walt Disney Studios/ABC Entertainment contest. Her prize is a writing fellowship worth \$50,000. During the next year Bey will have a once in a lifetime opportunity to write scripts for TV and movies.

Moorel says she sent in

a 114-page screenplay as her contest entry. The piece called "Escaping The Past" is about Bey's struggle to grow and overcome obstacles "in order to forge a new future." The screenplay is based on her own experiences from childhood to becoming an adult. Once Bey qualified as a finalist, she had just 15 minutes to interview with the contest judges who had

almost 2,000 entries.

This amazing accomplishment is one of many along Bey's journey for success. She came to PHA several years ago after leaving foster care and transitioning to "supervised independent living." After moving into PHA housing, Moorel completed work on her degree in psychology, and graduated from Temple University in 2003.

After graduation, Bey worked for a year in social services as a case manager for two nonprofits. During that year, she realized that she really wanted to pursue dramatic writing. So Moorel left her non-profit career to take film classes at Temple. Her goal was to build a portfolio of work and apply to New York University's dramatic writing department.

In fact, one of her professors says, in three or four months, Bey accomplished what some students write in a year. The professor suggested that Moorel apply for the Disney Fellowship and was pleasantly surprised when her student won. She exclaimed, "It's a huge contest," and she knows experienced screenwriters with

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PHA Introduces New Mortgage Assistance Program

PHA has introduced an exciting new program to help working families in public housing and in the Housing Choice Voucher Program move into homeownership. It's called the Resident Mortgage Assistance program. PHA Executive Director Carl Greene said, "The program is designed to remove the barriers to homeownership."

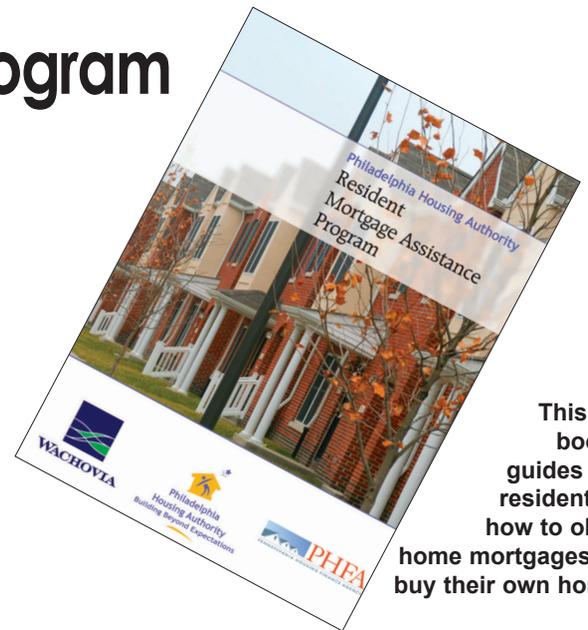
PHA is building hundreds of homes for sale to moderate-income families. These are families earning above about \$21,000 a year. PHA sells the houses at well below market rate. That's by far the biggest benefit of the program. Still, many families don't have the upfront money needed to close the deal on a home. These costs include appraisal fees, title insurance, homeowners insurance, transfer taxes and property tax escrow.

The mortgage assistance program addresses this situation. Based on your need and the availability of funds, you can get help with the cost of these fees.

Director of the homeownership program, Linda Staley, says even with all the assistance that PHA and its partners are providing you still need good credit to buy a home. PHA offers free homeownership and financial counseling and help with resolving credit issues to assist residents in achieving their goal of homeownership.

PHA has also formed a partnership with the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency and Wachovia Bank to offer a package of products specially tailored to your needs. Carl Greene calls PHA's homeownership

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This new booklet guides PHA residents on how to obtain home mortgages and buy their own homes.



Keshia Jones serves youngsters of PHA residents at ABO Haven, an innovative 24-hour daycare facility located at 10th and Spring Garden.

24 Hour Daycare Brings Convenience to Parents

Ever felt like taking care of your children was standing in the way of moving ahead in your career? Well, Argo Simpkins, CEO and President of ABO Haven had you in mind when she created the early learning center, a very successful minority-owned business. ABO Haven's mission is to help people obtain a productive and positive lifestyle that will enhance their lives, the lives of their families and the economic and social environment in their communities.

Simpkins has been in the training business for over 30 years and says that she noticed that a lot of people became frustrated with childcare, and she wanted to help. Simpkins says, "The 24-hour daycare gives parents the

ability to earn more money while having great childcare and knowing that their children are being taken good care of in a safe environment."

ABO Haven is a 24-hour daycare that is located at 10th and Spring Garden. The Early Learning Center is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, making it convenient for parents who work odd hours and who need of affordable, quality childcare. "The daycare gives parents options and the ability to pursue opportunities that would not have been there for them without childcare that is convenient, affordable and of good quality," Simpkins said.

ABO Haven is a state-of-the-art facility that offers

(Cont. Page 14)

Join the Celebration!



There's a celebration going on right now at Senior Partners! Join thousands of area residents who are benefiting from the great service, respect and value of Senior Partners – including plans with new Medicare-approved prescription drug coverage!

Senior Partners offers three great Medicare plans: Senior Partners Gold, Senior Partners Silver and Senior Partners Gold Rx. You'll be celebrating because one is sure to fit your healthcare needs!

NO or low monthly plan premiums!

NO referrals!

Prescription drug benefits available!

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A SENIOR PARTNERS
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TTY 1-877-454-8477 or
215-849-1579

HP SENIOR PARTNERS
HEALTH PARTNERS Medicare Plan
In Wellness and Health, Partners for Life.

A Medicare-approved health plan.

Two Families Buy into American Dream at PHA Sites



Vivian Johnson

Vivian Johnson-Price didn't win the lottery but she feels that way after buying her first house. "The new Martin Luther King (MLK) Homes in Center City are beautiful. PHA has done a magnificent job creating a wholesome living environment. This is a dream, to move back to South Philly, three blocks from where I was born." After living in public housing for many years, Vivian is moving into her own home with her husband Jerome, daughter Cyedia and brother George.

Many residents are taking advantage of financial incentives and buying their first home with PHA's help at MLK near Center City, Lucien E. Blackwell Homes in West Philadelphia and Greater Grays Ferry Estates in



Duwayne Barrett along with daughter Amira and wife Catrice

South Philadelphia. (Grays Ferry has sold out.)

Duwayne Barrett along with his wife Catrice and daughter Amira are moving to Greater Grays Ferry Estates. Duwayne sees his new home as a valuable asset. "We're thinking about our future, our family for generations to come," he says. "We wanted to make an investment that would be good for the next 20 or 30 years." His wife Catrice says she looks sold her. "It's a

very attractive good house, good price, and good neighborhood."

Vivian Johnson-Price of MLK thanks Carl Greene and his staff for "really changing things around for the better." If your family income is \$21,000 a year or higher and you've been thinking about owning your own home, contact the PHA homeownership department at 215-684-3260.

PHILADELPHIA HOMEBUYER EXPO 2006

First Time Homebuyer? You're invited to a Homebuyer Expo just for you!

We'll show you how to make your dream of buying a home a reality.

