

Federal Cuts Lead PHA To Slash Staff

Faced with steadily decreasing funding from Washington, PHA is laying off nearly 25% of its workforce. The personnel cuts span all aspects of the agency's operations including maintenance and security.

PHA Executive Director Carl Greene says the reductions were very difficult decisions, but his agency was left with no choice. "How much we have to spend depends on how much the federal government sends us. Since we are receiving far fewer dollars and have exhausted our reserves the only place we can go for significant savings is our payroll," he said.

Throughout 2006 PHA warned that staff and service cuts were a certainty that unless Washington reversed course

and increased funding. The rising costs of utilities and insurance in recent years have only made matters worse. Utilities and insurance now account for 46% of PHA's federal operating funding. "The federal government has chosen to disregard these rapidly rising costs in determining how much money to allocate for public housing," Greene said.

Residents will notice a difference in the level of service, although PHA officials say it's too soon to know how severe that difference will be. Repairs will take much longer. Trash won't be picked up as often. Transportation services will be reduced. Fewer police and security officers will be available. The number (Cont. Page 4)



PHA Executive Director Carl Greene decries federal funding cuts, which led his agency to lay off nearly a quarter of its work force. with Greene are housing executive directors from Newark, Chester, and Jersey City as well as resident leaders.

New Careers in Welding at Aker Shipyard



Student at in ITTI Program practices welding.

Residents have another opportunity to enter one of the well paying building trades - one where sparks fly everyday. PHA's Community Partners Program has begun to offer training in welding skills through the Industrial Training Testing Institute (ITTI) of Philadelphia.

Jim Clark, Manager of Training at the Aker Shipyard, says the demand for welders is ongoing. "We expect to bring on board about 100 apprentices over the next ten years. Our problem is finding welders with four years industrial experience. This is one reason we started to train young adults in our welding processes and to our level of certifications."

Clark says two main factors have con-

tributed to the demand for welders: 1) Aker's current contract for ten double hulled environmentally friendly product tankers, the largest order since World War II; 2) the company is reducing the number of outside contractors involved in production and doing more work in-house.

Leighanne Tancredi, manager of the Community Partners Program, says PHA began to look for a welders' training program after a visit by officials of the Aker Philadelphia Shipyard (formerly known as Kvaerner). The shipyard already employs some graduates of the Pre-Apprenticeship Program and interested residents will

be recruited from that program.

Virginius Bragg, Economic Program Coordinator for PHA, says the outlook for people with welding skills is good. Graduates of the new program also have opportunities outside of shipbuilding. "Other companies that offer potential for welders include a windmill manufacturer, Gamesa, in Bucks County and a train manufacturer that will locate a plant at the Shipyard," Bragg says.

Chester Turner owns and operates ITTI, established in 1992. The school services a wide variety of firms from the public and private sector, including: PGW, the Philadelphia Water Department, Rohm (Cont. Page 13)

PHA Employee Goes the Extra Mile for Residents

For some PHA employees, serving residents is more than a job. It's personal. That's exactly how it is for Marcia Sadler, a property asset manager at the Strawberry Mansion scattered sites office. She makes the holi-

days extra special for several elderly residents in her area by delivering food and showing them some love.

Marcia, who has been with PHA since 1989, says she extends herself over the holidays so residents without

family don't feel left out. Sometimes she'll shop for those seniors in need and even help them clean their homes.

One of Marcia's "adoptees" is an elderly woman with a heart condition who took in her grandson. At PHA's Parkview development, three of the seniors she assists are shut-ins. She does this out of the goodness of her heart and her own pocketbook.

"They have limited income," Sadler says. "My motto is that when you help someone along the way, then your living is not in vain."

Marcia's background is in sociology. Sometimes, she has to do more than just find (Cont. Page 14)



Marcia Sadler presents David York with a meal for his sick mother Juanita.

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An Energy First for PHA

Sixty new PHA-built affordable homes have been certified as ENERGY STAR® Homes. The designation marks the first time ever that a public housing authority in Pennsylvania has built to the national ENERGY STAR Homes standard. It's also the largest number of ENERGY STAR affordable housing units ever built in a single development in Pennsylvania.

Fifty of the homes were built at Lucien E. Blackwell



ENERGY STAR certified homes at Lucien E. Blackwell in West Phila.

Homes in West Philadelphia. The other ten are in the Ludlow neighborhood in North Philly. These ten are modular, meaning they were built in a

factory and brought to the site. PHA's Real Estate Development Department took this extra step to reinforce how critical it is for new homes to

be highly energy efficient. There is extra cost in building to the ENERGY STAR standard, but PHA's energy experts say energy saved over time will more than pay off that investment, especially as utility rates keep going up.

PHA has made a commitment in recent years to use ENERGY STAR appliances in new construction and when replacing broken items. The same principles of energy efficiency in these appliances have been applied to constructing new homes.



Basically energy efficient housing is less expensive to operate and less expensive to maintain.

The state of Pennsylvania showed its endorsement of energy efficient homes by providing a grant that went toward technical assistance and for inspecting and certifying the homes. PHA partnered with the Energy Coordinating Agency on this project. The two agencies plan to continue to work together to set a national standard for energy efficient affordable housing.



Conserve Energy – Preserve Public Housing

Last fall PHA & PECO sponsored PHA's 1st Energy Conservation Fair at the John F. Street Community Center. The event focused on ways residents can stay warm and save energy this winter.

A hands-on demonstration was given by the Energy Coordinating Agency (ECA) a local non-profit organization specializing in energy conservation for low-income families. B.J. McDuffie captured the audience's attention with

many tips including how to install rope caulk at windows to reduce drafts and heat loss.

PECO's energy expert Val Bullock was emphatic about recommendations on how to keep bills down and money in your pocket. For those who control their own heat, Val recommends keeping thermostats set low or using programmable thermostats. For each degree you lower your thermostat, you save an average of 3% of your heating bill per year. PECO's popular giveaways included draft dodgers (that minimize drafts along the floor edge of outside doors). They

also gave away compact fluorescent lamps (CFL's), which last ten times longer than regular bulbs. Replacing one 75-watt bulb with a CFL saves \$68 in energy costs because most of the energy in regular bulbs is lost in heat.

