

The PHA Experience



Philadelphia
Housing Authority

Vol. II No. 6 (Issue 10)

A Community Newspaper for and about Residents

July 2006

Funding Crisis Looming for Public Housing



Grim faces reflect what's happening in public housing. Senator Santorum (center) flanked by housing authority executive directors: Keith Kinard from Pittsburgh (left) and PHA's Carl Greene (right).

"A prescription for disaster." That's what Senator Rick Santorum calls plans by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to change the rules and dramatically reduce funding for public housing authorities. Santorum made his comments at a statewide conference at Wilson Park, hosted jointly by the Philadelphia Housing Authority and the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh, with several hundred residents and employees in attendance.

Under the HUD plan, housing authorities would be funded at 78 percent of what HUD says they need. In addition, centralized services would be reduced or eliminated. PHA Executive Director Carl Greene says if the changes and funding cuts stand, he would have no choice but to lay off up to 500 PHA employees. Most of the layoffs would come in centralized services, including maintenance crews. Mr. Greene says that could mean delays of up to 90

days for routine service calls.

The meeting held June 12 at PHA's Wilson Park Community Center, had a dual purpose according to Resident Advisory Board president Asia Coney. "We feel it is important to make residents and employees aware of these misguided changes and cutbacks from Washington, and we also want to inspire everyone to write and call their elected representatives to express their anger," she said.

(Cont. on Page 14)

From Homeless Shelter to Homeownership

Fourteen years ago, Stephanie Saunders and her daughter Shavon were living at St. Barnabas' Mission, a shelter for homeless women and children in West Philadelphia. Saunders was in despair, homeless and struggling to overcome her drug problem and raise her child. Her climb back into society was about to begin. She received a Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) from PHA.

Being able to rent an apartment helped Stephanie turn her life around. PHA's Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS) also assisted her while she worked to achieve her life goals. Stephanie returned to school to earn her high school diploma. From then on, there was no stopping her.

She continued to pursue higher education, and in May she proudly received her master's degree in social work from Temple University.

Two weeks before graduation, Stephanie also became a homeowner and moved into her new home, also purchased with the help of the FSS program.

"I am blessed," says Stephanie. "I love my house. Of course now I want new furniture and all the other things that go with it." She is already planning to expand the bathroom in the home she shares with her 27-year-old daughter Shavon.

Although she is thrilled to be a homeowner, she says

the process of purchasing a home was, "the most stressful experience of my life." For seven years, Stephanie had been building a nest egg to buy the house through FSS. During that period, as Stephanie's salary increased, the government through HUD deposited money for her into an escrow

(Cont. on Page 14)



Stephanie Saunders

Technology Helps PHA Catch Unreported Income



When PHA residents pay their rent, it is important that they report their income fully. PHA is planning a crackdown on unreported income that will be costly for violators.

If you don't report all of your income to PHA during your recertification appointment, does it really hurt anyone?

The truth is, it hurts a lot. It hurts your neighbors who are paying their fair share. It hurts thousands of people with little or no income who are on the waiting list for public housing. It hurts the housing authority, which needs the rent income to keep all of its properties clean and in good repair despite cuts in government funding. But most of all it hurts YOU.

PHA is now using the latest technology to crack down on under-reported income. If you are caught, you could be convicted of a crime and be required to repay PHA for the subsidy you received. You will also lose either your residence or your housing voucher and become ineligible to receive public assistance or public housing in any state

in the country for three years.

PHA has always been on the alert to find income under-reporting, but today's technology has made it easier to track down unreported funds. During the re-certification process, PHA's specialists now use computers to compare social security numbers of residents with databases from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry and the Bureau of Unemployment Compensation. Social Security numbers of city and state employees will also be checked. Any income reported under those social security numbers will turn up on a search. If it is different from that amount reported at recertification, an investigation will begin.

PHA also receives phone calls from residents, (Cont. on Page 14)

Join the Celebration!



There's a celebration going on right now at Senior Partners! Join thousands of area residents with Medicare and Medicaid who are enjoying great benefits and great service as members of Senior Partners' Silver plan.

Our Silver plan provides all the benefits of original Medicare, plus extra benefits not offered by Medicare or Medicaid. You get medical coverage, preventive health coverage, and the **new Medicare prescription drug coverage** – all in one plan!

Plus, we give you the freedom to visit Senior Partners participating specialists with NO referrals! No wonder why our members are celebrating.

See for yourself. To set up a no-obligation sales meeting in the comfort of your home, or to request a free information kit, **call Senior Partners today at 1-888-776-9466** (TTY 1-877-454-8477).

Senior Partners is a Medicare-approved health plan. Senior Partners' Silver plan is open to residents of Bucks, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties.

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

New MLK PHA Homes Sold Out Swiftly

One thing PHA's home sales program has shown is that if you are interested in buying an affordable home, you need to act fast as new PHA communities go on sale. The latest example is the Martin Luther King development, just south of Center City. Homes went on sale there in February, and by April they were all spoken for. "That's the same pattern we saw at Greater Grays Ferry Estates last year, and also at Lucien E. Blackwell," said PHA's director of home sales, Linda Staley.

Staley says the good news is, "we're building more." The next phase of Blackwell will be finished next spring, and PHA will begin selling those houses this fall. The Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Homeownership Program may be an alterna-

tive, for working families in the voucher program who don't earn enough income to qualify for a mortgage on a new PHA house. Under the program, families can trade in their rental voucher for a mortgage assistance voucher to buy an existing house. "These families have to go through homeownership counseling, have a decent credit rating, and have held a full-time job for at least a year," said Malvin Reyes of the home sales team. "If they're really interested in being independent and owning a home this is a wonderful way to make the move."

Anyone with questions about PHA homeownership programs should contact the homeownership sales center at 215-864-3260.



New homes in Martin Luther King development sold like hot cakes this spring. The attractive new community is located just south of Center City.

Conserve Energy—Preserve Public Housing



B.J. McDuffy demonstrates easy demonstration of extreme rubber for drafty doors.

PHA currently spends a staggering \$25 million dollars per year in utility bills. As these costs continue to rise, utility subsidies are standing still. In fact, housing authorities nationwide – including PHA – are facing huge funding cuts from Washington.

It's no coincidence that PHA has chosen to launch the energy conservation program at this time. During the official kick-off in May held at the John F. Street Community Center, PHA introduced its slogan Conserve Energy - Preserve Public Housing. Employees and residents chanted these words. Nobody wants to see PHA sacrifice excellent housing, programs and services that residents have fought so hard for.

During the kick-off, the Energy Coordinating Agency (ECA) gave a presentation on energy conservation techniques. The nonprofit group has been providing energy education programs to low income Philadelphia families for the past twenty years.

This demonstration was repeated at the first three sites to

participate in this program: Queen Lane, Liddonfield and Whitehall. The goal is to reduce energy consumption by 3 to 5% at first. Twenty-five percent of the savings will come back to the residents in site-based incentives chosen by resident leaders, according to PHA executive director Carl Greene.

