



PHA Schedules Big Blast at Mantua



This view of Mantua Hall on the hilltop will disappear when PHA implodes the high-rise in early 2008. Residents have been moving out since September.

PHA is about to take down another of its remaining high-rise buildings. The agency has announced that West Philadelphia's Mantua Hall will be imploded early next year, to make way for a new modern community.

Mantua Hall was built in 1960 during an era when high-rise public housing was the model of the day. But over the past decade PHA has been moving away from that style. The size and design of the apartments at Mantua

do not meet modern standards, including inefficient electrical, heating, and plumbing systems. PHA estimates the cost of upgrading these systems and renovating these apartments would be too high.

Residents of the 19-story building have been moving out to new locations since the beginning of September. Most say they are happy to try a new location.

PHA plans to build approximately 100 low-rise apartments where Mantua Hall now stands.

yard and a side yard. She likes her neighborhood in northwest Philadelphia with stores and services within walking distance to Ogontz Avenue and a short bus ride to the Broad Street subway.

"I love Champlost. I slept good last night. I feel comfortable here," she says. "There's enough room for us. This is what I wanted, not too big and not too little. It's just right."

One relocated resident, Sheila Burton, who has three teenage children, is very happy with her new row home at Champlost.

Now, Sheila has a roomier place that feels more like home, with a back

Burton says the move went smoothly. PHA hired a mover for her and the mover helped her pack. Before she ever moved in to her new home, she visited and requested certain repairs, which were completed.

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PHA's Own Boxing Champ – A World Class Act

There is no statue of Bernard Hopkins standing at the bottom of the Philadelphia Art Museum steps. Maybe there should be. In a sports town hungry for a winner, Hopkins is a genuine world-class champion. His personal story is even more dramatic than Philly's favorite movie hero.



International light heavyweight champion Bernard Hopkins speaks to a group of young men at Raymond Rosen.

"I am the American dream," states the *continued on page 13*

Pre-Apprenticeship Grad Goes From Plasterers Union to Iraq

Parrin Terry wanted a better life for his family and children. So, he joined the Army and went to war. Say what? Parrin, who used to live in a PHA scattered sites home, graduated from the Pre-Apprenticeship Program in June 2003 and went to work with Local 8 of the Plasterers Union. He had already begun making a good living, but his real goal was to become an electrician or work in some capacity in the electronics field.

Rather than be retrained and move up through the electricians union, Parrin decided to get the training from the military.

Of course,

right now the Army needs soldiers more than it needs electricians, so Parrin was assigned to an armored division, as in tanks. With his family now moved to an Army installation in Texas, Parrin left for Afghanistan on

Thanksgiving Eve last November. Shortly before leaving, he returned to Philadelphia to speak to students in the Pre-Apprenticeship program, telling them how the program had taken him from a life of dead-ends to one with career track possibilities. The Army, he told the students, was going to enhance those possibilities.

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Specialist 4th Class Parrin Terry joined the Army to increase his career opportunities and provide a better life for his family. He's now stationed in Iraq after serving in Afghanistan.



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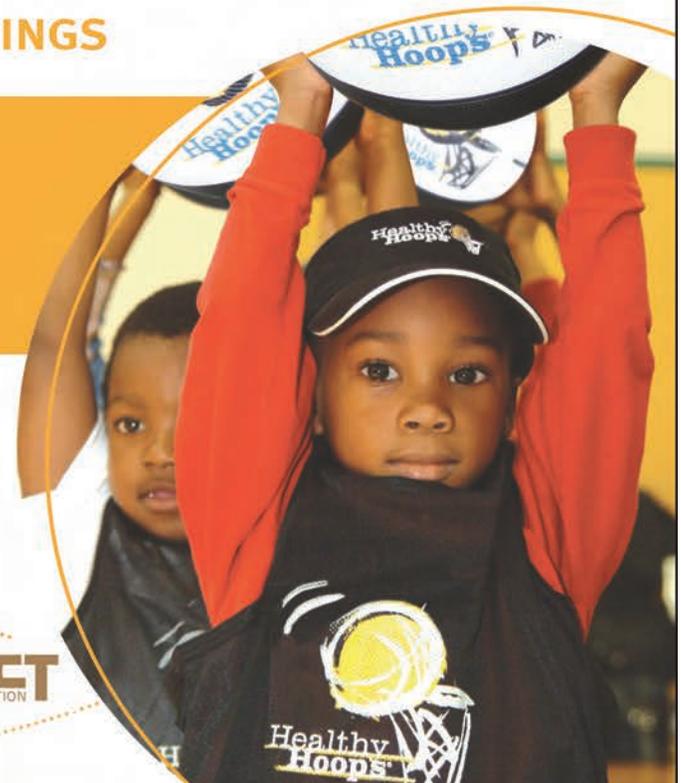
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Bill Cosby and Men United Challenge PHA Residents

Philadelphia's own Bill Cosby and Men United for a Better Philadelphia brought their message of personal responsibility and non-violence to two PHA sites recently, Raymond Rosen Manor and Wilson Park.

During the Rosen visit, Cosby, who grew up at Richard Allen Homes, asked a pointed question. "Why are you standing on the corner?"

To Cosby and Men United, the daily news reports of young men who are murdered and the community's refusal to do anything about it don't make sense.

"I'm reading about boys who could be my grandchildren...and they're blowing each other away. And we're leading the country...in blowing each other away and then having discussions why we can't say who did it," Cosby said.

PHA Commissioner Nellie Reynolds told residents that "these are crucial times and we are at a crisis level."

Cosby believes that young men are going to the corner to be with others who also come from families where fathers abandoned their children. They're sad and angry. They can't understand why their dads left them be-

hind and formed a new family somewhere else.

"The feeling of being abandoned is very, very powerful," he said. The result is kids who fight over corners that nobody owns.

To make his point, Cosby interviewed Malik Aziz, one of the co-founders of Men United, about the time he grew up in the 60's. Aziz said his father abandoned the family. His mother was working, but he was going to the corner to hang out with friends he trusted because he thought it was the right thing to do. He rejected suggestions from people in the community that he should be working to help his mother out.

Bilal Qayyum, another co-founder of Men United, told the audience that the biggest challenge the African-American community faces is the lack of two-parent households.

He said in the late 50's and early 60's, 70 percent of black families had a mother and a father, while 30 percent were single-parent families. Today, just the opposite is true.

Qayyum also recalled that when he grew up in West Philadelphia, every adult on the block had the right to



Bill Cosby, speaking to residents from several developments at the Wilson Park Community Center. Cosby encouraged the audience to empower themselves, take responsibility and most of all protect children from elements that could destroy them.

discipline him for bad behavior. He said residents at Raymond Rosen and elsewhere need to return to the days of "tough love" to restore the quality of life in the neighborhood.

Pastor Derrick Johnson, who grew up in the Rosen neighborhood and spent 12 years in prison for manslaughter, says it's time for the men to come back and join the family at home. He told the crowd that his anger at his father and other adults landed him in prison, and respect for women and elders has declined because men are not with their families.

"When you take the father out of the home, then the consequence for

disrespecting your mother is gone," he said.

Johnson urges parents to shake down their kids at home and check for guns and drugs, to protect them and show love for them.

Malik Aziz's wife, Antoinette, told the crowd that it's their job to help police the neighborhood.

"We have to take responsibility for our kids. I'd rather die in the streets telling them the right thing, than die squeezing past them to get in the house," she said. "A 16 year old is not going to run my front steps or my block - ever."

Cosby also told residents that the purpose of public housing is to move in, move up and move out. He believes that people who have an education behave differently because they have a future. He told his listeners that doctors, carpenters, and electricians can come from Raymond Rosen, not just great basketball players. Cosby urges residents to listen to the success stories of others.