Polyester fleece is the best way to stay warm. It's even better than wool because the fleece fabric traps the body heat. Door prizes included fleece pullovers, and tabletop thermostats to monitor inside temperatures.

The event was part of PHA's focus on finding the best ways to reduce energy use through-



Mother and son enjoy energy education program.

out the agency's homes and offices. PHA has installed posters at all sites with the following suggestions: 1) Turn off lights & appliances when you

leave a room or your home; 2) Report leaks in faucets and toilets; 3) Set your thermostat to: 74 in the winter and 68 in the summer; 4) never use your stove as a space heater.

PHA faces continually increasing energy costs. That's why the agency recently reduced utility allowances for residents. PHA energy officials are encouraging everyone to conserve.

Over 120 residents participated in the Energy Fair and ended the program by chanting PHA's slogan "Conserve Energy - Preserve Public Housing."



Construction will begin in April for more homes like these at Ludlow in North Philadelphia.

PHA Continues Building Boom

PHA is moving ahead with several construction projects in 2007. The agency and its private market partners are developing six sites and more than 700 homes. PHA Executive Director Carl Greene says the building activity continues a trend. "Over the past six years PHA has built about 6,000 new and

renovated homes, and the public has come to expect this kind of performance from PHA," he said.

The largest of the developments is in the Ludlow section of North Philadelphia, where work on a 160-home community has already begun.

Another 80 homes are going up at *(Cont. Page 13)*

Scattered Sites Resident Ready to Go Out On Her Own

Tracy Burton loves to paint. In fact, the 36-year-old loves it so much she started her own business. By March, she plans to move out of public housing. Eventually, Tracy, who's full time job is with PHA, would like to devote full time to her business, Tradot Janitorial & Painting Services, Inc.

Burton says the business, which began operation in June 2004, is named for herself and her daughter. She included janitorial services because she figured that customers would need someone to clean up once the painting was done. Also, this was a way to offer her special needs daughter employment in a safe environment.

Tracy's journey from high school dropout to business owner was long. After leaving Martin Luther King High

School in 1987, she attended Philadelphia Community College and received her GED. Then, she held a variety of jobs, including working as a nursing assistant, a home health aide, and as a cashier at Strawbridge's.

Tracy spent a year in the Pre-Apprenticeship Program in 1994, but left because she had no one to watch her daughter. Once the situation was resolved, she went to work for Ross & Arco in 1995 as a plumber's helper; the company does work for PHA. In 1998, Tracy came to work as a painter at PHA.

Burton, who is a member of District Council 21, the Painters & Glaziers Union, learned from her fellow union members that an opportunity existed as a painting contrac-



Tracy Burton

tor. She talked to friends who had their own businesses and they suggested that she incorporate herself. Tracy found the forms online at the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania website, filled them out, and sent them in with a check. Tradot Janitorial & Painting Services, Inc., was born. *(Cont. Page 13)*

Pfizer to Sponsor PHA Senior Health Fair

page 4

Pfizer Pharmaceutical Company will kick off its new relationship with PHA's Elder Initiatives Team by co-sponsoring three months of health and fitness activities at PHA housing sites, ending on Friday, March 30 with the PHA Senior Care Expo at Mt. Olivet.

"Our relationship with Pfizer has just blossomed," says Charmaine Morton, PHA's Director of Senior Programs. "They are interested in providing sponsorship for services that are needed."

The Expo will feature presentations by several

healthcare providers, lunch, give-aways and music by the Grace Notes jazz group. Transportation will be provided. There will be a special presentation about Medicare Part D—Medicare's prescription plan.

Pfizer and Senior Partners co-sponsored the Senior Health Fair on January 26 that began the three month program.

For more information or to make reservations for transportation, call 215-684-1183.



Planning the January 26 Senior Health Fair are (from left to right), Ed Rudow, PHA's director of senior volunteers; Richard Powell, Pfizer Pharmaceuticals accounts manager; Flo Curley; Graduate Hospital marketing representative, Charmaine Morton, PHA's director of senior programs; and Barbara Schneider, M.D., director of Community Health Collaborative. Not shown: Elba Torres-Duca, Senior Partner Health Partner Medicare Plan.

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Health and Fitness Program

| | | | |
|---------|------------------|---------|------------------|
| Feb. 3 | College View | Feb. 19 | Katie B. Jackson |
| Feb. 6 | Bentley Hall | Feb. 22 | Cassie B Holly |
| Feb. 7 | Wilson Park | Feb. 23 | Holmcrest |
| Feb. 8 | Mt. Olivet | Mar. 14 | Emlen Arms |
| Feb. 9 | Blumberg | Mar. 20 | Cassie B. Holly |
| Feb. 12 | Emlen Arms | Mar. 21 | Wilson Park |
| Feb. 16 | Gladys B. Jacobs | Mar. 22 | Bentley Hall |

For times and information about specific programs, call 215-684-1183.

Federal Cuts Affect PHA

(Cont. from Page 1)

The number of educational courses will be curtailed.

Asia Coney, president of the Resident Advisory Board, says the importance of the cuts can't be minimized. "Many people who live in public housing are elderly or have a disabled person in their family. Almost all others are low-income individuals. These are the people who will be badly hurt by these unethical cuts, all brought on because our government would rather spend its resources in Iraq, instead of insuring that we here in America receive the same quality of life that we are proposing for others abroad."

Coney says residents have mailed over 11,000 letters to the U. S. Senate and made phone calls to members of Congress to no avail, so they plan to step up their efforts. "Throughout the years much progress has been made moving residents to self-sufficiency, upgrading the quality of housing conditions and changing of numerous neighborhoods - where for so long public housing had been a real eyesore," she said.

Coney says residents will be organizing on a local, state and national level. She said earlier



Resident Advisory Board President Asia Coney meets with resident council leaders to discuss

that this fight is not just for residents or just PHA employees. "The overall economy will be affected - from the Mom and Pop stores to the major companies that the housing authority deals with on a daily basis. We need everyone's support. We're all in this together."

The agency notified the employees affected by the lay-offs on January 9th. PHA is providing employment counseling for laid off staff. Sibyl Bryant, general manager of Human Resources, said, "these 350 people lost their jobs through no fault of their own."