PHA is providing energy conservation materials as part of this program including: 1) Compact fluorescent bulbs (CFL's) work just the same as a regular light bulb but save 70 - 75% of the energy; they also last a lot longer (10-13 times longer – properly used that's eight years); 2) extreme rubber is used around drafty doors and windows to reduce heat loss in the winter and heat gain in the summer; 3) Reflector board is cut out and inserted around window air conditioner units so the cool air doesn't seep out of the window in summer. In addition, the low-rise units at Queen Lane and Whitehall will receive a programmable thermostat that will adjust temperatures to save energy at night while families are asleep.

Skills for Life 2006 Graduates



PHA & Skills for Life Director
Patrick Ameen Akbar congratulates
2006 High School Graduates:

- * Nakeah Ashford
- * Takiah Ashford
- * Samuel Best
- * Marcel Boddie
- * Brandon Brown
- * Konjut Browne
- * Natasha Calloway
- * Jeanna Cooks
- * Diamond Crawford
- * Indra Cue
- * Athena Fowler
- * Terry Gadson
- * Sharna Gates
- * Naomi Leach
- * Earl Lewis
- * Leslie McCall
- * Adrian Miller Harper
- * Marcus Moment
- * Sharnaya Odum
- * Thurman Pete
- * Sade Phillips
- * Melissa Porter
- * Sharnise Sanders
- * Nicole Shaw
- * Joe Simpkins
- * Joseph Strbbens
- * Latamela Surnt
- * Melissa Thomas
- * Sheila Thompson Brown

At This Senior Prom, No Diplomas Were Needed

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Pictured L to R are: 'Queen' - 97-year-old Josephine DiGiovannantonio, Ray Welch - CEO Mercy Health System and 'King' - 87-year-old Leroy Smith.

The kids may have their senior proms. But if you really want to know how to party take lessons from the people who have had many years of experience. More than 60 seniors, some close to 100 years old, had a great time earlier this month when they celebrated their "For the Love of Life" Senior Prom 2006, at the Senior LIFE center at Greater Grays Ferry Estates. And a full day of fun it was, starting with a light breakfast in the patio room, moving quickly to a morning senior dance, and then into the Grand Promenade to the dining hall for the main celebration and awards.

"This is how our senior life is to be enjoyed, spending time with friends and having fun. This is a celebration of life." These were the words of Leroy Smith, an elder member of the group and longtime resident at Wilson Park.

Besides just having a good time, another reason for the senior prom was to recognize seniors who have put so much of their time back into the community. Josephine DiGiovannantonio expressed thanks for the LIFE center and the convenience it has brought to the community. "We needed this health facility that St. Agnes and PHA have provided. PHA may build great homes around the city but for me it's family, friends and this one building that improves my life and makes my senior years happy."

The highlight of the afternoon was the crowning of the prom king and queen who are the two eldest seniors at the center. The honors went to 87-year-old Leroy Smith and 95-year-old Josephine DiGiovannantonio, who both won \$25 gift cards courtesy of Shop Rite.

The St. Agnes Living Independently for Elders (LIFE) center and PHA have collaborated to offer quality care for eligible seniors who live in the community. The center promotes independence and a better quality of life with an alternative to nursing home and hospital stays. Organizers say this is the first of what should be an annual event.

PHA Honors Senior Volunteers on Luncheon Cruise



About 60 seniors who volunteer at PHA senior centers city-wide were treated to a luncheon cruise on the Spirit of Philadelphia in April to celebrate volunteer month. This volunteerism fills two goals: it helps the senior centers run more efficiently, and it helps the seniors feel useful and needed. "We all feel good when we're doing something unselfishly for someone else," says Edward Rudow, coordinator of volunteers at the Liddonfield Senior Center.

Senior volunteers fill a variety of roles at senior centers, ranging from setting the tables for lunch to taking attendance at activities. "We try to promote volunteerism with everyone who comes into the senior program by creating a number of meaningful jobs to assist the senior center staff," Rudow explained.

(Cont on Page 5)



The PHA Experience • Summer

PHA Senior Programs Special Committee Meetings and Special Events

Schedules 2006 (Dates subject to change)

JUNE

- June 9, Event: Senior Prom
Location: Rosewood Caterers
Time: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 pm
- June 14, Event: Sight & Sounds Theater Trip
Location: Lancaster, Pa.
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 pm
- June 14, Event: Emlen Arms Open House
Flag Day Celebration
Location: Emlen Arms
Time: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 pm
- June 15, Event: Father's Day Grilling and Chilling
Location: Wilson Park
Time: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 pm
- June 16, Event: Annual Rainbow Tea
Location: Wilson Park
Time: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 pm
- June 20, Event: Senior Town Meeting
Location: TBA
Time: 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 pm
- June 23, Event: Sounds of Summer Jazz Fest
& Wheel Chair Race
Location: Wilson Park
Time: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

JULY

- July 06, Event: Summer Health Fair
Location: Wilson Park
Time: 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 pm
- July 12, Event: Senior Advisory Board Meeting
Location: Bentley Hall
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

- July 20, Event: Summer Health Fair
Location: Liddonfield
Time: 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 pm

AUGUST

- Aug. 08, Event: Coping with Aging and Nutrition
Location: Bentley Hall
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Aug. 23, Event: Medication Seminar
Sponsored by CVS
Location: Liddonfield
Time: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

- Sep. 19, Event: Town Meeting
Location: TBD
Time: 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Sep. 29, Event: Medicare Part-D Presentation
Location: Suffolk Manor
Time: 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 pm

OCTOBER

- Oct. 04, Event: Fire Safety Workshop Series
Location: TBD
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Oct. 09, Event: Healthy Cooking Demonstration
Location: Liddonfield
Time: 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 pm
- Oct. 11, Event: Senior Advisory Board Meeting
Location: TBD
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

- Oct. 13, Event: Autumn Bazaar/Health Fair
Location: Wilson Park
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

- Oct. 27, Event: Atlantic City Bus Trip
Location: Wilson Park
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER

- Nov. 01, Event: Free Legal Clinic
Location: Suffolk Manor
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 pm
- Nov. 04, Event: Black & White Ball
Location: Wilson Park
Time: 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 pm
- Nov. 07, Event: Atlantic City Bus Trip
Location: Liddonfield & Emlen Arms
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- Nov. 14, Event: Flu Shots
Location: TBD (Initiative throughout the Authority)
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 a.m.
- Nov. 22, Event: Free Legal Clinic
Location: Suffolk Manor
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 pm

DECEMBER

- Dec. 8, Event: Senior Christmas Carnival
Location: TBA
Time: 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 pm

www.pha.phila.gov



The Healthy Homes Field Specialists (left to right) Gordon Polite, Robin Nelson, Supervisor Lynn Hercules, Barbara Hayes, and Brenda Behlin review program materials for residents.

PHA Expands Healthy Homes Program

Response to PHA's Healthy Homes Program has been so good that it is now open to all Housing Choice Voucher recipients.

The program, also known as A.I.R. (Asthma Intervention and Reduction Program) helps residents identify safety and health hazards that can lead to children's health issues such as allergies, asthma, and lead poisoning.