Phyllis Gindraw, a resident of Raymond Rosen, told the audience how her son struggled to get his GED while serving time at Huntingdon State Penitentiary. He had to take the test several times before passing it. After his release, Gindraw says her son got a driver's license, and then got a job and told his mother "I'm going out to make the real bucks!"

Cosby stressed nonviolence, telling residents to use the "power of the people" to improve their schools and their neighborhoods. He urges men to get their buddies to be "real men" and take responsibility for the kids they fathered.

Cosby has received criticism by some in public housing for his views, but he says his message is one that must be delivered, and he has no plans for stopping any time soon.

Boys and Girls Clubs Bring Their Programs to PHA



It was all smiles as PHA and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Philadelphia cut the ribbon on a new partnership that will bring after school programming to both the Wilson Park and John F. Street community centers. Among those cutting the ribbon were the PHA's Linda Staley and Tenant Support Services Director Asia Coney. BGCP chief professional officer Jeffrey Waldron held up a young recruit.

Families in two neighborhoods served by PHA have just gotten great news. In a historic partnership, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Philadelphia have opened centers at both the John F. Street community center in North Philadelphia

and at the Wilson Park community center in South Philadelphia.

Both locations will operate programs Monday through Friday, serving as many as 100 kids. From 3:00PM to 6:00 PM, first through

fifth graders will use the centers, and from 6:00 to 8:00 older kids, 12-18, will have access.

The clubs offer programs that help create well-rounded citizens. The programs include leadership de-

velopment, health and life skills, the arts, sports, fitness and recreation.

BGCP chief professional officer Jeffrey Waldron said activities are designed to help kids develop a positive self-identity and find their "moral compass." He also said the hours of operation are intended to keep kids off the streets.

"It has been documented that most children who get into trouble, do so between 3:00 and 6:00, so if we can get them involved in healthy, active events the chances are that they'll have positive experiences," Waldron said.

BGCP also tries to develop positive relationships among club members. According to Waldron, "we do that by providing a caring, educated, well-trained staff to work with the young people."

Tenant Support Services Director

Asia Coney said many groups had applied to provide this kind of service for PHA residents, but that the Boys & Girls Clubs stood out. "They have been around for a long time and are a first class organization. We believe this is the beginning of a wonderful partnership. We also expect that they will work closely with the residents at both centers to provide the most viable programming," Coney said.

Both organizations are looking ahead to expand the new relationship, according to Waldron. "We're very happy to be partnering with PHA, and we hope that we can provide a lot of services in cooperation with PHA for the residents. We're also very excited about other opportunities down the road.

Boys and girls who live near the Wilson Park Community Center or the John F. Street Community Center are welcome to sign up now. The service is free to PHA families.



— Black & White Ball —



The Black and White Ball was held at Emlen Arms on Saturday evening, November 5th. The Tenant council president and his volunteers assisted the Eldercare Initiative team with the planning and decorations. The room was completely decorated and all 120 attendees were dressed to the nines in black and white. Catered meal service and music were the highlight of the dance party.

— Halloween Party —



Halloween Party was held at Liddonfield Senior Center on October 31st. Members dressed in costumes were awarded prizes. This annual costume party is a favorite celebration for seniors.

— Toys for Tots —



PHA Executive Director Carl Greene and TSSI Director Asia Coney visited the TSSI toy room. The toys will be given away to children from PHA sites across the city at the annual Toys for Tots event on December 19th at Abbottsford Homes community center. Proceeds for the toys come from the TSSI holiday party, being held this year on December 14th.

Rosen Block Captains Make Neighborhood Sparkle



Laverna Brock, who lives near the corner of Diamond Avenue and 24th Street, says you have to keep the outside of your home clean, neat and attractive, just like you would inside.

Thomas Sudler and Laverna Brock believe that your home and neighborhood is what you make it. They also believe that creating a beautiful community doesn't have to cost a whole lot of money. They say you'd be surprised what you can do with \$20.

Anyone visiting their neighborhood at 24th Street and Diamond Avenue at the Raymond Rosen development would be pleasantly surprised by what they see. Many of the homes have front lawns with bushes and colorful flowers. The contrast between these homes and others that have bare front lawns is remarkable. It's the difference between a block that visitors respect and one that they feel free to trash.

Sudler has been a block captain for the 2000 block of 24th Street since 1999. He is a retired construction worker and his wife is a Certified Nursing Assistant. When he's not gardening or helping others with their garden, Thomas does community service work by delivering food to needy people. His love of gardening stems from the time he spent on a farm while growing up in Delaware.

Sudler says the plants come from places such as Home Depot. His neighbors decided what they want to buy. In some cases, he has helped them put up low fencing to protect their gardens.

"It makes the place look nice," he says. "It also shows the kids what it could be like if they showed interest. A lot of the kids in this neighborhood are from broken homes. On 24th street, they can just walk around and see what a neighborhood can be." Laverna Brock, who lives around the

corner from Sudler in the 2300 block of Diamond Avenue, agrees wholeheartedly. She's a retired School District employee, having worked as a bus attendant.

"Plants make your house look nice. It has an effect on the way you live," Brock says. "Go to a place like Home Depot where you can get plants on sale. You can always get nice plants."

Laverna says you can see which people want to have a better quality of life versus those who don't. She's critical of residents who leave their grass uncut and put sheets instead of curtains in their windows. She says it doesn't cost that much to get a kid to cut your grass or buy some curtains second hand.

"It's not where you live. It's how you keep it," according to Brock. "You could live in a hole in the wall. If you keep it nice, nobody will say any-

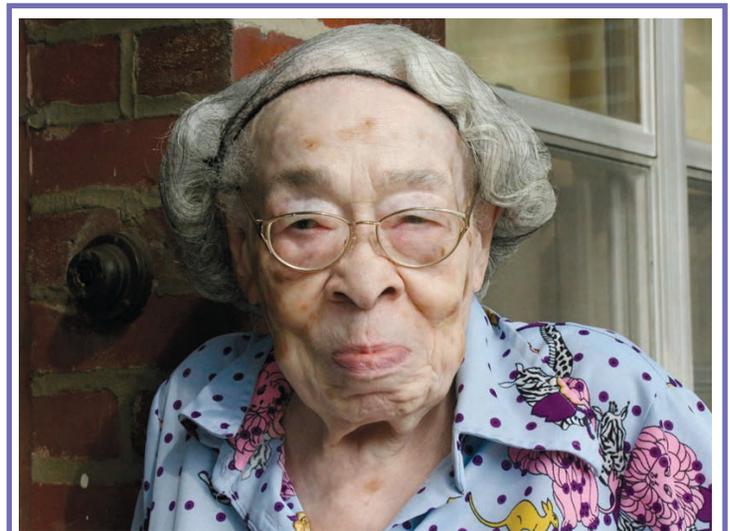
thing except that it's nice." Brock and Sudler also say it's important to pick up around your home too. A neighborhood that's clean and flowered sends a message to outsiders. Your community is no longer the hood; it's home and visitors are more likely to respect that.

Brock sums things up by saying that he and his neighbors do what they do for the kids in their neighborhood, not just for themselves.

"As the kids get older, they have something to look back on. They will take this experience with them for the rest of their lives. No matter where they go, they'll remember that the block they grew up on was a nice, clean block where people got along."



Thomas Sudler, a block captain at Raymond Rosen, says he's showing the youngsters in his neighborhood what a home can be, no matter what neighborhood you live in.



Three cheers for Evelyn Thornton who turned 100 on October 27th. The Johnson Homes resident's secret to longevity, "Hard work and trust in the good Lord he will keep you."

Police Emergency? Call 9-1-1



Resident council leaders, Commissioner Nellie Reynolds and TSSI director Asia Coney join Mayor Street as he tours the Philadelphia police department's 911 emergency call center. Residents should use 911 for emergencies.