They are victims of a funding shortage. We want to see them find new jobs as soon as possible."

PHA Senior Programs Special Committee Meetings and Special Events Schedules 2007*

January

Jan. 26 Event: **Senior Day – Health Fair**
Location: Mount Olivet
642 N. 41st Street
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

February

Feb. 7 Meeting: **Senior Advisory Meeting**
Location: Mount Olivet
642 N. 41st Street
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Feb. 16 Meeting: **Senior Town Meeting**
Location: Mount Olivet
642 N. 41st Street
Time: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

March

Mar. 30 Event: **Health & Fitness Day**
Location: Mount Olivet
642 N. 41st Street
Time: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

April

Apr. 13 Event: **Volunteer Celebration**
Location: Mount Olivet
642 N. 41st Street
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

May

May 9 Meeting: **Senior Advisory Board Meeting**
Location: Abbottsford
3226 McMichael Street
Time: 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

May 18 Meeting: **Senior Town Meeting**
Location: Abbottsford
3226 McMichael Street
Time: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

June

Jun. 22 Event: **Fashion Show**
Location: Abbottsford
3226 McMichael Street
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

(* Dates subject to change.)

Step Up, Speak Up to stop crime urges FBI



Natasha Gale of the FBI (front, second from left) at a Step Up Speak Up rally held at the Episcopal Community Service Beacon Center.

Step Up, Speak Up to stop crime urges FBI

In 2006, more than 400 homicides were committed on the streets of Philadelphia. Most of those crimes will go unsolved; but it doesn't have to be that way.

Many crimes could be solved if witnesses and neighbors would come forward with information to help identify the killers, but most of them don't.

"People are afraid of intimidation. They are afraid for their fam-

ilies," admits J.P. Weis, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI's Philadelphia Field Office.

The FBI is partnering with the Philadelphia Police Department and local organizations, like "Mothers in Charge" with a "Step Up, Speak Up" program, to combat this fear and the "Stop Snitching" campaign. The program encourages people with any information about a crime to report it. Natasha Gale, the FBI's Community Outreach Specialist, has been organizing community rallies throughout the city, urging people to step forward if they see a crime. To raise awareness, program volunteers are handing out brightly colored "Step Up, Speak Up" tee-shirts and "Take the Big Step" buttons.

Crime solving, says Weis, "cannot be solely a law enforcement function. (Cont. Page 14)

A Message from the Executive Director



Carl R. Greene

Over the Christmas holidays the *Philadelphia Inquirer* published a story called "One Big Happy." The story described a neighborhood block in the heart of PHA's Richard Allen Homes. Residents prepared for the holiday season by dressing up their houses in holiday tinsel, children dressed up in colorful outfits and neighbors exchanged gifts. The article called the occasion "the kind of Christmas that spilled happily onto the porches and sidewalks."

A holiday snap shot like this one captures the essence of why PHA exists. Richard Allen was once a place of despair, where crime and drugs ruled. Houses were in poor condition. Lives were not being uplifted.

The change in conditions at Richard Allen and its neighbor, Cambridge Homes, reflects so much more than appearance. Yes, these communities are beautiful, but equally important is the new attitude. Residents of the rebuilt PHA developments take pride in where they live. They help keep these communities clean and safe. Their children grow up with a brighter outlook on the world and the feeling that they can be successful.

That's why Washington's continuing disinvestment in affordable housing is so distressing. Maintaining and servicing our properties will be much

more difficult with 350 fewer employees. We will need a partnership from our customers now more than ever. We at PHA pledge to do all we can to hold up our end of the bargain, but residents have to do their part as well.

Take care of your property like you own it. Take advantage of our automated phone system to get information you need instead of waiting for an operator to pick up. Look out for your neighbors' safety. Maybe even form a Town Watch group in your community.

Converting high crime, downtrodden neighborhoods into thriving communities is something we take great pride in. At PHA, we truly believe we are saving lives every day. Just ask the residents at Richard Allen with the tinsel on their homes. We will fight and do all we can to get some of our funding restored, but in the meantime lets all do our part to help keep PHA sites clean and safe.

Skills for Life propels brothers to success

There is life after high school.

Few teens believe that, but 21-year old Paris Jackson has some advice for them.

"I would tell them to do their best. For short term pain, there is long term gain."

Paris and his brother, 19-year old Kahlil Jackson, spent their years at Roxborough High School participating in PHA's Skills for Life program. Following high school, both entered PHA's Pre-Apprenticeship Program, and now both are working full-time as apprentices: Paris as an electrician and Kahlil as a sheet metal worker.

But the brothers are dreaming big dreams. Paris pulls a book from his pocket about real estate. The pair plan to one day use their skills and knowledge of construction to succeed in the real estate business.

Still for now, Paris acknowledges, "This is the best job I've ever had."

It was job-hunting that led Paris to connect with Skills for Life Program Director, Patrick Ameen Akbar. Paris had attended a Youth Work program, and Akbar helped him obtain a Youth Work job.

He later recruited the brothers into Skills for Life, an after school program at their school. Skills for Life requires teen participants to attend meetings every day, where they learn both the practical skills of job hunting and subjects to help them in school.

"The workshops taught us a lot,"



Skills for Life "changed my outlook on life," says Paris Jackson (left) with brother Kahlil and mom Sheila.

recalls Paris. "They helped us with budgets and planning. We learned black history. The literacy program helped us with schoolwork.

"They gave us a stipend, so we didn't have to work while we were in school. It changed my outlook on life."

After high school, Akbar helped the boys get into PHA's Pre-Apprenticeship Program, a 21-week work-related school for PHA residents, providing 16 hours of training and 24-hours of adult education each week. The program qualifies students to compete for union trades jobs. Paris is now a member of the electricians local 98, and Kahlil is a

member of sheet workers local 19.

Paris credits the Pre-Apprenticeship Program with sharpening his math skills; a subject Kahlil excels in. Both boys point out that to succeed in the building trades, math is essential. Paris advises current high school students to learn algebra—not always a popular subject.

"Algebra helps you pass the union exam," Paris points out. He would also outlaw the use of calculators in school, forcing students to do the math on their own.

Both boys credit their mom, Sheila Jackson, a school bus driver, for inspiring them.