"There are many asthma triggers, such as lint and dust from carpeting, pets, insects, mold, mildew, and smoke," says PHA's Georgette Galbreth. "Also strong cleaning agents, insect sprays and other aerosol can sprays are potential asthma problem areas. We are engaging in a comprehensive approach to reducing asthma attacks in our kids."

Galbreth says that carpeting is one of the most common problem areas. Residents who do not have vacuum cleaners may not realize the impact on their families.

There is no cost to families taking part in the program. Tenant Support Services, Inc. (TSSI) hired two HCV and two public housing residents to inspect PHA homes. The inspectors are looking for homes with families who have asthmatic children under 6 years old. The inspections are easy to conduct and only take about two hours.

Georgette says a mass mailing went out to all HCV households. As of mid-June, over 200 families had enrolled in the program and calls were still coming in. Residents who want a field specialist to visit their home should call 215-684-2190 or 215-684-5757.

Senior Volunteers Get the 'Spirit'

(Cont from Page 4)

"As seniors become volunteers they are committed to participating in the senior programs," he adds. Each volunteer fills out an application form indicating their background, what they like to do, and whether they prefer to volunteer in the morning or afternoon.

Edward says he has one volunteer who has wonderful handwriting. She addresses invitations and other center correspondence. Another 92-year-old woman is a receptionist. Additional volunteer jobs include setting up tables for meals, serving coffee and cleaning up after lunch.

The volunteer lunch cruise "was a very joyous occasion," reports Rudow. "We arranged their transportation and gave them gifts." We partied, had lunch and danced with one another. Although most of the volunteers know one another, seating at the luncheon tables was mixed to include volunteers from different centers. "If they didn't know one another when they got on, they did when they disembarked," quipped Rudow. "I think they really appreciated the gesture."

Dare to Be GREAT

by Cpl. Daniel Richmond

"A person who doesn't cultivate his/her interests will die of hunger." This proverb rings true in many urban neighborhoods. Some of our youths live in challenging surroundings. They are looking to fulfill basic needs such as recognition, safety, respect, support and a sense of belonging. In order to meet these needs, students must be shown that they are not alone. Youths must identify groups, clubs and opportunities within their neighborhoods to cultivate and satisfy these needs, instead of joining gangs or participating in delinquent activities.

The Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) program teaches teens about the benefits of participating in community organizations. The youths identify organizations such as sports teams, PAL centers, skills for life programs, chess teams, double-dutch teams, drill teams, homework clubs and youth groups at their place of worship. The class conducts a brainstorming session on benefits of belonging to these micro-communities. Their responses include: getting respect or assistance, learning a new skill, recognition, new friends, a safe haven, knowledge, and community service.

Everyone belongs to more communities than we realize, and we are all part of the school community and our PHA community. Therefore, as members of a community, we have a responsibility to not only receive, but to give something back through community service. This provides you an opportunity to improve your community and stay out of trouble.



Cpl. Daniel Richmond talks to students about goals for a life, free of drugs and safe from gangs.

As the weather becomes nicer, tenant council members or block captains may request your assistance to clean your block or development. Lend a hand. Go to the store for an elderly neighbor, read a story to your younger brother or sister and treat your neighbors with respect. The reward is a feeling of pride and a sense of belonging and a safer community. Get involved in your community and enjoy your summer!

A Message from the Executive Director

The recent announcement by the School District of Philadelphia that it reached agreement with the building trade unions to offer an apprenticeship program came as very good news to families in Philadelphia. As a result of the agreement, more minorities will potentially be able to enter the unions and realize the middle-class income that those jobs bring with them.

This arrangement with the trade unions is something we know a lot about at PHA. We began our Pre-Apprenticeship Program in 1999 and have graduated more than 450 students. More than half of those students have gone into well-paying union jobs. Other graduates



Carl R. Greene

have moved on to different careers. Some have even started their own businesses.

The trade unions have been very good partners with us. They know when they get graduates from the PHA program that these men and women have been well trained and are eager to work. The program has been so successful that contractors specifically request graduates of our

program for their projects. Housing authority officials from across the country have visited our program to see how it works.

Economic empowerment is out there for those who want to take advantage of the training and who are willing to work hard. The Pre-Apprenticeship program is our shining star in that regard, but all of our training programs through our community partners

offer opportunities to build a better life for you and your family.

We say good luck to the school district. Reaching the agreement was a historic step, but it's the only the first step. Our experience has shown that success in this kind of program comes through a constant commitment to excellence on the part of the staff and students who are motivated to make sacrifices in exchange for great rewards.

The PHA Experience 

The Residents' Newspaper

Published by: The Philadelphia Housing Authority

Editor: Anne Martinez

Executive Editor: Kirk Dorn

Managing Editor: Tony West

Resident Journalist: Dawn McClary

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People You Should Know



Portia Harrison

Portia Harrison is in her second year as President of the Oxford Village Resident Council. As a mother of five children and a grandmother of six, she is a strong advocate for the safety and uplifting of all residents. Portia draws on her professional experience as a social worker while performing tasks that include: making referrals, advocating for seniors, mediating family issues and intervening on behalf of residents when they need help. Portia also helps empower residents to become self-sufficient, and encourages them to become strong role models for their children.

Harrison is not new to PHA. As a former resident of Schuylkill Falls she knows the operations of PHA well. Since she took office almost two years ago, Portia and her staff have accomplished a lot. Working with PHA's staff, the resident council has renovated the Oxford Village recreation center, established a computer lab and set up a youth fest. She has also started a food bank that supplies necessities for residents who can't afford to buy groceries. In addition, as a member of the 2nd Police District Advisory Council, Portia helps find new ways to keep residents safe.

Portia's motto is, "We are not human beings having a spiritual experience, we are spiritual beings having a human experience."

According to Portia, this summer should be exciting for Oxford Village residents. Her council plans to set-up an activities program for young adults and will participate in the Power99 live broadcast on August 1st. If you live in Oxford Village and need help, information or service, then Portia Harrison is a person you should know. Of course you can just call to say, "Hi." Call her during business hours at 215-744-0775.



Shirley Spencer

Shirley Spencer, Raymond Rosen's Resident Council President, has been a community activist her entire adult life. She has served as president for four years, was vice president for two years, and a board member for four years before that.

Shirley has lived at Raymond Rosen since 1974. Back then the development had eight high-rise towers. The condition of the buildings was not good, according to Shirley. So, she and other residents began making a little noise.

"Life really started when I moved to Raymond Rosen. There was always something important to do, whether political, working with the residents or

working with PHA. My plate and my life became full."

Shirley received special training with some help from PHA and was hired by an environmental company that did lead testing on the old high-rise buildings. Later, she became a construction worker and was a member of Laborers Local 332. She helped to rebuild Raymond Rosen. In fact, Shirley was on the remodeling committee that was involved in the design of the current site.

Shirley's career in construction was shortened by a stroke. But she now has a new career and very active life as president of the Resident Council at Raymond Rosen.