But Coney and Reynolds want residents to be confident that emergency calls are being addressed appropriately.

The idea to visit the Philadelphia police emergency center came up at a resident leaders meeting when the subject turned to community safety. Some residents had serious concerns about calling the Philadelphia police emergency center. They wondered if the Philadelphia police emergency operators handle calls from PHA residents with the same urgency as others. The mayor suggested a first-hand tour of the 911 call center.

The group visiting the facility witnessed more than 100 incoming calls at several emergency call center stations. They watched and listened. Asia Coney says it was an amazing experience. "You can see the calls instantly identified on the computer screen. The name and address of the person making the call is also known. Then you watch as calls are routed to the various departments. From what I've observed, there seems to be no discrimination in the handling of the emergency calls."

The Philadelphia police emergency center answers about three million calls a year. That's an average of more than 8,600 calls a day or about one call every 10 seconds. Some calls aren't real emergencies, such as a minor fender bender or reporting a cat stranded in a tree.

Resident council leaders were part of the tour as part of their leadership role in the community that includes addressing security concerns. Residents who have a concern or question regarding security should call the TSSI office at 215.684.1016.

Resident leaders meet every 3 months and discuss security issues and make recommendations on how to ensure that the community is a safe

place to live. Any resident who wants to serve on resident council should contact TSSI.

If you have an emergency you should call 911 - the Philadelphia police. As Mayor Street says, "it is the Philadelphia police department's responsibility to patrol and protect every citizen in the city which includes every Philadelphia Housing Authority resident. This is our commitment."

Mantua Implosion

continued from page 1

Alice Hankerson spent 47 years at Mantua, moving there when it first opened.

This grandmother of four has lots of good memories. "I liked it because it was a nice place and I wanted to make my home there for a while. Then, I got a job at McMichael School (across the street).

Hankerson enjoyed her neighbors and the fact that her children had a yard on the 36th Street side of the building in which to play. Parents would watch each others' children. After her children grew up and moved away, Hankerson continued working at the school until she retired in 2002.

When Hankerson found out that she'd have to move, she was a little nervous and upset because she knew the neighborhood and its residents

so well. After visiting several sites, she chose a roomy apartment in the senior high-rise at Wilson Park and could not be happier. Her move from West Philly to South Philly went smoothly and she enjoys her new neighbors.

"We take walks. We sit in the lobby and talk," she says. Hankerson also likes the activities for seniors at Wilson Park and she's ready to make lots of new memories in her new home.

PHA plans to build approximately 100 low-rise apartments where Mantua Hall now stands, with construction beginning by the end of 2008. Final designs are still being completed, but most of the townhouse structures will be three stories, with the units built around a secure central parking lot. All homes will have clear views of the parking area and open green space.

TSSI director Asia Coney and PHA Board member Nellie Reynolds joined Mayor Street on a recent visit to the Philadelphia police 911 call center in Center City. They were taking a closer look at how the police respond to emergency calls.

Because of federal cutbacks, PHA has

had to dramatically reduce its police department. Now all PHA residents needing emergency assistance must call the Philadelphia police department - 911 - for assistance.

PHA has been getting the message out that in emergencies residents should call 911 (not the PHA police.)

A message from the Executive Director



The headlines around the nation are disturbing when it comes to public housing. In city after city, housing authorities are taking down their old developments and not replacing them with new housing. There are several reasons for this trend. The most important reason is the federal government's decision to

dramatically decrease funding for affordable housing. There is a lack of money to maintain existing properties or to build new ones.

In Philadelphia, we have been doing all we can to buck that trend. When we demolish an aging housing site, we build new housing in its place. When other buildings need repair we make the repair. We know there is a tremendous need for affordable housing, and my staff and I are committed to providing the highest

quality product possible.

We do ask that our residents help us by maintaining their homes and paying their rent on time. Most of our customers do just that, paying their rent on the first of each month. We understand that paying the bills is not always easy, but because our customers' rent is based on their income, we are not asking any family to reach beyond what it can afford. When our staff has to pursue late rent payments it takes time away from other impor-

"My staff and I are committed to providing the highest quality housing possible."

tant work at their sites. When residents don't pay it hurts PHA's bottom-line and makes it even tougher for us to provide the kind of service you expect and deserve. That means when you don't pay your rent on time you also penalize your neighbors.

PHA's property managers are trained professionals with multiple responsibilities. Their primary job is to ensure that the site is well maintained, safe, and financially viable. I am sure that they would tell you that evicting residents for non-payment of rent is the least favorite aspect of their job. Unfortunately, that's a job they sometimes have to do to protect the site for the large

majority of residents. Please don't allow yourself to fall into that kind of position. There are agencies that can help you budget and work through problems you might be having. The names of these agencies are posted in the site management offices.

Serving you is an extreme pleasure. With your help, we can continue to offer a strong inventory of quality affordable housing.

Thank you,

Carl R. Greene



What would you say to neighbors who do not pay their rent?



Yvonne Berry

– Raymond Rosen
“You should pay your rent on time because different things can be done to help your development. Besides you also have somewhere to live.”



Charles Cook

– Johnson Hopes
“They won’t get subsidized housing if they don’t pay their rent. They will get nothing.”



Lonnie Artis

– Johnson Homes
“Prevent having to go to court, and paying extra fees. If they keep missing their rent, I’d put them out.”



Mary Renwick

– Raymond Rosen
“You can’t live anywhere free, so I would advise them to keep up the rent.”



Juan Pettyjohn

– Wilson Park
“Pay it. You have to pay to stay. All residents suffer when PHA has fewer funds to keep up the property.”



Bessy Hagwood

– Wilson Park
“If I’m on a fixed income and pay my rent on time, I think they should pay their rent on time. The private sector demands rent on a schedule. Why should people living in PHA housing think differently?”

www.PHA.PHILA.gov



Neighborhood Network Computer Labs

There are six Neighborhood Network Computer Labs offering 8-week computer classes, beginning November 2007.

These classes cover basic computer concepts in Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel. **SIGN-UP TODAY!**

Classes Locations:

- Blumberg Apartments** - Thursdays 1:00pm - 2:30pm
2311 W. Jefferson St., Philadelphia, PA 19123
- Harrison Plaza** - Thursdays 2:00pm - 3:30pm
1240 N. 10th St., Philadelphia, PA 19121
- Johnson Homes** - Tuesdays 3:00pm - 4:30pm
25th & Norris Sts., Philadelphia, PA 19122
- Spring Garden** - Mondays 2:00pm - 3:30pm
715 Brandywine St., Philadelphia, PA 19123
- Workforce Development Center *** - Wednesdays 1:00pm - 2:30pm
1905 Vare Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19145
- Wilson Park** - Tuesdays 1:30pm - 3:00pm
2500 Jackson Street, Philadelphia, PA 19145

Computer Labs Also Available At:

- Hill Creek** - 5573 Hillcreek Mall, Philadelphia, PA 19120
- John F Street Center** - 1100 Poplar Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123
- Norris Apartments** - 1915 N. 11th St., Philadelphia, PA 19122
- Westpark Apartments** - 300 N Busti Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104
- White Hall** - 4729 Tackawanna Street, Philadelphia, PA 19124

*Bartram Village classes are held at Workforce Development Center.

To Sign-Up Contact:
Monet Williams
 Neighborhood Network Coordinator
 215-684-4628 or
monet.williams@pha.phila.gov



Philadelphia Housing Authority
 Building Beyond Expectations



Teens Excel Through Skills for Life

“There was a point in my life when I was between the good and the bad,” recalls 18-year old Leonard Simpkins. “Then I met Miss Lyn.” At the time, Leonard was in the 10th grade and spending most of his time in court paying for his bad behavior. “Miss Lyn” is Lyn Kuebler of the West Philadelphia Alliance, who enrolled him in PHA’s Skills for Life program. “The program changed me personally,” says Leonard, who is now studying entertainment management at Full Sail Read World Education in Florida.