"She was always doing things around the house," recalls Paris. "She taught me how to work on my car," adds Kahlil.

"I'm so happy," she says as she beams at both boys. "They're overly ambitious, but I love it."

That ambition has carried the Jackson family out of public housing. Three months ago they moved into an apartment in Wynnefield.

For Paris and Kahlil, the future is bright, and they are moving forward together. Although Paris says he doesn't believe in the future—only the present. "I believe the present is a gift," he says, and he's using it wisely.

For more information about the Skills for Life program, call 215-684-1164.

Graduates Celebrate Success

page 6

PHA recognizes that the educational programs offered through the Community Partners program have helped many residents learn a new trade, become self-sufficient and turn their lives around. Late last year they decided to take another step to ensure participant success by launching an Alumni Association. The organization's goal is to support students as they move from school to work through professional networking, social assistance and financial support.



Graduates, parents, alumni and PHA staff celebrating alumni day at PHA's Workforce Development Center in South Philadelphia.

The graduates come from many different training programs. One of the most successful programs is PHA's Pre-Apprenticeship program, which teaches the building trades. Graduates got together to talk to former classmates and see just how far each person had progressed since graduating from the program. And there was much to cheer about. Most of them advanced from minimum wage or no jobs to well paying union jobs as carpenters, roofers, plasterers, plumbers and electricians.

Kevin Dawkins graduated from the program in 2002. He is now a carpenter foreman for Madison Construction, the first African American in that position. "I'm so ecstatic about the Pre-Apprenticeship pro-

gram. The program lifts the spirits of the underprivileged and prepares them for a career that lasts a lifetime."

The event also served to kick-off the United Minority Business and Employment Development Corporation, an organization that tries to create employment and educational opportunities for the disadvantaged.

The Alumni Association launch was a huge success. Over 200 members have signed up. Membership is open to PHA employees, and other supporters as well as program graduates. According to George Johnson, Pre-Apprenticeship Coordinator, "everyone can be involved in the process. We're creating our own economical support system." Anyone interested in membership should contact the Pre-Apprenticeship program at (215) 684-8049.

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New Phone System Starts With A Bang

PHA's new automated phone system, which began operation October 31st, has taken off like a rocket. Through the end of December, the Interactive Voice Response System (IVR) answered over 100,000 calls.

Doreen Wilburn-Smith, PHA's Director of Customer Relations, says the top three requests made by callers were for the Housing Choice Voucher program (Section 8), public housing, and public housing maintenance work. She says that most callers are using the automated phone menu (prompts) that they hear when they dial

215-684-4000. Wilburn-Smith says it's important to listen carefully to the phone menu. Once you choose one of the menu options, the automated voice will ask you specific questions. The system has over 300 answers to questions that callers may have, with real time information. Hitting the 0 (Operator) key will get you nowhere. You have to use one of the menu entries shown in the coupon below.

It's also important to remember to dial "911" for actual police, fire, and medical (*Cont. Page 13*)

4th Grader Recognized For Writing Skills

Hundreds of people honored a 4th grade PHA resident for his writing skills during an award ceremony in December. Damir Williams was recognized during the Greater Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition's (GPUAC) 37th Anniversary Breakfast for winning a Channel 10 essay contest. In a special report on crime in Philadelphia, Channel 10 challenged

their neighborhood.

Damir's mother, Martha Williams, a carpenter for five years at PHA says, "I worry about my son. He's a good young man that deserves a chance to grow up and become successful. That is a difficult task living in a city where more than one person is killed every day."

At the awards breakfast, Damir and others

children to write an essay on how to reduce street violence. As one of the winners, Damir enjoyed a week of hiking, chess, bugs and new buddies at the GPUAC's Keep Kids Safe Summer Camp.

"The environment in Philadelphia is not conducive to learning or growing up," according to Damir (age 9).

"At camp you could play chess, hike, swim and feel free to just have fun. In Philadelphia, you could feel a bullet just going to the store." This is why the GPUAC runs the camp, to give children relief from a challenging environment and to sponsor workshops on conflict resolution. These workshops give children ideas on how to avoid violence and how to change negative forces in



Damir receives a new chess set from Keep Kids Safe Summer Camp Director, Brandon Brown as Damir's mother looks on.

were recognized for participating in the summer program that is now in its third year. Damir, who spent lots of time at camp playing chess, was surprised during the breakfast to receive a new chess set as a gift. If you want more information about the upcoming summer camp program visit GPUAC's website at www.gpuac.org or call Brandon Brown at 215.851.1848.

PHA Interactive Voice Response System (IVR) Numbers

215-684-4000

Main Phone Menu Options



Philadelphia Housing Authority
Building Beyond Expectations

- 2 Public Housing Maintenance Work
- 3 Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8)
- 4 Public Housing
- 5 Homeownership
- 6 All Other Departments
- 8 PHA Police (Non Emergency Calls Only)
- * To Repeat the Phone Menu

For Police / Fire / Medical Emergencies - Dial "911"

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.

www.pha.phila.gov

Resident Leaders You Should Know



Rose Bryant – Liddonfield Homes

For six years Liddonfield Homes has been energized by a resident leader who focuses on improving the lives of everyone who lives there. Rose Bryant started helping children with schoolwork many years ago and before she knew it, the

residents voted her in as resident leader.

Liddonfield is one of the oldest PHA developments and is slated to be rebuilt over the next few years. The work would begin sooner rather than later but money hoped for from Washington didn't come through in 2006, so plans are on hold for the time being. Rose says that's the pattern now with the federal government, less money for public housing, and she says those cuts will be making her job more difficult. "Residents will have to wait longer for repairs and we will all have to wait for the improvements we dreamed of. So we concentrate on what we can change. We focus on programs that help parents, children and the family unit - programs that empower people to become independent."

Rose is proud of all the activities at Liddonfield that include an after school program that has helped raise students' grades significantly. Rose launched the Safe Streets program that shows children how to deal with conflicts. She also brings in parenting classes where professionals teach parents how to communicate, discipline, and have fun with their children.

Another program, WIC (Women Infants & Children) helps Liddonfield mothers buy basic food items for their babies. The Philadelphia Reads program at Liddonfield helps adults learn the importance of reading to children.