Spencer runs the Emergency Food Cupboard, is a member of the 16th Ward election board, works with the Girl Scouts at Raymond Rosen, and serves on several boards at Tenant Support Services Inc. (TSSI).

Participation in the Resident Council at Raymond Rosen is good, but Shirley would love for more young people to get involved. She says there are plenty of opportunities for all.

You can contact Shirley Spencer 215-684-4705 or 4707.



Carolyn Warren

Carolyn Warren is the Tenant Council President for Herbert Arlene Homes, a role she began seven years ago. During her presidency Carolyn has achieved many successes, and she is now recognized for her leadership throughout PHA.

When Carolyn began her presidency at Arlene Homes, there wasn't a place for residents to meet. Carolyn advocated for her residents who now have a beautiful office. Next, Carolyn worked on getting her residents connected to the world through computers. Arlene Homes now has a computer lab open to adults and children.

Carolyn is also responsible for the Shared Food Program. Every month she picks up food that is donated especially for Arlene Homes, that she distributes to residents who are less fortunate.

Carolyn Warren is ambitious. She works in the evenings at Genesis Elder Care, in the Dementia unit. In addition, Carolyn wants to help battered women, and is only five courses away from achieving a degree in counseling.

On site at Arlene Homes, Carolyn is pushing to start a Girl Scout troop. She's also advocating for "Play Streets," a summer program, which designates streets that are blocked off so young people have a visible and safe place to play. Carolyn also wants to get a computer and creative programs started for the children to expand their minds.

When asked if Carolyn enjoys being Tenant Council President she says, "Yes" but admits that she would like to become self-sufficient and buy a home some day. She has already attended PHA's homeownership class and says, "I'm on my way!"

In the meantime, Carolyn is dedicated to her role as resident leader and encourages residents who need her help to call (215) 684-5553.



James Harris

When James Harris retired from the Philadelphia Gas Works, he hoped he would find a way to keep busy.

As leader of the resident council at the Norman Blumberg Apartments for the past five years, James has a full plate trying to keep everyone satisfied. "Sometimes it's hectic," he admits. But every time James solves a problem for one of the residents, he feels that his job is worth it.

When seniors move into a new home, James notes, they tend to keep to themselves instead of trying to make friends. At Blumberg, James and the residents' council plan regular events such as cookouts and "Oldies But Goodies" music socials, and other activities to get people involved. "We try to establish a feeling of fellowship," he explains. Once the residents come to an event, they feel less isolated and more willing to socialize.

James recalls that he became resident leader almost by accident. He and a few friends were planning a cookout for Labor Day, and the Blumberg manager suggested they form a resident council and have more organized activities. James was an obvious choice for resident leader; he had served as president of the Northern Liberties residents' council for seven years.

If being resident leader doesn't keep James busy enough, he also volunteers at his church and baby-sits for his grandchildren. James enjoys meeting people and helping them. "A lot of people say 'what about pay?' It's not about pay; it's about making other people happy. I get a lot of satisfaction from that."

**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 residents including: Traditional Sites, Scattered Sites, and Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program. This is a golden opportunity, so reach out. It's easier than you think! Call Anne Martinez at 215-684-8645 or e-mail anne.martinez@pha.phila.gov.

Certificate of Completion E-mail Stirs up Community

By Mia M. Graves

If you received an e-mail recently stating that high school students receiving a "Certificate of Completion" instead of a diploma would not be able to pursue a college education or a G.E.D, don't believe it.

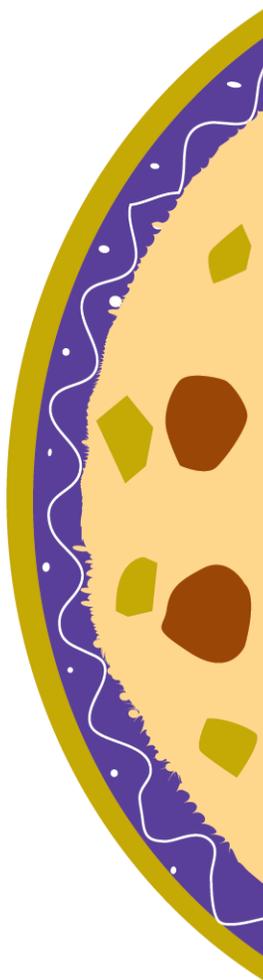
The U.S. Department of Education has described the e-mail as a big hoax. The hoax e-mail claimed that the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) had been revised. Under this revision, all high school seniors would be tested. If they passed the test, they would be able to receive a diploma upon graduation. If they did not do well on the test, they would have to accept a certificate of completion. This certificate would certify that they finished high school, but it would prevent them from going on to earn a G.E.D. or high school diploma. They also would not be able to attend college, any sort of trade school, join the armed forces, or even get a federal loan for education.

This e-mail created panic in many communities.

In response, the Department of Education addressed parts of the e-mail which were completely untrue. For example, the e-mail claimed, "At a high school in Indiana, in 2005, there were 87 seniors in the graduating class, five got diplomas and 82 got certificates of completion." The Department of Education stated that there was no such school in Indiana and that the maximum number of certificates of completion given out last year had not exceeded 29 out of a graduating class of 385 students.

Further, the NCLB has not been revised since it was enacted in 2002.

Different states do grant certificates of completion to students who leave high school without receiving diplomas. Certificates of completion are not included in statistics the states compile to show the federal government their rates of graduation, but the students who receive them are in no way



Summer Food Is Here!!!

Summer Food Program

Operating Hours

Monday thru Friday

8:00AM - 2:00PM

(see site personnel for exact serving times)

Start Date: Monday June 26, 2006

Program End: Friday August 18, 2006

All children ages 18 and under are eligible to receive free breakfast and lunch.

For more info call 215.684.1164



Philadelphia Housing Authority
Building Beyond Expectations

Carl R. Greene, Executive Director
www.pha.phila.gov

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:

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM
YOUTH ART PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH CAMP

215-684-4416

Public Housing Family Self Sufficiency Program

OFFERING THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

EDUCATION:

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

Community Partners Success Stories

MET Success



Brenda Jones

Brenda Jones believes that "courage is when nobody claps for you and you clap for yourself." She also believes that her instructor at MET in Southwest Philadelphia helped her to "gain the courage" she needed to go after her goals.

Brenda, who is the mother of three boys, dropped out of school in the 11th grade. She says she just got caught up with the wrong type of people. Brenda became a hair stylist and then worked in retail sales. She moved from job to job, hoping to find something better.

When Jones realized that the lack of a high school diploma was her roadblock to a better job, she decided to take action. Brenda decided to take advantage of PHA's Community Partners Program, enrolling for training at MET. The company provides a range of self-sufficiency services to PHA residents, including life skills development and career guidance.

Sherrie Davis, the Program Coordinator for MET in Southwest Philadelphia, helped Brenda gain computer and research skills, and they put a plan together for Brenda's future.

Jones decided to get her high school degree and enrolled in the Center For Literacy's Adult Diploma Program. The Center is a nonprofit organization that works in partnership with the Philadelphia School District. It took Brenda less than a year to complete the assignments and earn her degree.