- ▶ **DATE:** Saturday, June 3rd 2006
- ▶ **TIME:** 9:00 am registration
10:00 am - 3:00 pm event
- ▶ **PLACE:** Holiday Inn
Philadelphia-Stadium
9th and Packer Avenue

Free Admission and Parking

- ▶ **Preregister by calling:**
215-731-1723, or
- ▶ **Preregister online at:**
www.hud.gov/event_registration/index

- TALK TO:**
- ◆ Lenders, Realtors, Housing Counselors

- LEARN INSIDER TIPS ON:**
- ◆ Buying and financing a home

ATTEND WORKSHOPS ON:

- ◆ Special loan programs
- ◆ Grants for downpayment and closing cost assistance
- ◆ HUD and Sheriff Sale homes
- ◆ Maximizing your credit score
- ◆ Avoiding identity theft

PRIZES:

Register to win a \$1,000 Closing Cost Raffle and other Door Prizes



SHRED-IT EVENT: 11 AM - 2 PM

Don't become a victim of dumpster diving and identity theft. Bring your outdated financial documents and get them shredded on site, free of charge. Sponsored by Shred-it.



Sponsored by: Homeownership Counseling Association of Delaware Valley and Mortgage Bankers Association of the Greater Philadelphia Region



. the first step in owning a home is believing that you can.

Young Folks Honor Seniors in Celebration of Life

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Carrie Manigo and Katherine DeShields

Members of the Youth Committee at the Courtyard at Riverview honored residents age 80 and over with a special birthday party. The "Celebration of Life" included dinner, music, and, of course, a birthday cake.

Inez Hatcher, the program coordinator and assistant treasurer of the Southwark Development Corporation Board of Directors, said that members of the youth com-



Ida Colbert and Jeanette Hall

mittee wanted to do something nice for the seniors.

"They don't want the older people to feel like they are a threat to them. They want them to know that they're here to help them in whatever they need done," she said.

The honored guests included: Corine Mallion (97), Mary S. James (81), Carrie Manigo (81), Katherine De



Corine Mallion

Shields (83), Jeannette Hall (81), Reba Thomas (81), and one "youngster", Sarah McClain (74).

Hatcher says the resident board at Courtyard at Riverview (formerly Southwark) is considering planning future activities, such as trips for seniors and young people. She says these activities foster respect for life and the wisdom of elders.



Reba Thomas



Sarah McClain



Mary S. James

The PHA Experience • Spring 2006

Senior Programs Events...

April

April 7, 2006	Happy Birthday Celebration TBA 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
April 11, 2006	Senior Advisory Board Meeting TBA 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
April 18, 2006	Senior Town Meeting TBA 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
April 21, 2006	Volunteer Luncheon Spirit of Philadelphia 12:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

May 23, 2006

Summer Safety Health Fair
Wilson Park
12:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

May 16, 2006

Senior Town Meeting
TBA
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

June (Music Appreciation Month)

June 9, 2006

Annual Rainbow Tea
Wilson Park
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 pm

June 14, 2006

Ruth Sight and Sound Ministries
9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

June 20, 2006

Senior Town Meeting
TBA
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 pm

May (Older Adult Month)

May 12, 2006

Spring Fling Fashion Show
Wilson Park
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

June 23, 2006

Sounds of Summer Jazz Fest & Wheel Chair Race
Wilson Park
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Come to the Senior Health Fair for Fun

If you're a senior and you like fun and facts all wrapped up in one package, PHA has the event for you. It's the Senior Health Fitness Day on April 7 at the John F. Street Community Center in Philadelphia.

"We have planned a day that will touch on every angle of being a senior in this millennium," said Charmaine Morton, Senior Programs Manager at PHA. "This event has been developed to educate and equip our senior citizen consumers and neighbors with useful information regarding Medicare Part D and how it works. The fair will also provide health screenings and fitness demonstrations. Information will also be provided about senior advocacy and volunteer assistance, as well as recreational fun," added Morton.

The event is open to all PHA residents and their neighbors. The fair will feature new treatments for a range of health issues. You can learn about benefit plans and get helpful pointers about your prescription drug coverage under Medicare Part D.

"We are proud to offer the fair in dedication to the wellness of our senior residents," said PHA Executive Director Carl Greene. "This event will bring together members of the community, healthcare service providers and educators for a meaningful and lively time that everyone can enjoy."

To receive an agenda and registration information, please contact Andrea Finamore at (215) 684-4379.

www.pha.phila.gov

Three Sites Chosen for Energy Conservation Contest

The problem for PHA is simple. Energy prices are soaring and the federal government is not increasing funding to cover the higher costs. PHA executive director Carl Greene says, "We had the choice to get creative, or begin to cut back services, and we'd rather be creative."

This spring, PHA is launching a pilot program to develop creative responses to the energy situation. Residents at three sites: Liddonfield Homes, Queen Lane Apartments and Whitehall Apartments will learn how best to change their habits in order to save energy. Resident leaders and PHA's energy conservation committee have been working to identify opportunities to conserve energy, and learning from residents what are the most motivating incentive for residents who work the program.

Details of the program are in final stages of completion. The program will get the Girl Scouts involved through a newly developed energy conservation patch. The resident leaders and the PHA energy committee will agree on the final plan before it's rolled out in the next few weeks. After the program has been tested on a small scale, the plan is to involve all residents in energy conservation.

Many of the suggested energy conservation tips are actually quite easy. The Energy Coordinating Agency (ECA), a non-profit expert in this area, will conduct the training. ECA's recommendations for water savings include tips such as: turning off the

water while brushing teeth, washing clothes with only full loads (using cold or warm water), lowering the temperature of the hot water heater, and soaking dishes in a pan before washing them. These changes are easy to make and can result in big savings.

Resident leaders: Rose Bryant (Liddonfield), Corliss Gray (Queen Lane), and Gloria Redd (Whitehall) were chosen to kick-off this program because of their excellent leadership skills, accord-

ing to Resident Advisory Board President Asia Coney. "They have a good relationship with the residents at their sites," which is important to get the word out for maximum participation.

The contest is designed so that both the housing authority and its customers win. Executive Director Greene says, "If our customers can save PHA money on our energy costs, they deserve to benefit from a portion of those savings."

Press 1 for Customer Service

If you've called PHA's main phone number in recent months you've probably noticed a dramatic improvement in the customer service you receive. In the past year the Call Center staff has received extensive training so that they can more efficiently handle your phone calls.

The agency has also invested in some new software called IVR or Interactive Voice Response. This is the automated voice prompt that you hear when you call many companies now and are asked to press one for this and two for that (for example to find out your bank balance by phone).

The new system will benefit residents and landlords in many ways. IVR will answer calls, provide automated answers to frequently asked questions, and forward calls to the correct individuals. Residents and landlords will be able to access their own account information automatically using their

PHA identification number. This number is found on any paperwork you receive from PHA. But to help you remember this number, the agency will be sending you a magnet to keep on your refrigerator with your PHA ID number. This number will be your link into PHA's database of information. So make sure you keep this information handy.