Rose Bryant likes it when people take advantage of her open door policy, coming in to discuss a range of issues that include maintenance, security, and after school programs. She also enjoys catching up with residents who stop by when they just want a friendly person to talk to.



Carlton Fox Champlost Homes

Champlost Homes is lucky to have a Resident Council President that really cares for each tenant, especially the children. Carlton Fox oversees the development, looking for ways to enhance the lives of his 400 neighbors.

He finds tutors to help children with their homework and makes sure the food bank runs on time every Wednesday. Carlton also helps residents with their resumes' so they can find jobs. Then of course there is the community center and computer room to supervise.

Carlton says he enjoys living at a facility where the property is well maintained but wonders what will happen now that the government has cut back on operating funds for PHA. "It makes me sad to think that the hard work of so many residents and staff at PHA will be jeopardized because the money from Washington is drying up. What makes me feel happy is seeing a young child walk up to me and ask me to open the community center so they can do their homework or having a resident stop at the office to offer a suggestion."

He acknowledges the job of resident council president is a lot of work, but work that pays off with the success of the children. Carlton says if a community like Champlost wants to be successful, residents must compromise. This will keep the community together and safe and that is important to everyone. Carlton says his neighbors can call him anytime at (215) 849-2704.



Dorphine Hayward Hill Creek

Dorphine Hayward was sworn in as president of the resident council at Hill Creek on December 2, and she's raring to make things happen.

"I get everybody involved," says Dorphine, who was president of the council for eight years before taking a three-year break. "That's what it is supposed to be. You can't do it yourself."

"They (the residents) want change, and I'm here to do it," she adds.

She arranged for over 100 volunteers to come to Hill Creek on Martin Luther King Day for a massive clean up. "I like it clean," she says.

She also loves children and has arranged for the return of an after school program she had started during her last term as resident leader.

"I think we need to pay more attention to these young people," she insists. "If they want to talk, we need to stop and listen, and sometimes we might learn something."

Dorphine has raised five children herself, and they are all adults out in the working world. She moved to Hill Creek 18 years ago after her knee problems forced her to give up her job and go out on disability.

In addition to children, Dorphine is dedicated to the seniors who live at Hill Creek.

"We have exercise and fitness classes," she says. Two weeks ago, they invited all the seniors to bring their medications to a meeting, and they checked the medications and made certain they were taking them.

She is very happy to be president of the resident council once more. "I enjoy doing it," she says. "Plus, there's a lot to be done."



Valarie Lynch

Valarie Lynch became resident leader at Norman Blumberg Apartments because fellow residents asked her to.

"I'm always cleaning up and doing things, so they thought I could be of help. It's kind of frustrating some days living here, but you've got to get through it," she says.

Valarie has lived at Blumberg for 27 years, and she's ready to see some changes made.

"I want to look at things in a different way," she explains. "We need to be working more with the children now. We have to give them more confidence and increase their self-esteem so they stay on the right track."

"I think we need to put more time in with the children to eliminate the negatives. I don't think it's going to be easy."

The first step, she believes, is reopening the center at Blumberg and providing programming there for kids. And she doesn't mean learning to play video games—she means educational programs to help them with their math and other studies.

"Kids need someplace to go in the afternoon. And we need an incentive package so that the kids that do well get a reward. We all like to be acknowledged for what we do."

Children are a priority in Valarie's life. Her four-year old grandson Aaron is diabetic. "I stay in school with him every day, because they don't have someone who can take care of a diabetic. Otherwise, he couldn't go to school."

Which brings her back to another favorite topic—staying in school.

"It seems like school is so hard, but it's so important to finish. What you do afterward makes it worthwhile."

"Things don't happen overnight," she concludes. "But if you do nothing it just stays the same."

PHA Community Partners

What Is The Enterprise Center?

The Enterprise Center located in West Philadelphia helps minority citizens start their own businesses, as well as helping established minority-owned businesses.

Jeff Wicklund, Director of Business Education at the Center, says it began operation in 1989 as part of the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. However, the Center now operates independently and includes the Pennsylvania Minority Business Development Center at 4548 Market Street.

Jeff says the center wants to help PHA residents turn business ideas into real opportunities. So, among other things,



Jeff Wicklund

they will help you develop a business plan, find financing, and incorporate a business. He says the biggest hurdles to forming a business are money, technology, access to others with business knowledge, and the ability to research ideas.

“Starting a business is one of the vehicles to self-sufficiency. You can take a lot of your life experiences, you can take the things that you’re good at, and leverage

them into a business idea,” Wicklund says.

He also says that the rapidly changing economy has caused low-skill, high paying jobs to vanish. Many of those jobs have gone overseas. So, the formation of new businesses has even greater importance.

Jeff says the most rewarding part of his job is to get people to the point where they say, “yeah, I can do this.”

“Forming a business is not about knowing all the answers,” he says. “It’s about knowing how to find the answers. We’re really helping them develop that skill. There’s no guaranteed timeline, but whatever the timeline is, we help people get there faster.”

What are CCP’s Programs?

Community College of Philadelphia (CCP) is the largest public institution of higher education in the city. Local businesses send their workers to the college for training to sharpen their skills, making them more valuable and helping them to hold on to their jobs.

PHA residents will have an opportunity to train in two of CCP’s business programs, Financial Services Job Readiness and Administrative Assistant Job Readiness.

Michele Claybrook-Lucas, director of Contract Training and Workforce Development at CCP, says these programs offer you the chance to develop skills for life and earn a livable



Michele Claybrook-Lucas wage in an interesting career.

The Financial Services Job Readiness program is for people who want to find employment in financial services, such as banking and insurance. The training includes office skills, workplace behavior, and basic accounting skills.

The Administrative Assistant Job Readiness program includes life skills, customer service, computer use, filing, and

workplace manners.

Participants in both programs will learn how to look for a job and how to prepare for a job interview. They will also learn how to dress for the office and how to manage their time.

Claybrook-Lucas meets with leaders of many businesses in the Philadelphia area and she says they all say the same thing: “We need people that have computer skills, good communication skills, and understand what good customer service is. We can’t find those people. Where are they?”

Michele concludes, “I’m always excited when people can take care of themselves,” she says. “I like being a part of that.”