Brenda says without the MET program she would have never realized her goal. She says, "I just needed a mentor. Sherrie Davis showed me the way. Once she showed me how to research, it just seemed like my spirit opened and I was on fire."

Brenda was first in her class to receive her high school diploma. She believes she is a pioneer for others who thought that, at age 50, she couldn't do it. Once Brenda finished, classmates at MET followed her to work toward completing high school.

Jones' next goal is to receive an Associate's Degree in Behavioral Health at Community College of Philadelphia. She has enrolled for the fall semester. Ultimately, she wants to work with kids who have drug and alcohol problems.

Brenda says her sons are very excited. Her youngest, an 11-year-old, now says "and when I go to college." Brenda has been offered a job with Gaudenzia, a drug and alcohol treatment center. She will work as a house manager, helping women in treatment, while working toward her degree at CCP.

Jones is looking forward to living life independently, owning her home, and maybe even receiving a bachelor's degree from Temple. In the past, she could have never imagined any of this.

"God has truly given me a second chance," she says. "Thank God for redemption."

Grandmother Beginning New Career in Daycare

By Mia M. Graves

Leslie Scott was reading the PHA Experience last winter when she found an ad for daycare training. ABO Haven is a PHA community partner offering a certificate program that trains participants to start their own daycare center or work for an established center. Leslie was drawn to the ABO Haven program "because I felt the need to provide quality childcare in poverty stricken neighborhoods." As a mother and grandmother, she believes that it is important to surround kids with a loving environment.

Leslie began the 16-week childcare Provider Program. The intensive training required a four-hour-a-day commitment. Videotapes were used to enhance the course concentration in children's nutrition and behavior. Upon the end of the training, students were expected to complete their

internship and move on to employment.

During Leslie's last week of training, while she was doing her internship volunteering at ABO Haven, she was given the honor of being offered a job at the ABO Haven Daycare Center. ABO Haven considers Leslie one of their best recent graduates. She has been a teacher on the staff at the ABO Haven Early Learning Center for three months.



Leslie Scott

Anyone Know a Plumber? Now She Does!

Cheryl King purchased her house at Whitman Homes from PHA five years ago, after renting for many years. As a new homeowner, she had never attempted repair or maintenance work herself. Whenever she hired a plumber or an electrician, she never knew if they were doing the repair properly; now she knows, for sure.

After completing the Home Maintenance Program for PHA residents, conducted by the Jewish Employment Vocational Services (JEVS), Cheryl feels more confident about making repairs herself or hiring a repairman.

"If something is wrong in the house, now I can do it myself or at least call someone and tell him or her exactly what I need," she says proudly.

The 12-week class held at Orleans Technical Institute (OIT) in Northeast Philadelphia covers almost every aspect of home repair and renovation including hanging wallpaper, tiling, rewiring and heating.



Cheryl King

Cheryl took the course with her friend, Rita Smilowitz, and they both felt the course was really worthwhile. "I learned how to do the pipe work, under the sink in the bathroom, and putting in new spigots or fixing the showerhead. I really enjoyed it," Cheryl says. "After we took the class, some of our other neighbors signed up. More people should know about these classes." The classes are free for any PHA

homeowner or renter. The next session begins August 5th. For more information, call Dennis Zimmer at 215-728-4725.

Stepping Off on a New Path



Dawn Ziegler

Years of standing on her feet as a saleswoman took a toll on Dawn Ziegler. She required foot surgery and lost her job because of the amount of time she missed work recovering.

But during this time, Dawn decided to set her feet on a different path by studying for her GED at the CORA Beacon Center, one of the agencies in PHA's Community Partners Program.

"I feel so good about myself," says Dawn. "I made a decision to go in a totally different direction."

Not only is Dawn working to obtain her GED, she is also training in medical billing at the Beacon Center, which will enable her to start a whole new

career. She is taking the courses at the same time because she can't complete her medical billing certification without the GED.

Dawn says that it wasn't difficult for her to return to school as an adult. She notes that she doesn't have small children to distract her from her studies.

"I learned about the program through the housing authority," says Dawn, who is a Housing Choice Voucher customer. "My daughter is 17, and she's about to get her high school diploma. I wanted us to study together and graduate at the same time, but it didn't quite work out that way; I still need a few courses." Dawn's daughter, Markeita Humbert, graduated from William Penn High School in June.

"My daughter influenced me to finish school even more. She really motivates me," adds Dawn.

Does Dawn have any advice for people thinking about returning to school for a GED or further training?

"You've got to really get up and do it. You can't put it off," she says. "Don't let anything hold you back. No one can take your education away from you once you get it."

Young People Learn How to Succeed in Business

Thinking about expanding your corner lemonade business? Trying to put your chocolate chip cookies on the supermarket shelf?

Up-and-coming entrepreneurs between the ages of 15 and 18 can learn how to succeed in the business world at this summer's Business Boot Camp held from August 7-11. This intense five-day training course is designed to teach teens the basic skills they need to set up and run a business.

The program is open to all high school students, but only 100 applicants are accepted each year. An interview is required before acceptance. Hope VI teens are eligible for scholarships, plus incentives that have included SEPTA Transpasses, lunches and a \$50 gift certificate for perfect attendance and good behavior. The deadline to apply to this year's camp is Thursday, August 3.

"We have very interactive workshops," explains Tamara Tucker-Anderson of The Enterprise Center, which sponsors the camp. "This year students will be writing a group business plan."

The extensive training covers everything from networking to sales techniques. Students learn practical skills ranging from proper telephone etiquette and how to give a good handshake to how to survive the lean years. Previous camps have brought CEOs of companies like Timberland, Nantucket Nectars and Forman Mills to share their experiences.

"This is a wonderful program," says Rylanda Wilson, PHA's Hope VI Coordinator. "The Enterprise Center is the premier business



Business Boot Camp students work on team project.

incubator for entrepreneurship in the country."

The camp offers a rare opportunity to make new friends and network with business leaders from all over the world. Campers are encouraged to sign up for The Enterprise Center's After School Program to further develop their business skills. Tucker-Anderson notes that students who have completed the After School Program have gone on to establish their own businesses with the assistance of the center.

Even if participants don't go on to start businesses, the camps' directors believe that

understanding how businesses work will make teenagers better employees and community leaders. The camp is part of a program called Y.E.S. (Youth + Entrepreneurship = Success). The idea for the course came from the Wharton School's Small Business Development Center at the University of Pennsylvania.

For more information about Business Boot Camp or to receive an application, contact Tucker-Anderson at 215-895-4071 or tamarata@theenterprisecenter.com.

Our Readers Write the News



Philadelphia Public Record Columnist Denise Clay, standing left, welcomes prospective journalism trainees, all Philadelphia Housing Authority residents. They're seen at Public Record facilities learning first-hand what makes a newspaper tick. Those who complete the Public Record's six-week course "Beginning Journalism" will receive a chance to write for *The PHA Experience*. The Public Record prints *The PHA Experience* for the Philadelphia Housing Authority.