PHA's Director of Customer Relations, Doreen Wilburn, says, "I see the IVR as a way of improving customers satisfaction because many of our calls will be answered more quickly, and the database link will give residents and landlords access to up to the minute information." Don't worry; you'll always be able to reach a real person when you have a special question. The system will be up and running this August. A team of specialists is working right now to make sure that the IVR system is efficient and effective.

Dare to Be Great (Tips for Teens)

It's not my job! I don't know who takes care of that? Not me!

Teens who learn the anti-drug and anti-violence message at home and in their community are significantly less likely to use drugs or resort to acts of violence. The six million dollar question is "who is responsible for teaching this message?" We all are. Philadelphia Housing Authority employees, residents and stakeholders are not only responsible for their own actions; we also have a responsibility to help our young people, neighborhoods and schools remain drug, gang, violence and crime free.

Why do we have responsibilities? There are a variety of reasons. First, it gets the job done. If residents and employees did not care, our communities would come to a standstill. When everyone does his or her part, it creates a healthy atmosphere. People learn that they can depend on us in the future. We become reliable and trustworthy. Responsible people create positive self-esteem by accomplishing tasks and achieving goals.

In addition, responsible parents build harmony in the family thereby positively affecting the neighborhoods, schools, developments and finally our city. They don't mind being held accountable for their actions. Therefore, when assigned a task or job, be reliable. Follow through with your responsibilities at home, school, and neighborhood that way you'll gain people's trust. We are in this altogether; don't let yourself down by failing to be responsible.

A Message from the Executive Director

If you live in a Housing Choice Voucher Program property or in a PHA Scattered Site, you are painfully aware of how much your utility bill rose this winter. You can expect more of the same during air conditioning season this coming summer. At the housing authority, we're feeling the pain too. At our conventional public housing sites, we provide the utilities as part of the rent, and our bills have soared.

These costs have put a major squeeze on our budget. That means we have less money left to spend



Carl R. Greene on our normal operations. It also means we cannot pay a higher utility allowance to families who pay their own utility bills.

Energy conservation has become more important than ever. We have already asked our employees to take measures to use less energy in our offices. Our next step

is energy education the city to among the for PHA residents. As best. It has taken a described in this lot of money to make newspaper, we are that happen. We working with resident don't want to allow leaders to design pro- the high cost of ener- grams that will work. gy to undermine our

It's not possible to emphasize enough our properties as well how important this as we do today. When subject has become. energy education We've lived through classes and contests an amazing period come to your commu- when public housing nity I urge you to has gone from among take advantage. the worst housing in Thank you.

The PHA Experience 

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People You Should Know



John Hill

Families applying for housing at PHA will want to know John Hill. As acting general manager, he runs the Admissions Department, located at 712 N. 16th Street. Low-income families go there to fill out an application for housing and to learn about PHA programs.

John has been with PHA for five years, serving in several roles that have given him an extensive background to provide the answers that prospective residents need. He has served as a supervisory asset manager in the operations department for public housing, as a program manager in the Housing Choice Voucher program, and as an acting general

manager for real estate investment in PHA's development department. Before joining PHA, Hill worked as the assistant director of the Housing Choice Voucher program at the New Haven Housing Authority in Connecticut for four years. Before that, he worked as the assistant director of a community mental health program in New London, Connecticut. In short, John has always worked in the social services, which he believes in and enjoys.

John is a graduate of Aeon College in Columbus, Ohio and says, "I am goal oriented and focused on the task at hand." At PHA his strategy is to simply plan and make things happen.

Hill says he was attracted to PHA because it is the leader in innovative public housing programs and strategies. He is happiest when his department is able to deliver quick, efficient service to residents, allowing them to be housed in a timely fashion.

John doesn't routinely work with customers in his position but may occasionally step in to resolve customer concerns, and questions regarding a customer's status on the waiting list, and the unit selection process.

If you have any questions or concerns you can reach John Hill at 215-684-4443.



Nancy Duret

Nancy Duret is an administrative technician at the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program. She has been with PHA for 30 years, starting out as a clerk. "I did everything in those days until they made me an administrative technician," she says.

Nancy likes her job because it has a variety of duties, including being the receptionist on the 6th floor at 642 North Broad Street. She provides the HCV forms and the listings for future residency to all applicants. Nancy has always worked in the public sector and is more likely to

be labeled the liaison between tenants and landlords.

Nancy handles the general questions from prospective landlords about participating in the HCV program. Duret speaks directly, both by telephone and in person, with customers, tenants, and landlords. She says, "helping people and seeing the looks on their faces makes me happy." Her positive attitude comes through as she tells new residents at PHA that "all good things come to those who wait."

Nancy says her biggest challenge is keeping visitors to the HCV office relaxed and patient. For this she relies on skills she gained when she managed a local singer, something she did before she came to work at PHA. The singer, Eddie Bruce, got his break on the old Al Alberts show on Channel 6 in Philadelphia during the early days of television in the city.

"I'm a people person, that's why the reception job here is good for me," she says. "I'm easy to get along with. I try to help as much as I can. If not, I'm trying to get somebody to help."

If you have questions about HCV, Nancy has answers for you; call her at (215) 684-3118.



Jeanette Jacobs

Many PHA residents who are working to become self-sufficient have found the help they need by talking to Jeanette Jacobs. She points them in the right direction for a job opportunity, job training, a self-sufficiency class or other valuable services.

Jacobs, a former resident of the old Martin Luther King Plaza, is the Administrative Assistant to Asia Coney, Director of Tenant Support Services, Inc. (TSSI). She's responsible for daily operations at TSSI's office at 642 N. Broad. All resident calls to the office eventually come to Jacobs. The office serves over 3,000 people a year.

Before coming to work at TSSI, Jeanette worked for seven years at GLS, a telemarketing firm in Center City. When the firm relocated to Florida, she decided to stay in Philly. Jeanette's qualifications include an associate's degree in computer science and a certification in bookkeeping.

"I'm a former resident of public housing, so I can relate to the ups and downs that residents experience," Jacobs says. "I enjoy being an advocate for residents. It always has been my focus, even before taking on this position."

Jacobs urges residents to take advantage of the opportunities offered through PHA and other agencies. "Nobody's going to bring anything to your door," she says. "You have to get out there and do some of the legwork. You have to turn off the soap operas and get out there in the afternoons if you have kids in school."

Jeanette Jacobs can put you in contact with the person or service you need by calling 215-684-1016.



Patrick Ameen Akbar

Patrick Ameen Akbar manages Skills For Life, the after school program that targets 14 and 15-year-old high school students.

The goal of the program is to help students improve their skills in math, science, literacy and computer technology. PHA operates the program at eight different locations across the city.

Akbar has been managing the program for six years. He came to PHA after working as the Deputy Director of Operations for the Philadelphia Anti-Graffiti Network. Before that, Patrick worked for 13 years at the R.W. Brown Community Center (in north-central Philadelphia), starting as a day care counselor and ending up as the director of the center. He is a graduate of Cheyney State University with a bachelor's degree in recreation.

Patrick says Skills For Life teaches teens to be independent and self-sufficient, so they can go on to college or some other form of higher education. Kids who graduate from Skills For Life become role models for their peers. "We're in competition with the streets, with the negative influence out there in gangs, drugs, and guns," Patrick says.