Leonard Simpkins

Through Skills for Life, Leonard was able to turn his life around, get out of the court system and concentrate on his studies. His uncle had been a deejay in Philadelphia, and he was determined to follow in his footsteps. While still in high school, he began managing and booking bands, and he hopes that the degree he obtains at Full Sail will give him the business skills he needs to succeed.

More than 200 high school students have passed through the Skills for Life program since it began in 1998. Students are recruited when they are 14 and the program follows them

throughout high school. The teens meet every day after school during the school year at ten centers run by PHA’s community partner, the Greater Philadelphia Federation of Settlements. Trained counselors help them with homework, provide tutors and introduce them to career and higher education options. Workshops on hot topics like street violence give teens an opportunity to express themselves.

The students receive a stipend for attending the program and a SEPTA Transpass to help them get to the 10 centers that house Skills for Life.



Mecca Smith

In return, participants are required to attend every day, keep their grades up and share those grades with the counselors. The success rate is amazing. Eighty-nine percent of Skills for Life students advance to the next grade. Since 2004, 59 percent of graduating seniors have gone on to college and 19 percent to trade schools.

“The Skills for Life counselors are really outstanding,” says PHA Executive Director Carl Greene. “They are true mentors and provide much more than just tutoring. If we could have a program like this for all kids,



Raymond Odom

Philadelphia would be a better city for everyone to live in.”

For troubled teens like Leonard, having the counselors on his side and listening to his point of view helped him change his attitude and challenged him to succeed.

Mecca Smith was always motivated to work with young children, and today she is enrolled in Arcadia University’s College of Education. She says she was very shy and quiet when she first attended Skills for Life, but the workshops and group activities helped her become more outspoken.

“The program helped me improve my social skills,” says Mecca from Liddonfield Homes.

She has high praise for the counselors. “There was always someone I could talk to, and they always gave me good guidance.”

Ramon Odom considered college a possibility, but not a priority before he started Skills for Life. The program, he says, “kept me out of trouble and put me in a positive direction.”

He has now begun studying business administration at Morgan State University. But Ramon gained a goal more important than business success through Skills for Life—that of helping others.

“I hope that one day I can build my own youth organization in the community of Philadelphia, giving the younger generation a chance to be in a positive place and help them grow into successful adults.”

For more information about the Skills for Life program, call 215-684-4295.

Skills for Life Sites

Crusaders for Christ Christian Academy
2101 South 47th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19143
215-387-3014

Diversified Community Services
Vare Beacon
2101 South 24th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19145
215-952-0806

Frankford Group Ministry Frankford Beacon
500 Oxford Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19124
215-743-0122

Friends Neighbors Guild
703 North 8th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123
215-923-1544

Germantown Settlement Building C
5538 Wayne Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19144
215-849-3104

Cunningham Community Center
@ Harrison Plaza
1350 N. 10th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19122
215-684-2519

Southwest Community Center
6424 Woodland Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19142
215-729-8911

The Lighthouse Youth Services
141 West Somerset Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19133
215-425-7804

W. Phila Alliance for Children
1401 North 60th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19151
PO Box 28885
215-452-0333
United Communities Southeast Philadelphia Bok Beacon
8th & Mifflin Street
Philadelphia, PA 19148
215-952-8549

Skills for Life Spawns Beyond PHA

Lyn Kubler, Director of the Skills for Life program at the West Philadelphia Alliance for Children (WEPAC) can’t rave enough about the program.

“In the three years since we’ve run the program, not one student has been left back and every 12th grader has graduated,” reports Kubler. The teens have gone to summer school or completed extra work assignments, but they have all done whatever they had to do to move up to the next grade.

Because Skills for Life is funded by PHA, it is only available to high school students who live in public or assisted housing. Kubler and her staff are so impressed with the program that they are seeking additional funding to enable students not in PHA housing to participate.

“PHA has been great,” says Kubler, “but this is a very expensive program. It costs \$32,000 a year—about \$2000

per student. And that doesn’t include the cost of the Transpasses.”

Philadelphia Youth Network covers the costs of SEPTA Transpasses and student stipends.

Currently, Skills for Life has 15 slots at WEPAC. They are only able to admit new students when seniors graduate.

“They’re coming without financial assistance because they see the value of the program.”

“I would like to triple that number,” says Kubler.

Four teens are attending the meetings at WEPAC this year, but not receiving the stipends or Transpasses. “They’re coming without the assistance because they see the value of the program,” Kubler says.

“My goal would be for someone to donate a million dollars so we could really expand. It is so worth it—this program works.”





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Administrative Assistant Job Readiness Program

Community College of Philadelphia
1700 Spring Garden Street
Philadelphia, PA 19130
215.496.6125

Home Maintenance Repair Program

Orleans Technical Institute
1330 Rhawn Street
Philadelphia, PA 19111
215.728.4725

Personal & Financial Development

MET
3801 Market Street Suite 2002
Philadelphia, PA 19104
215.747.2781

Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Medical Billing Pharmacy Technician

Professional Healthcare Institute
1333 West Cheltenham Avenue
Melrose Park, PA 19027
215.782.8810

Hospitality Training Programs

Opportunities Industrialization Corp. Inc.
1231 N. Broad Street 4th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19132
215.236.7700 x324

Self-Employment Program

Enterprise Center
4548 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19139
215.895.4078

Commercial Drivers License Customer Service Training

New Wave Resources, Inc
1321 Arch Street 6th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215.496.9388

Job Placement/Job Coaching

Educational Data Systems Inc.
42 South 15th Street Suite 300
Philadelphia, PA 19102
215- 684-8052

To register, please contact your
Economic Self-Sufficiency
coordinator (see page 12).
Tuition is free for PHA residents.



Philadelphia Housing Authority
Building Beyond Expectations



PHA Resident Cooking Her Way To Success

Starrlisa Roebuck, a bubbly 40-something and mother of two, knows a thing or two about getting ahead in life.

Roebuck, a Housing Choice resident, had spent her life working as a cook and a receptionist in jobs that were low paying and mostly temporary. She got by, but she wanted more. She wanted to earn a living wage, with benefits, a chance for advancement and recognition.

Starrlisa graduated from Northeast High School in 1982, but had no certified specialty. One day, she met with her economic self-sufficiency coordinator and said she wanted to go to culinary school, one of PHA's Community Partners. Roebuck took the entrance exam for the Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) culinary school and passed.

"I enjoy cooking. Cooking is a passion to me," she says.

Starrlisa says if she failed to get into OIC, she was going to go somewhere to receive some formal training and a diploma or certification. There was no other way to get ahead and do what she really wanted to do.

"When you have a piece of paper, more money is offered to you. If you don't have a piece of paper, you're likely to make minimum wage or slightly more," Roebuck says.

Achieving her dream took some



Starrlisa Roebuck knows a thing or two about cooking.

commitment. Starrlisa says she worked during the day through a temp agency and went to OIC at night. All students at the school receive life skills training in addition to learning their specialty, so they can interview successfully for a job and stay on the job. Roebuck received lots of encouragement from Aaron Jones, OIC's recruiter and life skills instructor.

By the time graduation rolled around in March, Starrlisa had a job at the Holiday Inn on Presidential Boulevard. She had done an internship there and received two job offers on Valentine's Day, one to work in the kitchen and the other to work in the restaurant.

"I was happy because I finally got where I wanted to be, and that's in

the kitchen, full time work, full benefits. I couldn't ask for a better place," she says.

Today, Starrlisa cooks for both the catering service and the restaurant at Holiday Inn and is now a kitchen supervisor, a promotion she received in August. The job pays better than anything on the temp circuit and she has a future. Roebuck loves her job and the people she works with. She's even been recognized as a "star employee" by her co-workers for going the extra mile at her job.