Darnell Thomas – Enterprise Center



Darnell Thomas

Darnell Thomas is the 30-something owner of Darn Design, a company that imports and distrib-

utes novelty accessories to teenagers. Among the company’s products are screen-printed T-shirts and quirky socks with crazy, glow-in-the-dark colors.

Thomas was attracted to the business as a result of his sister’s work for a costume jewelry company as a sales rep. He began selling novelty leg wear (socks, hosiery) and that led to other novelty accessories.

Initially, Thomas received help getting his business started from the Pennsylvania Minority Business Development Center. The agency now operated by the Enterprise Center helped him develop a business plan. With this help he launched his company.

Darnell is from West Philly and was raised by his mother, a single parent, who had a family of three children. Education was important and so was having a job. Darnell landed his first job at age 12. In school, he was exposed to business owners and became interested in having his

own business by the time he was in high school.

The biggest challenge Thomas faced going into business was convincing his family members that he was serious. The second biggest hurdle was raising the money to get the business off the ground. He surrounded himself with people who had business experience and who helped him get the financing necessary to start Darn Design in 1993.

Four years later, Thomas visited the Enterprise Center looking for office space, services and mentoring. He got much more than he ever imagined. He met Rick Forman the owner of Forman Mills, and Josh Koppelman the owner of Half Dot Com, and they became advisors and mentors.

“These guys are hugely successful. They taught me a ton of different things that you would never learn in school or anywhere else.”

Thomas says that Rick Forman became his mentor. He developed a revised business plan that he entered into a contest, winning a \$20,000 grant to expand his company. Darn Design’s business doubled.

“You’re going to get scared. You’re going to be nervous. Some very successful business owners will say that’s a good thing. Just do it!”

Fannae Walters - Enterprise Center



Fannae Walters

Fannae Walters of West Philadelphia is the owner and operator of FEW Pocketbooks, a company

that produces custom made pocketbooks. The company gets its name (FEW) from the owner’s initials. The sixteen year-old began the company two years ago based upon one of her hobbies.

Fannae, who is a junior at Del. Valley High School in Center City, used to make pocketbooks as a hobby. Then, she began making school bags for herself and others.

Searching for some help to launch her handbag business, Fannae ended up at the Enterprise Center’s YES Program (Youth + Entrepreneurship = Success). The program prepares youths for success in the business world by providing a professional and nurturing environment to explore entrepreneurship and run a business.

The YES program helped Fannae write a business plan and enter a special contest for young entrepreneurs. She won the contest and received \$500 in start up money, office space, a phone, fax machine, and copying machine at the Enterprise Center offices in

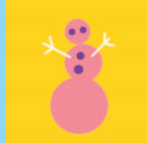
West Philly. FEW Pocketbooks was born.

If you call Ms. Walters today, she’ll be glad to design and make a pocketbook, tote bag, messenger bag, school bag or any other carrying device with a design that meets your needs, and that reflects your personality. She says it all depends on what you want to carry; she has a book of fabrics that you can choose from. Some of the materials used are cotton, denim, vinyl, and leather. The bags range in price from 15 to 40 dollars.

“Getting out there wasn’t hard for me. I got help from my friends, relatives and school. I wasn’t scared. I was excited. Many people were looking up to me.”

Fannae says her biggest challenge was drawing up a business plan. She went through 16 drafts before settling on the one she would present to investors and marketers in the contest. This past year, FEW Pocketbooks made a very modest profit of around \$300 and Walters hopes to double that profit figure this year.

While Fannae would encourage other young people to start their own businesses, she reminds them to keep their priorities straight. She find it challenging for her to juggle the demands of her business with academic responsibilities. She wants to go to college and the SAT’s are coming up. For now though, she enjoys it when people tell her “I’ve heard of you!”



TSSI HOLIDAY PARTY



TOYS FOR TOTS



**Toys for Tots
Christmas Drive**





Philadelphia Housing Authority
Building Beyond Expectations

PH/MTE/Family Services Program Homebuyers Club Workshops

(Please plan to attend both sessions when registering)

Workshop 1
Sponsored by Wells Fargo Home Mortgage

Workshop 2
Sponsored by Wachovia Mortgage Corp.

Workshop 3
Sponsored by Citizen's Bank

FSS Center
N 1516 Judson Way, Comm. Room
23rd & Jefferson Street

FSS Center
N 1516 Judson Way, Comm. Room
23rd & Jefferson Street

Strawbridge Building
8th & Market – 13th Floor
Community Area

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

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January 11, 2007 6pm - 8pm
February 10, 2007 10am - 12pm

January 20, 2007 10am - 12pm
February 15, 2007 6pm - 8pm

January 24, 2007 9:30am - 11:30am
February 7, 2007 9:30am - 11:30am

First Time Homeownership Orientation

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

First Time Homeownership Orientation

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

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.

Budgeting & Money Management

Learn how to define income and expenses.

Budgeting & Money Management

Learn how to define income and expenses.

January 18, 2007 6pm - 8pm
February 17, 2007 10am - 12pm

January 27, 2007 10am - 12pm
February 22, 2007 6pm - 8pm

January 31, 2007 9:30am - 11:30am
February 14, 2007 9:30am - 11:30am

Credit Repair/Home Inspection

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

Credit Repair/Home Inspection

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

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HCV Landlords Improve City Living

Steve Silverman is a Philadelphian, born and bred. "This is my city, and I want to make it better," says the 55-year old landlord, who has been renting properties through PHA's Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program for the past 16 years.

Silverman views renting affordable housing to tenants as one way of making Philadelphia better. "We're all Philadelphians and we're all Americans. If we can help each other out, we should," he says.

Silverman owns single-family homes and some apartments throughout the city. He has close to 100 of them rented out through the HCV program. He

began working with PHA because he heard they were looking for "good landlords and nice properties; and I'm pretty proud of my properties."

"For the most part, the tenants have been cooperative," he notes. "My feeling is that if you do the right thing by people, people do the right thing by you. If someone calls about a repair, you try to give them a repair as soon as possible."

Silverman appreciates the leadership structure at PHA, which helps create a smooth relationship between the landlords and tenants. "(Executive Director) Carl Greene, (Assistant Executive Director) Carolyn Carter and (General

Manager for Client Services) Keith Caldwell...they all push the operation upwards in trying to do the right thing for all. They don't favor the landlord or favor the tenant. If there is a problem, they try to handle or mediate the situation." Silverman calls Caldwell, "the most fair-handed working person I've run across."