Akbar admits that he was a gang member when he was a teen, but was fortunate to have people who got him the help he needed. Now, he's returning the favor by staying active in a number of community organizations, and helping teens who risk falling prey to gangs and violence.

If you have a son or daughter who might benefit from the Skills for Life program contact Patrick at 215-684-1196.

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.

Residents Changing Face of Construction Industry



Sixty PHA residents graduated from the Pre-Apprenticeship Program, ready to seek well-paying careers in the building trades.

Through hard work and determination, sons, daughters, fathers and mothers were all part of the 13th and 14th PHA Pre-Apprenticeship graduating classes. Sixty residents were added to the construction workforce as they prepare to enter the building trades unions. "My future looks bright. I passed the Plasterers Union test. It is good that many people believed in me," said graduate Rodney Byer. "Take advantage of opportunities and believe in yourself."

This is the seventh year of the Pre-Apprenticeship program, which gives residents the training they need to

qualify for a chance to work in the construction industry as an electrician, plumber, carpenter, painter, cement finisher, operating engineer, sheet metal worker, plasterer and more. In partnership with most of the city's biggest trade unions, PHA has put more than 400 men and women to work. Again this year, PHA honored its graduates at a commencement ceremony at Temple University's Mitten Hall.

"Residents lean more than a job, what they have after this training is a career, a means to provide for their families," PHA Executive Director Carl Greene said.

He went on, "our students are beating the odds becoming a valuable asset to the community."

Graduates enter the 21-week Pre-Apprenticeship training course, earning a stipend of about \$5.00 an hour. After passing the union exam the pay scale can climb to 20, 30 and even 40 dollars an hour.

Graduate Joseph Warr spoke for many students when he said, "Today is fantastic. It is the end and the beginning. It is the closing of the education process and the beginning of a career where we can grow. I believe we can fly."

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:

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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:

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Public Housing Family Self Sufficiency Program

OFFERING THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

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GED CLASSES
ADULT EDUCATION

EMPLOYMENT:

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

LIFE SKILLS:

BUDGETING AND HOME OWNERSHIP COUNSELING

SOCIAL SERVICES:

COMMUNITY RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
& SOCIAL SERVICES
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT

CALL 215-684-3105 OR 215-684-3124

Training Programs Help PHA Make Success Stories A Reality

What is ACP's Pre-Apprenticeship Program?



Al Williams

PHA's renowned Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program has been sending residents into good-paying careers in the building trades since 1999. Executive Director Carl Greene created the program with support from American Community Partnerships (ACP), a national nonprofit organization. Sue Hale, the national director of operations for ACP, says the organization's goal is to train people to live comfortably, work in their locale, and build up their neighborhoods.

Al Williams, regional director for ACP, part of the Pre-Apprenticeship team at PHA, says the focus here is on the building trades because they have "career ladders" that allow workers to move up in rank and pay, and become middle class.

George Johnson, PHA's training director for the program calls Williams and himself the Cisco and Poncho of PHA (a reference to a 1950's TV show.) "Al helps residents overcome social barriers such as childcare and driving issues, even past criminal problems - to get them ready to enter the program. Once they're in the class, PHA educates and trains them for success."

Both Williams and Hale say PHA is looking for opportunities to expand training to other areas, with proposals currently before the state and federal governments. One proposal, for example, is for training in architectural/blueprint reading while another would train people in the design of manufactured housing.

"This is money that is well spent, real training, real residents and lives that are changed forever," Hale says.

What is JEVS?



Dennis Zimmer

JEVS stands for Jewish Employment Vocational Services. But don't let the name confuse you; it's a non-religious social service agency and one of PHA's valued Community Partners.

JEVS conducts the Home Maintenance Program for PHA residents at the Orleans Technical Institute (OIT), based in Northeast Philadelphia.

Dennis Zimmer, the admissions representative and coordinator of the program, says residents learn basic home maintenance and repair. The 12-week course covers a wide range of topics such as sheet rock, painting, electrical, plumbing, air conditioning maintenance, and fixing screens and door locks.

Zimmer says the skills learned by residents prepare them for homeownership. Graduates of the program know what to look for when buying a house.

Most of the students in the program are women who are single parents, Zimmer says, and "need to be able to do repairs themselves."

If you are interested in more information about the JEVS Home Maintenance program call Dennis Zimmer at 215-728-4725, or Bonnie Kaye at 215-728-4725.

Akela Taylor
PHA resident Akela Taylor is a cheerful 28-year-old whose good humor is matched by her drive and intelligence. Four years ago, Akela Taylor was on welfare, going through the "Welfare to Work" program. She had worked as a Certified Nursing Assistant at a nursing home in Chester, but it wasn't paying the bills. Then, Kiki, as her friends call her, found out about the Pre-Apprenticeship Program through one of the managers at Bartram Village.



Akela Taylor

"I always wanted to be an electrician. I can remember when I was little, trying to put the TV cord back together and shocking myself," she says.

Akela completed the Pre-Apprenticeship Program in 2004 and then took the union entrance exam. She was trying to decide whether to become a carpenter or an electrician. Both are interesting, good paying jobs, but carpenters have to do a lot of heavy lifting. She decided to join Local 98 of the Electricians Union as a journeywoman and has one year to go to become a fully certified electrician.

Over the past few years, Kiki has worked on several high profile developments, including Lincoln Financial Field, Children's Hospital and at the University of Pennsylvania. At the Linc, she worked until she was 7 months pregnant. Her

Barbara Keys
Barbara Keys, the mother of two teenage boys, had spent the last 21 years working in the dining service at the



Barbara Keys

University of Pennsylvania. So, getting her hands a little messy was run of the mill for her.

ACP Success Stories

biggest challenge was going up a big wooden ladder before the escalators were put in. Now, she points to the Eagles' new home with pride whenever she rides past it with her family.

Taylor has also helped break down gender barriers. She says she received the ultimate compliment from one of her co-workers who said: "I want to tell you that for a long time I didn't think women should work in construction until I started working with you. You're always working and you always have good ideas."

"I love my job. I'm thankful God blessed me with it. I love learning new things every day. I love the challenges, mentally and physically. I really enjoy being around the people," Taylor says.

As for the future, Kiki would eventually like to open her own electrical supply house or become an inspector. Her logic is that companies need supplies and services and she knows what the requirements are. In the meantime, Taylor has also focused on homeownership, qualifying for a mortgage and beginning to look for a home.

Elizabeth Williams

For Elizabeth Williams, life really is beginning at 40. She will become a Journeywoman with the Sheet Metal Workers this September after 4 ½ years of Apprenticeship. It's a far cry from what Elizabeth used to do, working two jobs to support her family.

"It was long and hard and I thought I wasn't going to make it," Elizabeth says. "You have to be focused. You've got to be willing to work in all kinds of weather."

Elizabeth took her first step toward a new career eight years ago. She went back to high school to get her diploma. Then, several years later, Williams entered the Pre-



Elizabeth Williams

up in the Sheet Metal Workers union because it's a trade that has many career opportunities that allow someone to move around and have some variety on the job. A sheet metal worker can earn many different certifications, too, including refrigeration, air conditioning, and welding.