"I'll always be funny, outgoing and me. Personality is everything," she says.

Roebuck's career is also the way to fulfill several other dreams she has: to save money, pay off her bills, fix her credit, and maybe even buy her own home. She'd recommend the Community Partners program to residents looking for a career and a future.

"I feel anyone with a goal can get ahead. If they want something bad enough, they'll go for it, and eventually something good will come out of it. You have to be willing to work, not just do the program and then go home and sit down. Do the internship because you really want to be at that job."

Now, that sounds like a recipe for success.

Grad Goes To Army

continued from page 1

Parrin, who is 28, is a mild-mannered guy who always has a smile on his face, according to George Johnson and Al Williams of the Pre-Apprenticeship Program. Since his arrival in the war zone, his character has been tested, first in Afghanistan and now in Iraq, where he's been since April.

In an e-mail back to Williams in August he said: "It's not as easy out here as I thought it would be. You know, seeing the things I see and doing what I know to stay alive, I just have to take it day by day. My company lost 6 soldiers already from attacks and I have witnessed a lot of things that I never thought I would."

Parrin concluded his message by telling Williams to say hello to his PHA family and stick to what they're doing in the Pre-Apprenticeship Program.

One month later, in mid-September, Parrin had a more sobering message. By then, he had transferred from Afghanistan to Iraq and was living in the middle of Baghdad.

"The reason why you didn't hear from me in a while is because we as a company lost 8 soldiers in the last two months. We lost a total of 12 soldiers since we've been here (5 months)... I hope people are taking this time of war seriously. Five of those 12 soldiers started basic training with me; young, some with families, now gone, but never forgotten."

Specialist 4th Class Parrin Terry has seen up close what war is all about.

"I've been ok for the most part, but you know how it is. I never thought in a million years that I would try to kill people or someone would try to kill me, but that's the nature of the beast."

Parrin's friends back home in Philadelphia are praying that he comes home and is able to realize his career dreams.

(You can write Parrin Terry with messages of support at parrin.terry@us.army.mil)

A Landlord You Should Know - Steve Yassky

Many Housing Choice Voucher landlords featured in the PHA Experience possess unique personal reasons for joining the program. Steve Yassky's story is a little different. Unlike other landlords profiled in the past, Steve made the decision to enroll in the HCV program for one reason, it was good for his business.

Manager of SYP Property Management, Steve is an astute businessman. When he began having trouble keeping his West Philadelphia properties occupied with tenants from the private market, he decided to join PHA as a Housing Choice landlord. Although the bottom line was the basis of his decision to become a landlord, the end results far surpass monetary value.

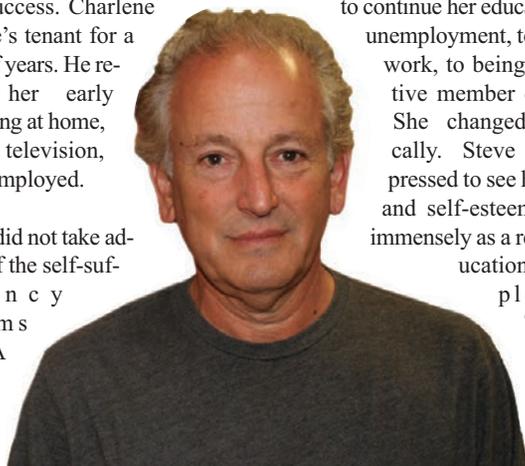
Steve has seen residents come and go over 20 years but one particular woman stands out in his mind. Her story is a perfect example of how public housing can pave the road to success. Charlene was Steve's tenant for a number of years. He recounted her early years: sitting at home, watching television, being unemployed.

Charlene did not take advantage of the self-sufficiency programs that PHA offers its residents.

After some time, however, she realized the possibilities.

Steve described the transformation he saw in Charlene after she decided to continue her education: from unemployment, to part-time work, to being a productive member of society. She changed dramatically. Steve was impressed to see her attitude and self-esteem improve immensely as a result of education and employment.

The last Steve spoke with Char-





Mount Oliver



PHA Homeowners



Greater Grays Ferry Estates

PHA MTE Family Services Program

Homebuyers Club Workshops

WORKSHOP 1

Sponsored by Citizen's Bank

Strawbridge Building

8th & Market sts. 13th Floor
Community Area

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

First Time Homeownership Orientation
Budgeting & Money Management

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Credit Repair / Home Inspection

WORKSHOP 2

Sponsored by Wachovia Mortgage Corp.

John F. Street Center

1100 W Poplar St.

Saturday, December 8, 2007

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

First Time Homeownership Orientation
Budgeting & Money Management

Saturday, December 15, 2007

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Credit Repair / Home Inspection

To register call Mr. Gilbert Vega at 215.684.2057 or Ms. Christeen Johnson at 215.684.3124.

Please plan to attend both sessions when registering.



WORKSHOPS DESCRIPTION

First Time Homeownership Orientation

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

Budgeting & Money Management

Learn how to define income and expenses.

Credit Repair / Home Inspection

Learn how to establish, maintain and repair credit, and tips on how to pass home inspection.



Philadelphia Housing Authority
Building Beyond Expectations

Liddonfield Church Brings Positive Impact



Pastor Danette Ray leads her congregation at Liddonfield in song at Sunday services. She says the church is not always looking for members, but instead trying to help people deal with their real world problems first.



The church at Liddonfield has outgrown the size of the community center, and Pastor Danette Ray has found a new location 2 ½ miles away. The service programs established by the church at Liddonfield will remain there for as long as Liddonfield stands.

Go by the Liddonfield Community Center at 11 o'clock on Sunday mornings and you'll hear the house rockin' with gospel sounds. Actually the building shakes a little. A visitor, even one who stands outside the building, can feel the joy, excitement and hope of this congregation, the only one of its kind at a PHA site. Residents believe the church, which was founded five years ago, has improved the quality of life at the site and in the surrounding neighborhood.

The church is formally known as Kingdom Life Christian Center or New Hope Outreach Center-NE. Pastor Danette Ray says the mission of the church is both spiritual and physical, helping people to transform their lives by empowering them to seek self-sufficiency through leadership development, education, and social- skills training. Pastor Ray estimates that the church has over 200 members, about of them from Liddonfield and the other half from the surrounding

neighborhood or other parts of the city. Kingdom Life Christian Center began in the wake of a tragedy, the murder of 20-year-old Bryant Jones at Liddonfield in September 2002. Jones, a former PHA resident, was an honor student attending DeVry University. He had just received a job offer from Verizon. By all accounts, he was an ambitious, friendly and wholesome young man.

Pastor Ray was asked to preside at Jones's funeral by her children from who were close friends with Bryant Jones. After her sermon, an estimated 200 young people responded to her altar call to give their lives to Christ. A Liddonfield resident, Sonia Eldridge, was so impressed that she asked Ray to form a church.

At the time, Ray was an assistant pastor at a church in Germantown. She obtained her release from that church, and met with Rose Bryant, the Resident Council President at Liddonfield. One week after the fu-

neral, the church held its first service. Both Bryant and Ray say the community has changed forever.

"There were young men who were standing on the corners, selling drugs, who are now members of the church and deacons in the church," Ray says. "They have jobs, they're in church. In winter they're reaching out to those less fortunate, feeding people in the subways."

The object is to offer young men some hope, she says, to help people make good choices and a transition to a better lifestyle. The church has a practical side to it and is not always looking for members, according to Ray, but instead trying to help people deal with their real world problems first.

Rose Bryant says the church is social as much as it is spiritual. It has helped residents change their self-image. Many people have gone back to work.

"All the things that I have done here, I could not have done without the church's help," Bryant says. "Liddonfield and the neighborhood have gotten much better." Members of the congregation agree.