CERT
COMMUNITY EMERGENCY
RESPONSE TEAM

CONTACT
COMMANDER LESTER WILLIAMS
PHA POLICE AT - 215.684.1911



ATTENTION RESIDENT LEADERS

BRING THE CERT - EMERGENCY TRAINING PROGRAM TO YOUR COMMUNITY

The CERT training program was launched at PHA's John F. Street Community Center on June 14th. Philadelphia Fire Department official, Captain Michael Carrol presented the first Community Emergency Response Training "CERT" for 45 PHA residents and staff. Bring this valuable program to your community.

 **PURPOSE:**
Learn emergency procedures from fire department and police officials that could save lives if our community experienced a real emergency.

 **TOPICS:**
Fire Extinguisher Use, Emergency Scene Evaluations, Victim Assistance & Civilian emergency Leadership

 **CLASS SIZE:**
20 or more

 **WHO:**
Classes are available for adults or children



Summer Food Program Underway

The 2006 Summer Food Program began on Monday, June 26th at 27 PHA sites across the city, serving a free breakfast and lunch to eligible children. PHA Executive Director Carl Greene said, "This program ensures that our kids will not begin their day hungry. Eating regularly and learning to eat healthy is important as a kid grows up."

All eligible children ages 18 and under are able to receive free meals through the Summer Food Program, Monday through Friday between 8 am and 2 pm. The program gained new popularity last summer when it began focusing on more nutritious meals and hot lunches. This year's program will provide similar delicious pre-cooked meals through a local catering company.

Kids who took part in last year's Summer

Food Program loved the new menu. The meals were not only tastier, but more nutritious. Troy Robinson, PHA Community Relations Asset Manager says, "we're anticipating an increased volume of children taking part in the program this year. We've built a reputation with our new menu!" Troy also says that meal variety is important and no menu will be repeated.

The food program is made possible through a partnership between PHA, the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the United States Department of Agriculture. Last year, this program provided over 22,000 children with breakfast and almost 33,000 kids with lunch.

The Summer Food Program will be offered through August 18th. To sign up call 215-684-1164.

KC Officials Impressed With PHA

Officials from the Kansas City Housing Authority were very impressed following a three-day visit and tour of PHA developments and resident programs. They visited several sites to get a first-hand look at PHA housing and visit with program staffers.

Kansas City is recovering from financial difficulties and has no self-sufficiency programs for its residents. PHA was recommended to them as an agency with model programs. The group was most impressed by the Pre-Apprenticeship, LIFE and Healthy Homes programs, saying the equipment and facilities at the Workforce Development and LIFE Centers were like nothing they had ever seen, according to the visitors.

Rylanda Wilson, PHA's Supervisor for Program Compliance, says they gave their guests "soup to nuts" instruction on successful grant writing. Grants account for most of the funding of the services and programs that PHA provides to its residents. Applying for those grants can be difficult as well as time consuming.

Wilson says they told the Kansas City officials that Tenant Support Services, Inc. (TSSI) is critical to PHA's grant writing success. She says they stressed that this nonprofit arm of PHA allows the agency greater success with grant funding than otherwise possible. In turn, residents benefit by receiving a larger and more diverse program mix. The Kansas City Housing Authority does have a nonprofit group, but it's under

the housing authority umbrella. Wilson says that makes some donors reluctant to give money.

Rylanda also says the way Kansas City and PHA run their homeownership programs is different. In Missouri, the housing authority is listed as a co-signer on the mortgage, which means that the homebuyer is still a public housing resident. That's not true for homebuyers in PHA's homeownership program, which operates like the private sector.

"They were just astonished at how private sector and professional PHA is and how far away they are from being like us," Wilson says.

The Kansas City officials sent a wonderful thank-you note after they returned home.

"You all were a great inspiration," the note said. "Thank you for your royal treatment of our Kansas City crew. You have much to be proud of, and we benefited from our time with you all."

Alice Kitchen, a commissioner for the Kansas City Housing Authority, signed the note.

"I'm just glad that I work at the Philadelphia Housing Authority," Wilson says. "We provide real assistance to residents. By participating in our programs and services, residents can really become part of the fabric of Philadelphia and the world. We give people the real world help they need to become independent, raise their families and do very well for themselves."

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR PHA APPLICANTS

APPLICATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR THE NEW SHARSWOOD II

Notice is hereby given to all Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) applicants. A PHA applicant is defined as an eligible PHA tenant or household member residing in public housing owned and maintained by PHA, or a tenant or household member who is receiving housing assistance under PHA's Section 8 program, or any person who is or will be participating in PHA's home ownership program, or any household on a PHA public housing, site-based or Section 8 waiting list, and whose household income is at or below the income level committed to be served for LIHTC applicants for the duration of the retention period; and who resides in Philadelphia, who are qualified and eligible to occupy and become a resident of Sharswood II. Please note Sharswood II will have 12 Units reserved for qualified PHA residents.

APPLICATIONS AVAILABILITY FOR PHA HOUSEHOLDS

Applications will be available during the following days and hours only:

At Sharswood Townhouses Community Room located at: 1425 North 23rd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19121

Monday	June 26, 2006	10 am—5 pm
Tuesday	June 27, 2006	12 pm—7 pm
Wednesday	June 28, 2006	12 pm—7 pm
Thursday	June 29, 2006	11 am—6 pm
Friday	June 30, 2006	9 am—4 pm

Completed applications must be postmarked no earlier than JUNE 30, 2006 and no later than JULY 17, 2006

Applications must be mailed with the self addressed envelope that is provided

Applications will be ranked by the order in which received.

PLEASE NOTE ONLY 200 APPLICATIONS WILL BE GIVEN OUT ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVICE BASIS FOR THIS FIRST PREFERENCE

APARTMENTS AVAILABLE

Sharswood Townhouses II include: 59 Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) units:

- 13 - 2 bedroom townhomes for qualified households at 40% of median income
- 30 - 2 bedroom townhomes for qualified households at 50% of median income
- 16 - 3 bedroom townhomes for qualified households at 50% of median income



"An Open Occupancy Building"

Note: within the preferences above, a priority is given for occupancy of the handicapped accessible units to eligible households who require the special handicapped-accessible features of those apartments



Sharswood Townhouses
215-765-0777



AFFORDABLE APARTMENTS MAXIMUM HOUSEHOLD INCOME LIMITS
50% AMI

1 person	\$25,250
2 person	\$28,850
3 person	\$32,450
4 person	\$36,050
5 person	\$38,950
6 person	\$41,800

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* Restrictions apply

WE LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU.
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS
PLEASE CALL 215-765-0777 TTY-711

Street Center Mural Pays Tribute to Public Housing



The Philadelphia Housing Authority and the Philadelphia Mural Arts Program have unveiled their latest collaboration, a 64-foot-wide mural at the John F. Street Community Center along 11th Street in North Philadelphia, featuring a realistic depiction of PHA's modern housing.

PHA Executive Director Carl Greene called the painting "a beautiful mural for a beautiful neighborhood." Greene said, "in the old days of public housing you might see a beautiful mural, but its job was to cover up something not so beautiful.