The challenge of the job is that it requires a lot of math and precision because sheet metal workers fabricate parts for systems at the construction site. Parts are measured down to a fraction of an inch.

"I'm really enjoying life learning different kinds of things. The job might be dirty, but that doesn't matter. It's what you're learning and what you can do, how you install heaters, how you install central air," Williams says.

Like other graduates of the Pre-Apprenticeship Program,

Apprenticeship Program to get some hands-on construction skills.

At first, Elizabeth thought she wanted to be a painter. But after taking the trade unions' admission test, she was accepted by the Sheet Metal Workers union and began her apprenticeship.

Williams is very glad that she ended her journeywoman's card from the electricians union, Local 98.

For Valarie, the decision to shift careers meant leaving the comfort of a job she had held for seven years. She was a 36-year-old single parent with three children at the time.

Valarie now knows she made the right decision. "You're constantly learning. There are so many different areas in the construction industry that you can branch off to," she says.

Elizabeth has worked on some high profile jobs including, Lincoln Financial Field, Citizens Bank Park, and the Cira Centre next to 30th Street Station. She says she'll be working on Comcast's new building in Center City, too.

Elizabeth Williams feels very lucky and says she never imagined having an interesting well-paying career. Her next dream is to buy her own home and with her drive, it looks like that dream just might come true too.

Valarie Lewis

Valarie Lewis was a Certified Nurses Aid who decided to change her field. Lewis applied to the Pre-Apprenticeship Program and was accepted. By the time she graduated in late 2000, she had won several awards. Valarie will reach her ultimate goal of becoming a full-fledged electrician by early fall when she receives her journeywoman's card from the electricians union, Local 98.

For Valarie, the decision to shift careers meant leaving the comfort of a job she had held for seven years. She was a 36-year-old single parent with three children at the time.

Valarie now knows she made the right decision. "You're constantly learning. There are so many different areas in the construction industry that you can branch off to," she says.



Valarie Lewis

JEVS Success Stories

One day Barbara received a call from PHA asking if she'd like to take part in the Home Maintenance Program offered by JEVS. She jumped at the opportunity because she was in the process of buying a home at Greater Grays Ferry Estates and would need some skills to maintain her investment.

Barbara was pleasantly surprised with the instruction and the ease of many of the projects. Her thought in several instances was "That's all there is to that?"

The electrical demonstration was the only part of the course that scared Barbara slightly. She worried about connecting the wires the wrong way and about possibly causing an outage or a fire. The other big challenge was learning to repair a hole in a wall because the job requires precision.

Keys says her favorite projects involved wallpapering, painting and ceramic tile. In fact, she helped wallpaper a bathroom at her daughter's home not too long after completing the course at JEVS. The decorating skills appeal to Barbara's artistic instincts. She also tells us that she found plumbing and soldering pretty easy; and she'll repair anybody's screen door.

Barbara recommended the JEVS program to her brother who is a self-taught handyman. And she's already dreaming about the future at her three-bedroom twin at Greater Grays Ferry Estates.

"I want to put some ceramic tile in my kitchen," she says. "That's going to be my first project."

She also thinks her 13- and 14-year-old sons just might learn a thing or two from her as she improves her home.

Terrilyn Jackson

Terrilyn Jackson is a 36-year-old mother of four children who lives in Northeast Philadelphia. She's a Certified Nursing Assistant who thought it would be a good idea to develop some home maintenance skills, especially since she'd like to own a home some day.

Terri learned about JEVS' Home Maintenance Program through PHA, while taking part in the home buying program. At first, she was a little apprehensive because her skills were very limited. Now, she's ready to take an advanced course at JEVS.

"The school taught me how to do things properly, the things you really need to know like the radiators, fixing holes in the wall, doors, door knobs, things like that," Jackson says. "They walk you through and make sure you understand each lesson."

Her favorite repair job was the sweating and soldering of pipes to a hot water heater. "It was difficult at first. But then, the way that I soldered it, it came out perfectly," Terri says.

Another skill Jackson picked up at JEVS was ceramic tiling. Jackson recently visited Home Depot and found there



Terrilyn Jackson

are many different tile patterns and pretty ways to decorate. Now, she plans on doing everything herself, once she buys a home.

Terri says the home maintenance course gave her a sense of achievement and made her better informed as she searches for a home of her own. And the skills are something she can teach her kids, too!

Changing a Way of Life for Blackwell Residents

For residents at the Lucien E. Blackwell homes there is a fantastic mentoring program designed to improve residents' lives. Each month, advisors consult families one-on-one on how to eliminate debt, improve their credit or continue their education. Making these adjustments isn't easy and requires lifestyle changes. These sometimes stressful issues are offset with activities for kids and adults that include: basketball, swimming, games and more. PHA even fixes dinner, ready when you arrive.

The meetings for mentoring families are held at 6:00 pm on the first Tuesday of each month at the West Philadelphia Community Center, 3512 Haverford Avenue. Call (215) 684-4161 to learn more on how to improve your life.



PHA staff members: Joselynn G. Jones, Desiree Lockett, Julie Moore, April L. Harper, Lorelynn C. Jones, Nazy Pakpour, Kajet Washington, David Bruce, Matrie Johnson, Edie Coleman, Gregory Ryles, Kimberly Coleman, Dorothea Antrom, Barbara Hall.

Computers for Families

Corlis Gray, President of the Queen Lane Tenet Council, is now smiling from ear to ear. Always on the lookout for things that will make a difference for her residents, Ms. Gray contacted TeamChildren and pleaded for the donation of 20 computers to the Kids Café computer lab.

When the computers were being installed you couldn't keep the kids away. All the kids are coming to the café to partake in other programs the council provides like meals, after-school homework help, arts and craft, dancing and drama.

Because of TeamChildren's support from The Philadelphia Housing Authority to help residents find out about the opportunity to own a computer for use in their homes, it was happy to help this tenant council. Does your family need a computer but cannot afford one? TeamChildren's goal is to insure that every child be given the tools and opportunities to succeed.

For more info, visit www.TeamChildren.com or call TeamChildren at 610-666-1795.

HCV Satellite Based Offices

Reginald K. Seabrook – Program Manager
Blumberg Development
1516 Judson Way, 2nd Floor
Phone #215-684-4374
Fax # 215-684-8080

Zip Codes: 05, 06, 07, 08, 21, 22, 23, 25, 30, 32, 33, 34, 40 & Hope VI

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

Team E (Vacant – Ext. 4-1559 & Carol L. Simons – Ext. 4-2414)
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 & Hope VI

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 & Hope VI

Team F (Cheryle Smalls – Ext. 4-4474)
North Philadelphia Office
642 N. Broad Street, 6th Floor
Supervisor – Reginald K. Seabrook
(Fax #215-684-4966)
Areas: Scattered & Conventional Sites, Home-ownership Multi-Team Support & Hope VI

Team C (Edwina Young (Temporary) – 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 & Hope VI

Computer Technology Coordinator – (Mr. William S. Brown – Ext. 4-2685 or 4-8660 @ Johnson)
Blumberg Development
1516 Judson Way, (23rd and Jefferson St.)
Supervisor – Reginald K. Seabrook
(Fax #215-684-8080 @ Blumberg)
Neighborhood Network Coordinator – Monet Williams (Ext. 4-4628)
Blumberg Development
1516 Judson Way, (23rd and Jefferson St.)
Supervisor – Reginald K. Seabrook
(Fax #215-684-8080)
FSS STAFF

Team D (Ursula G. Alvarado – Ext. 4-3126)
North Philadelphia Office
642 N. Broad Street
Asset Manager – Jan DeVito
(215) 684-4376 (Fax #215-684-1023)

Computers for Families

Teamchildren a leading non profit organizations helping families cross the digital divide, has distributed over 5,000 refurbished computers to organizations, families, and schools throughout the region. Many PHA families are taking advantage of this opportunity and are enjoying the benefits of a computer at home.