Shawntae Brabham, a Liddonfield resident who works for Catholic Social Services, believes that Pastor Ray teaches people how to apply what they learn on Sunday to their daily lives.

"I believe that this Church has made a positive impact on this community, no doubt about that. When the people have a need, they come to us and we do our best to fulfill the needs of the people."

Kuile Eldridge, who lives in the neighborhood, says church members have learned to think about others, not just themselves. "They help people with food, with rent, book bags, and summer camp for kids."

Garry Bryant, Rose's son, says the church changed the way that he and others think about themselves.

"We took some violent people off the street and changed their lives," he says.

Pastor Ray and her congregants are not worried about the future of the church, even though Liddonfield will eventually be rebuilt. They are confi-

dent the church will survive, whether or not it's at a PHA development.

In fact, Ray has found a location for the church in the 6800 block of Tordale, about 2 ½ miles from Liddonfield. The site has been used as a movie theater, skating rink, boxing arena, a gym, and a catering hall. The church has already outgrown the size of the community center, and Ray

All paid up

Four PHA sites are setting the pace when it comes to residents paying their rent on time.

For the first half of the current fiscal year (April through September) Gladys B. Jacobs, Emlen Arms, Holmcrest Homes, and Katie B. Jackson have collected more than 97% of the rent that was due.

"When we see numbers like those, we know that our managers are

plans on offering van service to the new location.

Danette Ray would like to re-establish the church at the new Liddonfield, but that remains to be seen. She also hopes that residents of other PHA sites will consider allowing the faith-based community to come in and help them, too.

working closely with the resident leadership to create a positive environment," said PHA Assistant Executive Director Carolyn Carter. She said these four sites are setting an example for all PHA developments to follow.

Carter gave special recognition to the managers of these four sites, Jackie Gardner at Gladys B. Jacobs, William Burns at Emlen Arms, Doug Garrett of Holmcrest, and Dara Thach of Katie B. Jackson.

Come and celebrate the lighting of the Christmas trees at the senior sites below.

Christmas Caravan

<p>Wednesday, November 28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collegeview - 10:00 a.m. Blumberg - 11:30 a.m. Bentley Hall - 1:00 p.m. 	<p>Tuesday, December 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Katie B. Jackson - 10:00 a.m. Mt. Olivet - 11:30 a.m. Germantown House - 1:00 p.m. Parkview - 2:00 p.m.
<p>Thursday, November 29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holmcrest - 10:00 a.m. Suffolk Manor - 11:30 a.m. Emlen Arms - 1:00 p.m. 	<p>Friday, December 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cassie L. Holley - 10:00 a.m. Pratt - 11:30 a.m. Wilson Park - 1:00 p.m.



Paschall Residents Urged to Take Back Neighborhood



PHA Executive Director Carl Greene (left) accepts a \$100,000 "check" for the Paschall Homes Initiative from U-S Attorney Pat Meehan (looking at Greene). Also shown are Elvira Stewart of the Eastwick Project Area Committee, PHA Commissioner Nellie Reynolds, State Senator Anthony Williams and Eastwick Bike Patrol Captain Vincent Grant.

State Senator Anthony Williams told residents of Paschall Homes to take control of their neighborhood again. He joined PHA's Carl Greene and U.S. Attorney Patrick Meehan to announce the Paschall Homes Initiative. The goal is to improve safety and the quality of life in the neighborhood through a cooperative effort with community-based organizations.

The U.S. Attorney's office is donating \$100,000 for community building activities aimed at cutting down illegal activities in the area. PHA donated four bikes and four protective vests to the Eastwick Bike Patrol. Much of the grant is going to the Eastwick Project Area Committee (Eastwick PAC), which represents 11 civic associations in the Eastwick neighborhood of southwest Philadelphia. The PAC is staffing the Resident Council Office at Paschall Homes.

Senator Williams remembered when a nearby park was a jewel and it was a privilege to live at Paschall Homes.

"And some disruptive souls decided to interrupt briefly our peacefulness and our way of life," he said. "This place will return to what it is and what it was if we, not the government, decide that we dictate culture here," he said.

Williams also said it's important to maintain the appearance of the neighborhood by picking up bottles and trash and cutting the grass.

Carl Greene believes the grant will help the quality of life in the neighborhood and is a sign of things to come, hinting at the possible demolition and rebuilding of the entire Paschall neighborhood.

"What you see is a commitment...to a long road of transformation of this neighborhood. This is only the beginning of a sustained commitment from the state, local and federal government to transform this neighborhood and give people here the opportunity to live free of crime and free of despair and free of the neglect that's gone on for a long time," said PHA's executive director.

Paul "Earthquake" Moore, a former resident of Paschall Homes, is directing Youth Development Camps as part of the initiative. He urged adults in the neighborhood to teach youngsters about respect, rather than ignoring bad behavior.

**"Be a thinker not a stinker."
- Paul Earthquake Moore**

A town watch program and expansion of the Eastwick Bike Patrol in the neighborhood is also part of The Paschall Homes plan. In addition there are programs for youth, adults and families including: after-school

tutoring and cultural opportunities for youth, life skills training for adults, and nutrition, healthcare, and parenting training for families.

U-S Attorney Meehan said the grant is another important step in the revitalization of communities built around public housing. The grant is funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, to improve safety in public housing throughout the nation. Meehan said he had been working for some time on a special grant to put money back into the community, and worked with the Eastwick Project Area Committee to identify the best use of the grant money.

Greene said the grant and the reinvestment in social services sends an important signal to residents of Paschall Homes and the surrounding neighborhood.

"We have the law enforcement community saying we care about the people, we care what happens to the people," he said..



PHU Police Lt. Mike Subick presents the Eastwick Bike Patrol with one of four bikes and protective vests donated by the agency. Also pictured are (from left) U-S Attorney Pat Meehan, Thomas Chamberland, Lt. Luther Childes and Captain Vincent Grant of the Eastwick Bike Patrol.

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PHA & Eagles Help Kids to Fly High by Reading

PHA sponsored the Eagles Carnival and Auction, an event that has become an annual tradition. Funds raised through the carnival are used for the Eagles to deliver reading material to low-income children, with the aim of helping them excel at school.

The Eagles Bookmobile and Storybook Man visited four PHA sites, including the Raymond Rosen Community Center. While kids ate their lunches, Storybook Man read them a book and asked them questions. One of his helpers let the children know that every Eagles player has to be able to read a book, so he can play his position.

“Some of these kids never get a chance to hear someone tell them a story or receive a new book, so they

really enjoyed the Storybook Man’s visit,” said Elaine Daniels, secretary of the Resident Council at Raymond Rosen. “Many of these parents don’t have time to read to their children. They’re busy trying to make it. A few of them take their kids to the library, but not many.”

The Eagles really want to impress the importance of reading for children who are in the second and third grades, although the program serves kids between the ages of 5 and 14. They handed out free books, bookmarks, and posters that delighted the kids at Rosen.

Terrence Brown, a 6th grade student at La Salle, was surprised that the Eagles would deliver books. He thought they’d deliver footballs instead. And, yes, his favorite books

are about football.

DiShawn Stewart, who’s in 7th grade at William Dick School, was pleased that the NFC East’s defending champions thought of him. Like Terrence Brown, he enjoys books about football.

Nyfese Taylor, a 1st grader at Pratt-Arnold, says books on football and basketball are okay, but he was more interested in a book titled “Officer Gloria.”

The Eagles did more than donate books this year. They built a new playground for kids living in the Raymond Rosen and 8 Diamonds neighborhood at the William Dick School at 25th and Diamond. The team knows that kids need a safe place to play at recess and after school.



Storybook Man gets the attention of kids at Raymond Rosen as part of a visit by the Eagles Bookmobile. The Eagles really want to impress the importance of reading on children who are in the second and third grades.