We're not covering up today. We're shouting out. We're saying to anyone who drives or walks by – 'Hey, look at us. Look at these houses. Look at this beautiful community center.'"

Mayor John Street, whose likeness is featured as part of the mural, called the gesture a great honor and surprise. Mayor Street serves as chairman of PHA's board of commissioners but the decision was made by others to name the building for him and then place his portrait on the mural.

Mural Arts Program Director Jane Golden brought with her

yet another surprise, presenting the mayor with a special mural arts commemorative "community garden" as a tribute to what Golden called Street's incredible support for the program. She pointed out that Philadelphia boasts more murals than any city in the world, well beyond 2,500.

The Mural Arts program has produced about a dozen murals at PHA sites. Both Greene and Golden said they hope to do more.

Ludlow-Liddenfield Surveys Are Needed

Residents of Liddonfield and Ludlow Scattered Sites are urged to return their needs assessment surveys as soon as possible. The surveys were mailed to Ludlow residents and handed out to Liddonfield residents at a HOPE VI Resident Training Session in late May.

Rylanda Wilson, PHA's Supervisor for Program Compliance, says the surveys are printed in both English and Spanish and asks residents what services they need to become self-sufficient. For example, do you need job training, child-care, transportation, clothing or a driver's license?

PHA will provide customized services to residents of Liddonfield and Ludlow Scattered Sites based on their responses. Forms are available at the management office for both sites, where completed forms should be returned. If you have any questions about the surveys please call (215) 684-4161 or (215) 684-3092.

PHA'S PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

for details and application
for upcoming classes

Call (215) 684-8049

or (215) 684-8053

Dr. Sarita Battish

Podiatrist Specializing
in Senior Foot Care
Available For House Calls
Spanish Speaking Staff

254 S. 11th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Tel: 215-205-7706 Fax 215-925-4821



The Nike Life

by Dawn McClary

*The darkness of fear
causes us to be without doing.*

*The light of courage
allows us to do that which
fear knew we are capable
of achieving.*

Just do it.



5th Annual

National Resident Empowerment Conference

Save the date:

Thursday, August 3rd – Sunday August 6th, 2006
Hyatt Penns Landing

Call now to sign up: 215.684.1016/1014



TSSI
Tenant Support Services, Inc.

Sponsored by TSSI & The Philadelphia Housing Authority

Safe Nights Enliven Liddonfield



Teenagers at Liddonfield Homes learn you're never too old for Simon Says. Yvette Moore leads the game at the Safe Night event on June 9th.

Children enjoy playing games like Simon Says and Musical Chairs during a rain delay at Liddonfield Homes' Safe Night event.

A sudden storm didn't dampen the spirits of Liddonfield Homes residents who turned out for Safe Night event on June 9th.

Instead, the resident on barbecue duty simply covered the grills, and parents and kids moved inside the Liddonfield Senior Center to wait it out. Kids of all ages enjoyed indoor games in the center's gym, while burgers, hot dogs and other refreshments were served for everyone to enjoy.

"Our goal is to find safe, structured activities for our children," explains Rose Bryant, Liddonfield Homes' resident leader and the organizing force behind Safe Night. More than 50 children turned out, from toddlers to teens.

An hour after the event's start, the sun reappeared, and the children were free to go outside for organized games and entertainment. The Northeast Drill Team performed and the Northeast Eagles, a troupe founded by singer Patti

LaBelle, also played.

Two skits on conflict resolution were among the highlights of the evening, according to Bryant. "It was much better than I could have imagined. We had some real actors out there." There were no fights or disturbances all evening, said Bryant. "It really was a safe night." Rose is working to find a way to make Safe Nights a regular program at Liddonfield.

Scholarships for Blackwell Residents

Sixteen lucky residents have recently been awarded scholarships through HOPE VI funding aimed at revitalizing the community. The funds may be used for tuition, institution fees, books, room and board, meal plan and other essential related costs such as transportation, licensing exams, memberships, and associations.

HOPE VI Scholarship Committee meets twice a year, in April and August, to review and award grants to eligible HOPE VI residents. Lucien E. Blackwell (formerly known as Mill Creek) was awarded a HOPE VI grant in 2001 for \$17 million toward community renewal.

Many relocated and new Blackwell public housing and Housing Choice Voucher residents are taking advantage of this program on their road to self-sufficiency. HOPE VI residents are eligible to apply for scholarship funds to assist them in reaching their goals for a better future. This is a great opportunity for those individuals who are not financially able to afford the full cost of college, trade school and professional schools. Applicants must first apply for financial aid to PHEAA and for other scholarships and loans. The HOPE VI scholarship can take care of the balance needed.

All applicants wishing to participate in this program must provide the following:

- 1-page application form
- Letter of interest that describes why you want a scholarship
- Transcripts / Official Copy
- School Acceptance/Registration Letter
- School Financial Bills (tuition, housing, etc.)
- 2 letters of support / recommendation

Every application is reviewed separately, since the

needs of one may differ from another. This is a rolling application, so if an application is received after the committee has met, it will be reviewed the next time around. Awards are announced after the Committee makes its recommendations. Call 215-222-1746 if you have questions

about this scholarship program. Applications can be picked up and dropped off at:

Mill Creek HOPE VI CSS Program Office
400 N. Busti Street
Philadelphia, PA

RECIPIENTS AND AWARDS

Aaron Bartfield
Theresa Maddox
Cathy Black
Deborah Maddox
Irena Blackwell
Keia Rose
Vernon Walker
Mario Tyrone Davis
Nakian Thompkins
Carolyn Howard
Lynette Green
Kaleema Dockery
Kaleema Bess
Raushana Williams
Khaira Scott
Latoya Knight

Computer
CHI Institute
University of Phoenix
Student Loans
Rosemont College
Jean Madeline Aveda Institute
Church Ministry
Computer
Computer
Sallie Mae
Student Loans
Cittone Institute
Student Loans and school uniforms
Student loans, Drexel University
Central Pennsylvania College
Cittone Institute

House Party Comes to PHA



Last year event, hosted by Power 99, was very popular

Another summer "house party" is underway at PHA. For the third year in a row, Power99/FM has joined PHA to bring a series of live broadcast events now called the "Summer House Tour 2006." To keep you cool, PHA provides the tents. To keep the tummy happy PHA also provides the funnel cakes and water ice. Power99 provides the music, giveaways and prizes. TSSI Director Asia Coney says, "this is a wonderful opportunity for our residents to meet and greet each other, receive information about the various programs offered by PHA, and have a fun afternoon." Last year hundreds of residents won prizes. So far this year, the Power99/FM crew has visited two sites with four more to go.

You don't have to live at these sites to join the fun. Just bring yourself and be ready to have a good time. Power99 event coordinator Lehoronda Upshur says that these types of events are uplifting for entire communities. Radio host Shamara, and her crew will provide entertainment from 2:00 pm until 5:00pm weather permitting. We look forward to seeing you there.