He also appreciates the situation of many of his tenants. "A lot of them have been through the wringer. They've suffered through circumstances and you're glad to help them." Silverman says you can contact him directly at (215) 744-7070 to learn more about his HCV properties.



Steve Silverman owns close to 100 properties throughout Philadelphia rented to HCV Customers

Modernized Housing Delights HCV Tenants



Samuel Ballard modernizes single-family houses for HCV customer rentals.

After 20 years developing mini-storage warehouses throughout the country, Samuel Ballard was looking for a change of pace. A friend told him about PHA's Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program. It seemed to offer him a decent income and a way to use the expertise he had gained.

"It's working out extremely well," says Ballard. "I have an opportunity to locate housing, renovate it and then provide it to a family that really needs a place to live."

"A lot of people are delighted with

the product that we are providing," he adds. Currently Ballard rents 55 single-family homes through the program.

Ballard says that he purchases properties that are dilapidated; then he and his crew go inside and renovate the place completely. "The tenants receive a modernized house they can really call home," he says. He points out that 98 percent of his tenants are people, "I've been very comfortable with and are comfortable with me."

He receives referrals through news-

paper ads, sign placements, PHA housing fairs, and word of mouth. Clients then undergo a rigorous selection process involving a personal interview and credit check.

So far, Ballard has been very pleased with the results. "The tenants are proud of their homes, and they take care of them. They are always engaged in doing things around the house."

If you are interested in learning more about Ballard's HCV rental opportunities, feel free to call him at (856) 235-4300.

Steps to Achieving the American Dream

By Mia M. Graves (proud new homeowner)

Buying a home is a major decision, but a lot of people feel that barriers hold them back. This feeling can change with the proper motivation, determination and willingness to achieve.

In order to get the ball rolling you should sign up for the Homebuyer's Club Workshops by contacting Gilbert Vega at PHA's Homeownership Department. This program was set up to give potential homeowners an overview of everything they need to know about buying a home. These workshops are usually held two days a month and last about two hours. "The workshops were created to inform the first time homebuyer of situations that may arise during their mortgage process," according to Vega. The workshop is required if you are planning to participate in PHA's Resident Mortgage Assistance Program. This program is offered to Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) clients that meet certain requirements including attending the first time homebuyer workshop, pre-purchase counseling, work history of a year or more, and a minimum income of \$10,300.

Once you've decided that you are ready to take the next step, what's next? After attending the first time homebuyers' workshops you should know whether you are ready to move on to the next step or if instead you have to create an action plan.



Temple senior, PHA intern and new homeowner Mia Graves.

your approval rate and how much you can spend. The process may seem like it's never ending, but once it's all done you can appreciate what you've accomplished. Laura Hesson from PHA's Homeownership department said, "The mortgage process can be overwhelming to the first time homebuyer, but we are here to make sure that it goes as smoothly as possible."

Once you have the mortgage pre-approval on hand you are ready to look for a house. This is when you should find a realtor, and determine what you want in a home. After you have found the house you put down a deposit to take it off of the market, sign the contract

and set up a closing date. At closing you are handed your keys and have obtained the American Dream...homeownership.

The Home buying process for me was extremely difficult, because attending college made my debt to income ratio very high. I was getting approvals from banks but based on my income and debt the approval was not enough for what I wanted. I knew that I wanted a house, a nice house and in a nice area, and I was determined to get what I wanted without having to settle. So I had to go on a quest, a quest to find the best mortgage with the best interest rate that would get me the house I wanted. I tried many lenders including a lot of banks and brokers. I decided that a brokerage would be better than a bank, because they would allow me to borrow what I needed. After an online search, the lending companies started calling me. I spoke with a few and found the perfect lender. The representative would always call and e-mail me to let me know what was going on, unlike the others. A week before closing I was sent a list of documents that I had to complete. I started to panic, but realized that I could do it. When it was time to go to the closing table I was happy, but wasn't sure if the funding was actually going to go through, but it did. Now my son and I have something that we can call our own. Homeownership is a great feeling.

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Free Harvard Education Possible

Great news if you want to earn a college degree at one of the best universities in the world - for free. Harvard University has announced that undergraduate students with excellent grades

from low-income families may apply for a program where they pay no tuition if their family makes less than \$60,000 a year. In addition, Harvard is offering reduced fees for students from families with incomes between \$60,000 and \$80,000.

To find out more, visit Harvard's financial aid website at: www.news.harvard.edu/gazette/daily/2006/03/30-finaid.html or call the school's financial aid initiative student office at (617) 384-8213.

Reading STARS Coaches Light the Way

For some children, reading is a magic carpet that carries them off to worlds of adventure and fantasy. For others, it is a locked door that leaves them out in the cold.

PHA employees are helping children find the key to that door by volunteering to coach Philadelphia Public School first graders through Reading STARS, a one-on-one structured literacy program. Every Tuesday, first graders from John Welsh Elementary School in North Philadelphia, some of whom live in PHA housing, pile into PHA's meeting room. They are greeted with warm smiles and hugs by PHA employee/coaches who use their lunch hour to participate.

"We're doing something meaningful," explains Tony Alveario. "We're reaching out to young people who would otherwise not be touched by PHA. This does make a difference in a child's life."

Tony, a former Montessori teacher, points out that these children do not have severe learning problems, "they just missed a step along the way. If they miss these steps at the beginning, they are lost. We are saving these kids. Some day, these kids might be doctors or lawyers because of this program."

"I'm glad PHA is doing this," says Velda Gullap. "You don't often get a chance to be so helpful in the community."

Velda describes her student Ashley as very businesslike in her approach.

"Ashley is a smart little girl. She comes to do what she's supposed to do. Everything else is off-limits. Reading is what she comes to learn, and that's what she concentrates on."

When Patricia Clear and Glenda Truesdale began coaching Leoni, she was very quiet and shy. Two months into the program, "she's outspoken and laughing," say the women.