How to receive a computer

Write a letter explaining how a computer will benefit your family and why you can not afford a new computer.. We love great letters.

Each family is required to contribute financially. See our administrative cost list and choose the computer you can afford.. You must send a deposit with your request.

Volunteer: Every family is asked to contribute 2 hours of volunteer time on the day they receive their computer.

Send your letter and deposit to:

TeamChildren
960 Rittenhouse Rd Audubon PA 19403

CHECK OUT THESE PRICES!

Spring \$ 25.00 Computer Discount

- Was \$50 Now \$25.00 Pentium 233 MHz 32 Megs of ram
2 gig hard drive windows 98
- Was \$75.00 Now \$50 Pentium 266... 32 Megs of ram
3-6 gig hard drive windows 98
- Was \$100 Now \$75 Pentium 2/300-350 64 Megs of ram
3-6 gig hard drive windows 98
- Was \$150 Now \$125 Pentium 400-500 MHz 128 Megs of ram
3-6 gig hard drive windows 98
- Was \$185.00 Now \$160.00 Pentium 550-733 MHz
128 Megs of ram 6-10 gig hard drive windows 2000

www.teamchildren.com 610-666-1795

Using Two PHA Programs to Advance



Pre-Apprenticeship graduates from Abbottsford along with Skills for Life Program Manager Patrick Ameen Akbar. Left to right: Kahlil Jackson, Paris Jackson, Kardell Turner and Patrick Akbar.

Skills For Life Locations

Cunningham/Ruffin Nichol's Church (North Philadelphia) 215-236-0336, Crusaders for Christ (Southwest Philly) 215-387-3014, Germantown Settlement (Germantown) 215-848-2611, The Lighthouse (North Philly) 215-425-7804, United Communities/Bok Beacon (South Philly) 215-952-8549, Southwest Community Center (Southwest) 215-729-8911, Diversified Community Center 215-952-0806, Wepac (West Philadelphia) 215-452-0333.

PHA Introduces New Mortgage Assistance

(Cont. from Page 1)

effort "groundbreaking," and "a tremendous opportunity to help eligible PHA families grab their piece of the American dream."

PHA has already sold out all homes at Greater Grays Ferry Estates in South Philadelphia and in the first two phases at Lucien E. Blackwell Homes in West Philadelphia. PHA is now selling homes at the Martin Luther King development just south of Center City and they are already going fast. At a time when housing prices are putting homeownership out of reach for more and more people, PHA has carved out a niche for working families to purchase a high quality home that they can afford.

For information on PHA's mortgage assistance program, please call (215) 684-5300.

"This is the beginning of what will be a very successful future." Those are the words of Paris Jackson, a recent graduate of the Pre-Apprenticeship program. Paris matriculated into Pre-Apprenticeship from a program that taught him the basics. "The Skills for Life program taught us a lot of life skills, how to prepare for the future, the importance of an education, how to budget money, personal time management and more."

The Pre-Apprenticeship program has been extremely successful helping men and women enter the construction fields, an area largely isolated from minorities. Some of that success can be attributed to Skills for Life, a program that has nurtured and expanded the horizons of teenage PHA residents.

Program Manager Patrick Ameen Akbar says, "the Skills for Life program has enabled hundreds of residents to take the next step in life. The realization of academic achievement, goal setting and career enrichment are ongoing." Patrick encourages all students to participate.

For Kahlil Jackson the Skills for Life program, "helped me touch-up on my math skills, taught basic information about the building trades and opened up opportunities. Then I went into the Pre-Apprenticeship program so I could learn the building trades and earn a decent income. Patrick is a great guy who put me in touch with various programs including Pre-Apprenticeship."

Kardell Turner joined the Skills for Life program, "to touch up on my people skills and my work skills. The Pre-Apprenticeship program is another great program that can set you on a course for a good career. I'm looking forward to an interview with the building trades."

If you are interested in joining the Skills for Life program you should contact Patrick Ameen Akbar at 215.684.1196.

ATTENTION: FORMER RESIDENTS OF MILL CREEK

If you are interested in participating in the mentoring demonstration program, please call PHA HOPE VI Department

215-684-4161

Extra supportive services will be made available to all participants.

Liddonfield Residents Lead Cleanup

page 12

Residents of a public housing complex in the Northeast are hoping to use their experience from a frigid, overcast day in January to bring their community closer together.

A busload of residents from Liddonfield Homes took advantage of the Martin Luther King holiday to do some community building at a place where student violence had once taken place. They joined members of four other groups at Lincoln High School, clearing the campus of leaves, trash, branches and other debris.

Donald Donley, the principal of Lincoln High, said he was contacted by Rose Bryant, president of the Resident Council at Liddonfield, about taking part in the MLK Day of Service at the school.

"Her personality kind of jumps out and grabs hold of you. You just can't say no to her," Donley said. "What Rose and I have talked about is going to go beyond today."

Bryant said she chose the high school for the Day of Service in the wake of violence that took place among students last year.

"I figured if I could bring all the children together in an atmosphere like this and they could get to know each other...instead of fighting for a solution, they could handle it another way," she said.

Bryant said she has been talking with Dr. Donley about ways to foster better relations between the school and par-

ents. What better way to begin the process, she thought, than the MLK Day of Service? Liddonfield residents could honor the memory of Dr. King by working with other groups on a project that benefits the entire community.

"Better neighbors make better neighborhoods, make better children, make better everything," Rose said.

Donley agreed, saying projects such as this one show people that they can work together. He hopes that, as the school works more closely with parents, attendance will improve.

Sabrina Boulware, a Liddonfield resident who attends Lincoln, was both glad and humble as she worked on the grounds. "I'd rather be here helping for Martin Luther King Day. He made a difference for people like us," she said. "I just come here to do my part and help."

Shaunte Mickens, another resident who also attends the school, said the MLK Day of Service is a special day for her. "He did stand for people in their communities and tried to help people out. This is my community, so I wanted to help out."

Danette Ray, pastor of the New Hope Outreach Center, said many young people still have to learn about giving back to their communities. She said some of the most unglamorous work is also the most important work.

Perhaps the best perspective about the Day of Service at



State Rep. Mike McGeehan (left) chatted with Beatrice Randolph (center) and Rose Bryant (right) of the Liddonfield Resident Council during the MLK Day of Service at Lincoln High School.