PHA’s Own Boxing Champ Bernard Hopkins – A World Class Act

continued from page 1

42-year old Hopkins, who is now the international light heavyweight champion—a title he defended last summer against the previously undefeated Ronald “Winky” Wright.

Hopkins is the first international middleweight champion to move up to clinch the light heavyweight title; a feat that evaded boxing great Sugar Ray Robinson. Hopkins had held the middleweight title since 1995 and defended it more than 12 times.



Bernard Hopkins is not a man who forgets his roots. He called PHA’s transformation of the once bleak site “a blessing.”

Today, Hopkins has it all—fame, fortune, and a family he is devoted to.

But success did not come easily to the Philly native, who spent his first eight years living in Philadelphia Housing Authority’s Raymond Rosen development.

“It didn’t seem bad, but I was ignorant of what was going on,” Hopkins recalled in a recent interview. “But when I was eight, we had to run in the house because they had a gang war.”

On a recent visit to Rosen, Hopkins pointed to the train tracks that run along the side of the section where he lived as I child.

“The Amtrak train to New York goes by there. Every time I take the train to New York, I look down here and remember that this is where I lived. But it didn’t look like this then.”

Wrong Career Track

Shortly after the gang incident, the family moved to Germantown. There, life on the streets claimed him.

“I got on the wrong track early in my career. And I used the word ‘career’ because it was a negative career of violence and criminal acts,” he said.

“The juvenile facility was my home because I was in and out of there all the time.”

The turning point for Hopkins proved to be a stretch in Graterford Prison for strong-arm robbery. Although he had boxed before, in prison he began boxing regularly, building a reputation and gaining respect.

“I finally realized that my life was more valuable than being in a cell,” he said.

While he was in prison, he also earned a G.E.D. and converted to the Islamic faith. At this time, he developed an intense discipline that helped him build his successful boxing career. During

his four and a half years in prison, he won the national penitentiary middleweight championship three times. He was paroled in 1988, as soon as he was eligible.

“If I didn’t end up in Graterford, I never would have changed my life,” he admitted. “My blessing is I’m supposed to be where I’m at. But I didn’t do it by myself.”

He looks to Malcolm X, Mohammed Ali and baseball great Satchel Paige as his inspirations. And although he feels that Graterford was the “school” that prepared him for life, he urges young people to avoid that path. He doesn’t lecture the kids that crowd around him. “They have their teachers and their parents for that,” he says. “I tell them to dream their dreams. But they have to realize that to fulfill their dreams, there is a cost.”

It only takes a few minutes for the word to spread through Rosen when Hopkins appears. Soon there is a crowd of young men and boys watching him, nudging one another as they get a glimpse of the champ.

He knows they’re watching, and he knows the respect they have for him.

“Don’t be part of the system for one day. Don’t be incarcerated. Don’t commit the act,” is the advice he gives them. Last year, Hopkins was appointed a Community Ambassador for Peace by

Philadelphia Mayor John F. Street. “I might have been able to get out of the hard part of the City, but I am committed to helping others do the same. The oath of the street is a ‘fool’s move’ and I want to help young adults see that there is another way to go,” he told the crowd.

He also founded the Bernard and Shirley Hopkins Make A Way Foundation to further assist Philadelphia youth. Last year the foundation donated \$60,000 to rebuild the playground at the Charles Henry Elementary School that Hopkins attended as a child.

Today, Hopkins rarely fights. As defending champion, he can decide when he wants to take on a challenger, and he says he prefers to spend his time with his family and his eight-year old daughter. Mainly he promotes and manages other fighters with his partner, Oscar De LaHoya. Hopkins is determined to prove that a fighter can be his own boss and succeed as a businessman.

“I’m running my own business just like a graduate of Harvard University. Only I graduated from the ‘University of Life.’”

“At the end of the day,” he concludes. “It’s about my name. It’s the only thing that remains when I leave the earth. It’s the legacy for my daughter. Every body has to leave a legacy.”



Resident Now Detective and Graduate

PHA Police Detective Crystal Bradley, who grew up in Johnson Homes, always wanted a career and a family. She never planned to settle for anything less. Today, Crystal is working on her master's degree at La Salle with plans to become a college professor. And, yes, she's already had a pretty good career and she has a great family.

Officer Bradley said her mother and father encouraged her to stay in school and do well. Though her family had little money, Crystal and her sister didn't feel they were poor.

"We were not poor in spirit. I don't think we realized that we were living in the projects. We never felt disadvantaged," she said.

In fact, Crystal believed that once she stepped outside into the world each day, she had just as much op-

portunity as anyone else to get ahead. She loved school and never thought of dropping out.

"I went to school every day. My family considered school my job," Bradley said.

Crystal has friends who fell to drugs and crime and she also has friends who succeeded. She still goes back to Johnson Homes to visit. The friends who failed did not have a strong home environment, and Bradley believes that even if a child has just one parent, that child will succeed, as long as that parent is strong.

Detective Bradley has succeeded working in policing – in what has been largely a man's world. She decided to become an officer after seeing a publication from PHA's Human Resources Department, believing

that this was a way to give back to the community that she loved.

After graduating with honors from George Washington High School in 1986, Crystal attended Pierce Junior College where she received her Associates Degree two years later. Then, she took time out to get married, have a family, and then join PHA as a police officer in 1994. Crystal now has four children, ages 21, 16, 10 and 8, with the oldest due to graduate from Penn State next year.

Bradley resumed her quest for a bachelor's degree in 2005, going to school three nights a week. She graduated from La Salle University in May with a double major in criminal justice and sociology.

"I wanted to finish what I started," she says. "I put my children first for a number of years. There are certain goals I want to obtain."

During her career, Officer Bradley has won two heroism awards, in 1996 and 2000. She was named the Daily News' officer of the week in 2000 for her action during a fire at a PHA site. Bradley tells young people to focus on themselves and achieve their goals, rather than getting swept up by what they see on TV.

"Anything that comes easy is not worth having because you didn't work for it." Toward that end, she encourages residents to take advantage of the Community Partners program.

"The Housing Authority has so many more programs now that they didn't have when I was a resident. Residents can really take advantage of a lot of good programs that encourage you to get ahead in the world and have a good job. Never let anyone tell you that you can't do something, that you



PHA Detective Crystal Bradley, who grew up in Johnson Homes, tells young people to focus on themselves and achieve their goals, rather than being swept up by what they see on TV.

can't be what you want to be. Move forward."

Affordable Health Care Through A Healthy Living Center

Affordable, quality health care isn't easy to find. But thanks to the 11th Street Family Health Services Center, excellent health care is available to residents of North Central Philadelphia.

The "healthy living center" is located right in the heart of Richard Allen Homes. This unique health center offers much more than a quick checkup. The focus is on providing patients with health services and programs that they themselves requested, according to Director Pat Gherrity.

The facility was built with a collaborative advisory board made up of many members of the community. PHA residents and community members listed what they thought made an ideal health center. The result is a health center with services ranging from primary care and behavioral health to full dental care facilities. 11th Street Family Health Services Center welcomes patients with a clean, spacious atmosphere, friendly and informative staff, and top of the line technology.

Qualified, caring nurse practitioners provide treatment to patients. Gherrity believes that this model is beneficial to patients because nurses provide life-long compassionate care.

A perfect example is a program for



Receptionists at 11th Street Health Center help a patient set up an appointment.

first time mothers called the Nurse Family Partnership. This program provides regular visits during pregnancy and follows through with the family until the child is two years old. The program includes information on your body during pregnancy as well as child development advice once the mother gives birth, and involves friends, family, and the community. The program is free. The only requirement is that you are no more than 28 weeks pregnant and are a first time mother.