Summer House Tour 2006

2:00pm - 5:00 pm

(Power99 music, refreshments and prizes)

Remaining Dates:

July 11th

Haddington/Arch Homes (56th and Arch)

August 1st

Oxford Village (6150 Algon Ave)

August 8th

The Spring Garden Apartments (Brandywine Street)

August 15th

The Lucien Blackwell Homes (46th Street)



Residents of Wharton Homes enjoyed this year's first House Tour event on June 20th.

Chef Cyndy's Cooking With Kids

Fruit Salad: It's Light Healthy and Cooling

by Cynthia Mayes, Resident Writer

Chef Cyndy is back with more fun recipes for families. It's summer, so let's celebrate with some warm weather light food. This is another recipe you can prepare with your kids.

I'm sure by now you've discovered how fun and rewarding cooking with your kids can be. Cooking is a practical skill that can help us all develop self-confidence and self-esteem. Preparing food for your friends or loved ones really makes you feed good.

Family meals and including children in social gatherings is so important. Kids love to be included. They have a chance to learn so much from adults including table manners, and the art of listening as well as speaking. These are skills your children will thank you for down the road.

As the weather heats up, relax and enjoy this delicious and nutritious fruit salad. It will become a summer favorite.

The Family Fruit Salad

Preparation Time: 10 minutes

Total Time: 10 minutes

Yield: 4 servings

1 8-oz container Breyers Vanilla Lowfat Yogurt

1/3 cup orange juice

2 medium apples, chopped

2 cups seedless green grapes, halved

1/2 cup Planter Dry Roasted Peanuts

1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon

Mix yogurt, orange juice and cinnamon in a large bowl with a wire whisk until well blended. Add remaining ingredients; mix lightly.

Serve immediately or refrigerate until ready to serve.

Notes: As the summer fruit becomes available substitute whatever is in season and well priced. Peaches and blueberries are on their way. No peanuts on hand, use walnuts instead. Really working on your waistline before you head for the beach, use non-fat yogurt. Not a fan of cinnamon - set it aside.

Editor's note - Let's all say a prayer for Chef Cyndy who is recovering from an accident where she injured her foot and ankle.

HCV Satellite Based Offices

**Rosalyn Sewell-Williams – Program Manager
Blumberg Development**
1516 Judson Way, 2nd Floor
Phone #215-684-4374, Fax # 215-684-8080

**Team A
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 B
West Philadelphia Office**
5207 Walnut Street
Asset Manager – Gloria Homer-Williams
(215) 684-1448 (Fax #215-684-1366)
Zip Codes: 04, 31, 39, 43, 51 & Hope VI

**Team C
Northwest Germantown Office**
5538-A Wayne Avenue
Asset Manager – Elizabeth Downs
(215) 684-3050 (Fax #215-684-3055)
Zip Codes: 18, 19, 26, 27, 28, 29, 38, 41, 44, 50 & Hope VI

**Team D
North Philadelphia Office**
642 N. Broad Street
Asset Manager – Carl McBride
(215) 684-4376 (Fax #215-684-1023)
Zip Codes: 05, 06, 07, 08, 21, 22, 23, 25, 30, 32, 33, 34, 40 & Hope VI

**Team E
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 F
North Philadelphia Office**
642 N. Broad Street, 6th Floor
Supervisor – Taheera Powell
(Fax #215-684-4966)
Areas: Scattered & Conventional Sites, Homeownership Multi-Team Support & Hope VI

**Computer Technology Coordinator –
Mr. William S. Brown – (215) 684-2685
or (215) 684-8660 @ Johnson
Blumberg Development**
1516 Judson Way, (23rd and Jefferson St.)
Supervisor – Reginald K. Seabrook
(Fax # 215-684-8080 @ Blumberg)

**Neighborhood Network Coordinator – Monet
Williams (215) 684-4628
Blumberg Development**
1516 Judson Way, (23rd and Jefferson St.)
(Fax #215-684-8080)

Save Housing



Resident Leader Asia Coney, director of TSSI, speaks to residents.

(Cont. from Page 1)

Santorum told the audience he disagrees with the Bush Administration over these proposed changes and that he would be working with his fellow senators to restore funding back up to the 100% level. "I don't know that we have a bigger priority than making affordable housing available, and these operating funds are critical to making sure housing authorities can operate, he said.

Although Santorum seemed optimistic that he could get the funding restored, it appears to be an uphill fight. The House of Representatives is ready to approve the 78% funding, exactly as HUD has prescribed. In order to change this fate and restore full funding, the Senate would have to pass a dramatically different version of the bill, and then overcome House opposition in a conference committee.

Homeownership

(Cont. from Page 1)

account. Stephanie had been saving for a home through the Family Self-Sufficiency Program for five years and her time was running out. "If I didn't buy my house by April 26th, I'd lose the money I'd saved."

Now that she has her degree and a house, she is encouraging her daughter, Shavon, to finish her education

and become a nurse. "My daughter gave me a reason to live and become the person I am today," she says.

Stephanie became a social worker so she could help others as she had been helped. "There have been a lot of people in my life who showed me the way. You can accomplish anything you want if you work for it. I want everyone to know that."

Hidden Income

(Cont. from Page 1)

reporting that their neighbors are now working or are suspected of not reporting income. That, too, will prompt an investigation.

According to PHA special investigator Florence Nicholas, each case is evaluated individually. Sometimes the numbers in a SSN have been reversed, resulting in an incorrect reporting. But if fraud is found after investigation, the case will be sent back to the Site Manager. Usually the resident will be advised of his/her rights and then arrested.

In two recent cases:

A Housing Choice Voucher resident failed to report over \$150,000 income during a five-year period. She presented false documents that she had lost her job. She was found guilty of a felony and given seven years probation. She was ordered to repay PHA \$25,132 during her probation in addition to losing her voucher.

A conventional site customer failed to report \$100,000 income during a five-year period. She, too, was found guilty and put on probation. She was ordered to repay PHA \$16,562 during her probation, and she lost her residence.

Nicholas points out that PHA takes these violations very seriously. "It may not be today or tomorrow, but we will find you," she promises.

If you believe that someone you know is under-reporting income, call the PHA hotline at 215-684-8300 or e-mail oig@pha.phila.gov. All information will remain confidential.

Blumberg Resident Is Dreaming Big



Nideshia Singleton

Twenty-four-year-old Nideshia Singleton says her kids are her motivation. She proved that this spring when she graduated from OIC's culinary arts program and completed an internship with Aramark.

Nideshia, who has two daughters ages four and six, paid for the training out of her own pocket. OIC is tuition free, but students have to buy uniforms, books, knives and other materials that cost \$200. That's a lot of money for someone with two kids.

While attending OIC, Singleton worked full-time as a certified nursing assistant at a nursing home in Norristown. She plans to become a certified food handler and eventually a chef. Her dream is to have her own catering business and control of her destiny.

"I have a passion for cooking. That's something I really like doing," Nideshia says. "I like seeing how people react to my food." She also believes that she's setting a good example for her children. "I want to show them that nothing should stop you from doing what you need to do."

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ty service. One of our most important community services is our “Healthy Hoops,” an asthma management program.

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- a 13% decrease in rescue medication use.

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