Lincoln came from a School District official, Herb Story. He said it's important for kids to learn how to work together because neighborhoods are changing.

"We want people in the neighborhood to feel that the school belongs to them, so kids can come in and learn," Story said.

Rose Bryant couldn't agree more, saying that Martin Luther King "bridged the gap for us," and all children should take advantage of the education that he fought so hard for.

Police Advisory Board Is Here to Protect You

The PHA Experience • Spring 2006



PHA residents can volunteer to serve on the Police Advisory Board

"There is always someone here to help you with a problem". This is how Flora Mason, tenant council president of

Bently Hall, feels about the Police Advisory Board (PAB). "To have something for every tenant to benefit from is just what we need". The Police Advisory Board was not only formed to make the developments safer but as a way to exchange information about community issues between resident leaders and the police department.

TSSI President, Asia Coney, who chairs the board along with PHA Police Chief, Richard Zappile, says this two-year-old organization is a safe way to discuss concerns. "Resident leaders bring their issues to the forum where they don't feel like their being put in jeopardy. This board serves as an open line of communication and serves to apprehend violators and dispel false charges against others". As an example of this corporation, developments became safer

when residents called and identified suspects in their neighborhood.

Chief Zappile says this exchange is necessary. "Their participation helps lower the crime rate. In addition, we try to make it an open forum so people can give us legitimate concerns and tell them about new programs and initiatives in the police department."

If you are interested in joining the Board or want to volunteer as part of the town watch program, contact Chief Zappile at 215.684.4840 and your name will be added for consideration. If you want to make an anonymous tip to police about a security problem, call 215.546.tips (8477). Although the Board is scheduled four times a year, meetings are held when important issues arise.

What Is a Credit Score? Financial Management Tips

A credit score helps a lender (bank, department store...) determine whether a person qualifies for a particular credit card, loan, or service. Most credit scores estimate the risk a company incurs by lending a person money or providing them with a service -- specifically, the ability for the person to make payments on time in the next two to three years. Generally, the higher the score, the less risk the person represents, and the lower the score, the greater the risk to the lender.

We know that money is important, but what many of us fail to realize is that credit is also important. Your credit history determines your credit score and that will affect your ability to buy that new car or even the new home that you've always dreamed of. It breaks the hearts of our homeownership staff to see a resident work their way into a good job only to find that the family can't buy a new PHA house because of a very poor credit rating. Loans for education, car loans, personal loans, and mortgage loans are all great reasons for needing good to great credit.

What affects your credit score?

- Payment history
- Public records
- Amount owed
- Length of credit history
- New accounts
- Inquiries
- Accounts in use

The first thing you need to learn about your credit score is a copy of your credit report from each credit bureau. There are three main credit bureaus that report any/all credit activity under your name and social security number. These credit bureaus are Experian, Equifax and TransUnion. You will never have just one credit score because these bureaus have different information being reported to them.

For example, if you have a Macy's card, Macy's may only report that to Experian and the other two bureaus will know nothing about your Macy's account. So, now you have a Macy's card, but it is only being reported to one of the three bureaus.

How to find out your credit rating!

There are many ways to get a copy of your report, but the main way is to do it for free. By logging onto www.annualcreditreport.com you will be able to get the three credit reports for free. If you would like to receive a credit report monthly or quarterly (for a fee) you can visit the following websites: www.experian.com; www.equifax.com; www.transunion.com.

If you do not have access to a computer feel free to contact Annual Credit Report by phone at 1-877-322-8228. If you prefer to request your reports in writing contact: Annual Credit Report Services, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281.

www.pha.phila.gov



Philadelphia Housing Authority
Building Beyond Expectations

MTW/Family Services Program Homebuyers Club Workshops

(Please plan to attend all two sessions when registering.)

Workshop 1
Sponsored by Wachovia Mortgage Corp.

Workshop 2
Sponsored by Citizen's Bank



Workshops: 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

Workshops: 9:30 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.

**FSS Center-North 1516 Judson Way, Suite 206
23rd & Jefferson Street**

**Strawbridges Building
8th & Market – 13th Floor
Community Area**

Call to register:
Mr. Gilbert Vega at 215.684.2057 or
Ms. Christeen Johnson at 215.684.3124

Call to register:
Mr. Gilbert Vega at 215.684.2057 or
Ms. Audrey Hickmon at 215.684.2682



**Saturday
April 1, 2006**

**Wednesday
April 19, 2006**

**First Time Homeownership
Orientation**

**First Time Homeownership
Orientation**

Learn how to use your Housing Voucher (Section 8) to purchase a home.

Learn how to use your Housing Voucher (Section 8) to purchase a home.

**Budgeting & Money
Management**

**Budgeting & Money
Management**

Learn how to define income and expenses.

Learn how to define income and expenses.



**Saturday
April 8, 2006**

**Wednesday
April 26, 2006**

Credit Repair

Credit Repair

Learn how to establish, maintain and repair credit.

Learn how to establish, maintain and repair credit.

24 Hour Daycare Convenience

(Cont. from Page 1)

developmentally appropriate activities, educational videos, nutritional meals and snacks, flexible drop-off times and in some cases, transportation. The enrollment process is simple and there isn't an application fee. Most subsidies are accepted and there are immediate openings. In some cases children are able to start the next day.

If you are interested in learning more about ABO Haven or its 24-hour Day care please contact them at 215.763.2890 or 215.640.0880. Their website is www.abohaven.org.



Eager children discover that learning —and daycare —can be fun at ABO Haven, under the professional supervision of Terrance Butler and Denise Jones.

PHA Resident Gets \$50K Disney/ABC Award for Writing

(Cont. from Page 1)

advanced degrees who have been turned away by the program.

The ABC Television Network and the Walt Disney Studios have a commitment to create content that represents the rich diversity of their audiences. They developed this program to foster diversity, develop new artistic talent, and eventually help their bottom line.

Stephen McPherson, president of ABC Primetime Entertainment, says the fellowship program has allowed many tal-

ented writers to realize their dreams, while benefiting the entertainment industry.

Carmen Smith, an ABC vice president who supervises the fellowship program, added: "Once again, our latest class represents an extraordinary talent pool, and we look forward to nurturing that potential as these Fellows step forward within the next generation of writers and directors."

Damon Roberts, the Community Liaison for the HCV Program, says Moorel Bey is exactly the success story PHA would like see more of. "We hope that other residents will

develop their skills and abilities so they can follow Moorel's example," he says. Roberts encourages others to pursue their dreams by using PHA's training and educational programs.

Like other Philly natives who have made it in the entertainment field, she plans on giving back to the community where she grew up. "When I do get some money rolling in, I'm definitely coming back to Philadelphia to set up some kind of housing for young adults who come out of DHS and have nowhere to go," Bey says, adding that her life is not just about her. It's about doing for others.

Admissions Representative - Creative Urban Educational Systems (CUES), a non-profit Corporation is seeking an Admin. Rep. with College degree or 2-3 years of proven sales experience and arranging financing for individuals. Must have excellent customer service and organizational skills, be a team player with ability to close deals. Fax resume to **215-569-1620**. Attn: Harriett Garrett or call **215-569-1519**.