11th Street Family Health Center prides itself on taking a more holistic approach to health care. Realizing that good health is related to a healthy diet and regular exercise, personal trainers and nutritionists are on staff to keep patients eating right and staying healthy. A full service training facility is on hand to include with patients health programs in order to give a complete approach to recovery.

"If a patient is diagnosed with dia-

betes, we refer them to our personal trainer, sign them up for healthy cooking classes, and have them talk to a behavioral health specialist," says Gherrity. She believes that this approach is what makes their program so successful.

The health center offers other services including nutrition classes, adult and child behavioral health programs, a podiatrist, and a program to help quit smoking. These services are part of their traditional primary care to give a more complete approach to good health.

But what about services offered to children? 11th Street Health Center provides many programs to ensure that pint-sized patients are healthy, both physically and mentally. For each yearly physical, a behavioral health specialist, who is specifically trained in dealing with children, assesses the child. The "Reach Out and Read" program gives a brand new book to each child after a physical to encourage literacy skills. Discussion groups are also held, such as "Girl Talk," which offers teen girls an opportunity to discuss various aspects in their lives in a safe setting.

With all of the programs, facilities, and opportunities a place like the 11th Street Family Health Services Center has to offer patients, it must

be impossible to make an appointment, right? Wrong! "Call in the morning, and we'll make an appointment for you later that same day. If we are booked up for that day, you can call the next morning and be sure to get an appointment then," says Gherrity. No patient will be turned away due to the inability to pay, and Medicaid is also accepted.

For more information on the 11th Street Family Health Services Center, visit at 850 North 11th Street (right in the middle of Richard Allen Homes) or call 215-769-1594. Office hours are Monday and Wednesday 9 – 5, Tuesday and Thursday 9 – 7, and Friday 9 – 3. The center is occasionally open on Saturdays as well.

There are three other health centers to serve PHA residents.

The Abbotsford Health Clinic -
3205 Defense Terrace

Schuylkill Falls Health Center
4321 Merrick Road

The Health Annex
5803 Kingsessing Avenue

Loss Of Funding Curbs Services At Computer Lab

The Philadelphia Housing Authority's computer lab at West Park Apartments will have to cut its hours of operation dramatically unless a new funding source is found.

The lab, part of PHA's Neighborhood Networks program, has been serving low-income families with a federal grant, but those funds dried up as of October 26th. The site is used by both adults and children and features group and individual instruction in computer literacy.

An estimated 30 to 40 children and 10

adults use the lab each day, with operating hours between 1 and 8 P.M. Children also receive help with their homework while waiting to use the lab, which has 12 computers.

Rylanda Wilson, who oversees grants for PHA, says it costs \$12,500 a month to run the lab. PHA has some funding for the lab through the ROSS grant program, which provides funds for job training and services to help residents of public housing. But that money represents only 25% of what the center costs to operate.

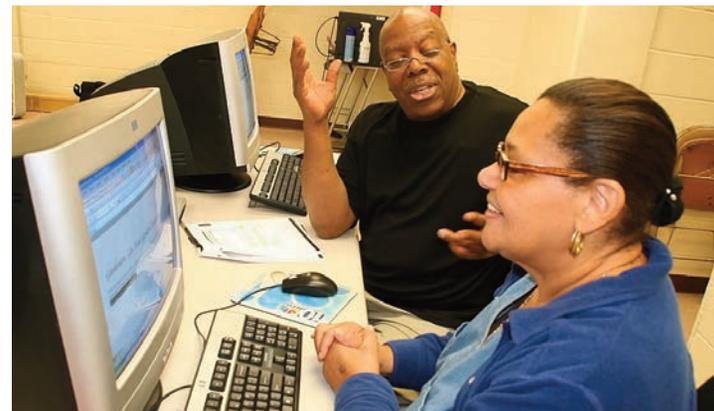
Without replacement funding or a tremendous volunteer effort, adults and children who use the lab will have much less access to it.

Andrea Foster, the resident council president at West Park, says the lab is open to everyone in the surrounding community, not just public housing residents. She says working parents are assured that their kids are in a safe environment while working at the computer lab.

"They come straight from school to here," Foster says. "The parents know they're here after school doing their homework in a supervised environment. They're not allowed to go on the computers until their homework is complete. At 5 o'clock, they leave from here and go home."

Theresa Wright, a former Certified Nursing Assistant who lives in West Philadelphia, comes to the lab to learn new skills. She was injured on the job and will not be able to go back to work. She likes the hours that the lab sets aside for adults only and doesn't feel overwhelmed, pushed or pressured.

"I love it. It's a new world. When you're going through sickness and you're pretty much shut off, you need



Ken Dunkley, a computer instructor from MET, and Theresa Wright share a light moment during an individual lesson at the computer lab at West Park. Dunkley says people work harder and learn more when they're having fun while learning.

something to refresh you and bring you back."

Perhaps Ken Dunkley, one of the instructors from MET, sums it up best.

"When you have fun and you're learning, that's when you want to come back day after day."

PHA contracts with MET to run the lab. Brenda Mitchell, the president and CEO of the company, says the training gives kids the confidence they need to succeed in school and in life. She's reaching out to find new funding

sources for the lab, but it's not easy. There are many organizations competing for funding dollars.

For the short term, Mitchell would be glad if she could round up another \$1,000 a month to sustain an adequate level of service for children, the group most in need of training (and help with their homework).

Rylanda Wilson of PHA remains hopeful that the computer lab can remain open full-time. "I'd be delighted if more than one foundation would assist us."



Children also receive help with their homework while waiting to use the computer lab at West Park. MET Instructor Jerome Grant shown here says the lab helps students to improve their study habits and grades.

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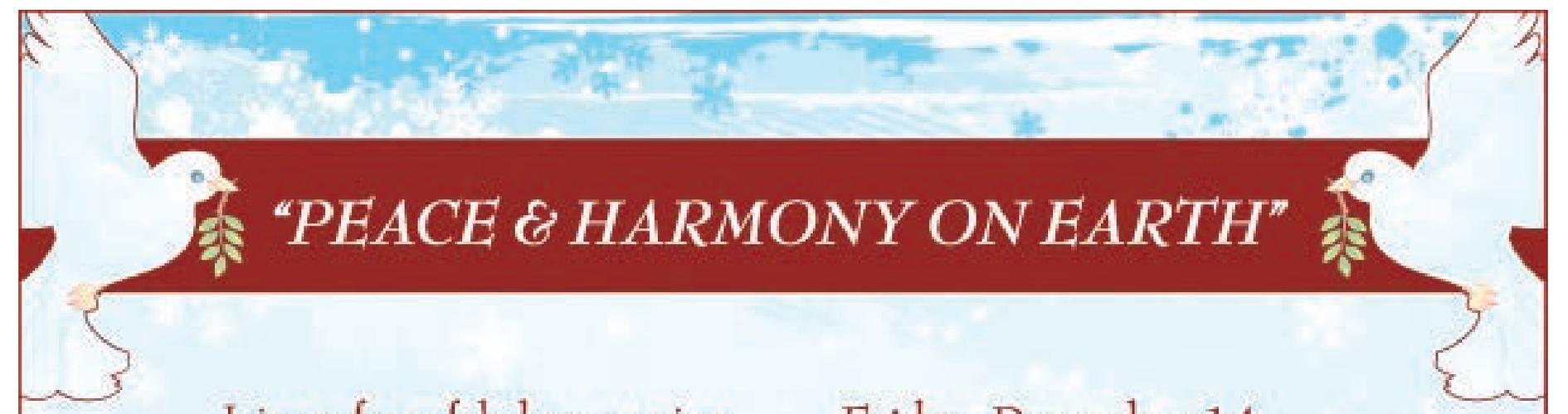
If you answered yes to these questions, then PHA's Amnesty Program is for YOU! To receive more information on how to become a part of this great opportunity, please call 215-684-4416.



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