Accounts Payable/Accounts Receivable - the Philadelphia Sunday (SUN) is looking for an A/P / A/R person with at least 3 years experience in Quick Books, plus proficiency in MS Word and Excel. The ideal candidate will be a self-starter, responsible and detailed. Great benefits! Fax resume to **215-569-1620**, Attn: Harriett Garrett or call **215-569-1519**.

Accountant - Creative Urban Educational Systems (CUES), a non-profit Corporation is looking for an Accountant with at least 3 years experience in Quick Books, plus proficiency in MS Word and Excel. The ideal candidate will be a self-starter, responsible and detailed. Flexible Hours! Fax resume to **215-569-1620**, Attn: Harriett Garrett or call **215-569-1519**.

Case Manager - Creative Urban Educational Systems (CUES), a non-profit Corporation is seeking an experienced Case Manager with at least 3 years experience. Excellent verbal and written communication skills are essential, plus proficiency in MS Word & Excel. Must be organized, responsible and detail-oriented. Fax resume to **215-569-1620**, Attn: Harriett Garrett or call **215-569-1519**.

Now you can learn...

BEGINNING JOURNALISM

This 8-week course is offered at no charge to PHA residents exclusively on eight consecutive Fridays, 10:00 am - 12:00, starting April 21, through June 9. You can learn elements of news writing, photography, editing, design and printing. You can learn about the job market in this exciting field.

The course will be taught at the Philadelphia Public Record, 1330 Ritner St., Philadelphia, 3 blocks from the Oregon Station on the Broad Street Subway (Orange Line).

For further information on Beginning Journalism call Anne Martinez

(215) 684-8645

Creative Urban Educational Systems
is a non-profit Corporation.
conveniently located in the heart of Center City.

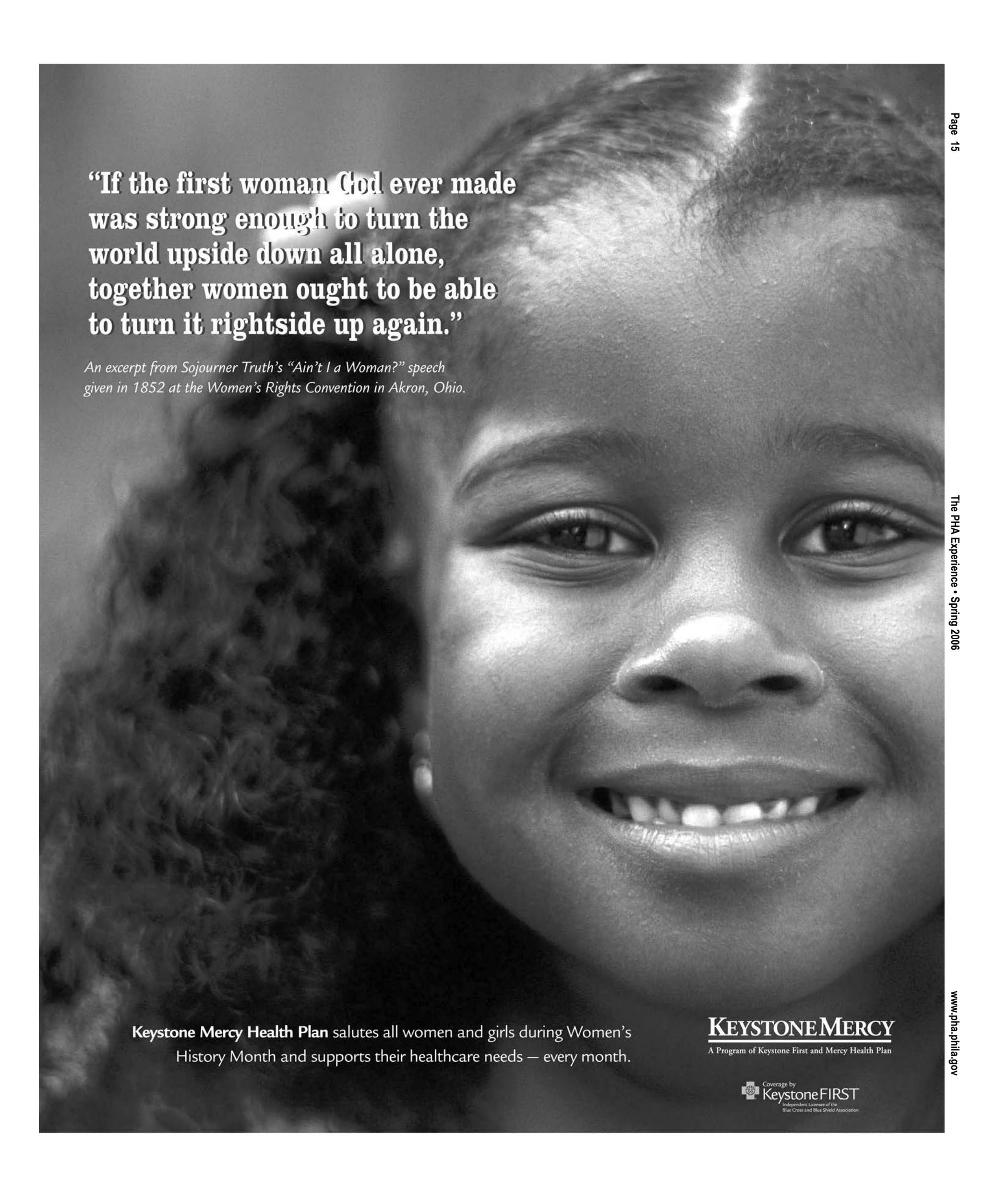
CUES has trained over 500 women in healthcare technology, specializing in Medical Billing/Medical Assistant Training, one of the top 10 jobs in the country, with an expected growth of 59 % in the next eight years.

We also offer courses in Computer Technology, Business English and Math. If you are interested in starting an exciting career in a lucrative, expanding, and growing industry call our offices at 215-569-1519.

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

Our offices are located at:
121 N. Broad Street 9th floor • Philadelphia, PA 19107

"YOU'RE RIGHT ON CUE FOR SUCCESS"



**“If the first woman God ever made
was strong enough to turn the
world upside down all alone,
together women ought to be able
to turn it rightside up again.”**

*An excerpt from Sojourner Truth’s “Ain’t I a Woman?” speech
given in 1852 at the Women’s Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio.*

Keystone Mercy Health Plan salutes all women and girls during Women’s
History Month and supports their healthcare needs — every month.

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You are invited to the

2006 PHA Senior Health and Fitness Fair



**FRIDAY
APRIL 7**

at the John F. Street
Community Center
1100 N. Poplar Street
from 9:00 to 2:00

*Come enjoy a day of fitness, facts, food, and fun -
all designed to help you lead a healthy, active life.*

This lively gathering will bring together community members, healthcare service providers and educators - and it's open to all PHA residents and their neighbors.

The fair will showcase new medical products, offer on-site health services and provide educational materials on Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage.

THERE WILL ALSO BE LINE DANCING AND A SPECIAL SENIOR AEROBICS CLASS.

For more information on PHA's Senior Health Fair and Fitness Day 2006, please call

215-684-1184



Philadelphia
Housing Authority
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