Patricia and Glenda are partner-



"Now she's outspoken and laughing," says PHA employee Glenda Truesdale of Leoni, who she co-coaches with Patricia Clear.

ing in the project. Both have demanding jobs that prevent them from individually committing to participating once a week, but they feel the program is important and want to be a part of it. "Patricia knows my schedule, and I know hers," points out Glenda. Leoni has created relationships with both coaches. "When I come, I tell her 'Miss Patricia asked about you.' And we bring her a little gift—a pencil or something."

Both women have high praise for the program and the ease of using the materials provided.

"You just have to keep eye contact. That one-on-one makes a big difference. You don't get that when you're in a class with 35 kids."

The program is administrated through the volunteer organization Philadelphia CARES. Frankie Lancos, director of public affairs, explains that the program is aimed at any child who is struggling to read. "The schools choose the kids who benefit the most."

According to Phila CARES executive director Lissa Hilsee, there are 10,000 children in Philadelphia alone who need this help. Last year there were 300 participants in Reading STARS. The

program more than doubled this year and has a goal of serving 1,000 children by the end of the school year 2007.

The system uses a script that can be read by anyone with a fifth grade education. Best of all, the results are measurable—the children are tested before and after the sessions begin. On average, children in the program increase their reading level by two and a half grades.

"I think this is something PHA should continue to do," says PHA coach Patricia. "It makes a major difference in these children's lives."

The PHA Experience

The Residents' Newspaper
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Interactive Voice Response System

(Cont. from Page 5)

emergencies. Use the phone menu option for PHA Police only for non-emergency business calls.

Customers need to have their client number handy when they call. The IVR system will ask for that number as soon as your call is answered. Entering the ID number speeds up the process and helps you get information faster. The system does NOT ask you for your Social Security number; the client number is the one PHA uses to keep track of your records.

The top two questions are 'Where's my check?' and 'Where am I on the waiting list?' This information is available through the automated system as long as the customer enters their ID number, according to Doreen.

Wilburn-Smith says PHA could never hire enough call center operators to answer all the calls that come in, so the IVR system is a valuable resource. She says customers are still getting comfortable with the system. In the process they get information first from the IVR and

then talk to a real employee to be sure that what they heard was accurate. Once they get comfortable with the fact that the system is accurate, that should change.

Ultimately, Doreen says, the new IVR system will help PHA improve upon its services to customers. As the system gathers data based on your phone calls, the agency can see where trends are developing and react accordingly. So, clip the coupon next to this story and use the IVR for better service, now and in the future.

PHA Continues Redevelopment

(Cont. from Page 3)

Marshall Shepard Village, a portion of PHA's continuing investment in West Philadelphia.

In North Philadelphia, PHA breaks ground in April on a 64-apartment senior building next to the agency's Johnson Homes site. This facility, called Nellie Reynolds Gardens, will also have a 12,000 square foot Living Independently for Elders (LIFE) Center on the ground floor. In East Falls, PHA is building 28 affordable homes for sale at its Falls Ridge site, where 135 rental units

are already occupied.

In addition to the affordable housing being built by PHA there are plans for market rate housing as well. The DePaul Group will begin construction on 275 market-rate homes on PHA's old Passyunk site in South Philadelphia; and the Westrum Company is building 128 market-rate homes at Falls Ridge.

PHA is also building two multi-use buildings, a 30,000 square foot office and training building on the grounds of Greater Grays Ferry Estates in South Philadelphia and an 80,000 square foot building on

the site of the former Passyunk Homes.

Whether PHA can continue its active construction program after this latest round is an open question. According to Greene, "unfortunately, with drastic funding cuts now hitting us from Washington, we simply won't be able to maintain this level of activity much longer."

Construction begins in March on Nellie Reynolds Gardens, a 64-apartment senior building next to Johnson Homes in North Philadelphia.

New Careers in Welding at Shipyard

(Cont. from Page 1)

and Haas, Tram Rail, PECO, General Electric, the Philadelphia School District, and SEPTA. Turner says the demand for welders is great both inside and outside of Philadelphia. He has no problem placing any of his students. All they need to do is make sure they have a car or some form of transportation to get to the job sites.

ITTI will train graduates of PHA's Pre-apprenticeship program in flux cored welding, so they can go to work at the Aker Philadelphia Shipyard. The flux cored process is widely used in construction. The

training program runs four to five weeks. "There's always been a demand for welders," Turner says. "The problem is many people don't know about welding as a career. There's a lot of work out there."

He believes the lack of qualified welders is a matter of perception by young people who don't want to get their hands dirty and have a bent toward white-collar jobs. Yet, welding is a challenging job that pays well. "I'm starting entry level students who are averaging over \$14 an hour," Turner says. "The highest one is making \$32 an hour. Some people get as much as \$36 an hour."

Jim Clark of Aker agrees. "If you enjoy working with your hands, creating something from nothing by joining steel into various shapes and sizes...welding is for you. Once you learn the skill with your hands, apply your technical knowledge with your head and add a little bit of your heart, no one can ever take that away from you. It is not an easy job for the men and women who do it, but it can be a rewarding job."

PHA residents who are interested in signing up for this program should contact the Pre-apprenticeship program at 215-684-8049. The next session begins this month.

Resident Becomes Business Owner

(Cont. from Page 3)

"I always wanted to have my own business. I just never found a business that was good for me until I started painting," Tracy says.

Hiring a painting contractor can be expensive, mainly because of the cost of materials. Tracy advises her customers to buy the paint and materials from local warehouses on their own,

so those customers pay only for her labor. Contractors usually tack surcharges onto the cost of materials, greatly raising the cost of completing a job.

And as a business owner, Burton understands the value of a dollar. It cost her \$8,700 to start the business. She used her savings to pay for licenses, insurance, and the equipment need-

ed to run the company.

The company struggled at first, but she recently received contracts to clean two restaurants and another to remodel a private home. Tradot has also been doing work for The Ingerman Group, an umbrella of companies focused on residential real estate development, management and construction.

Tracy received inspiration from

Juanita Maiga, Assistant General Manager for Scattered Sites. She admired Juanita's attitude and ambition, and her rise through the ranks at PHA.

As for the future, Tracy Burton plans to be an employer who helps people that were in the same predicament that she was. She wants to show them that ambition and hard work do pay off.



Children prepare for aerobics at the Point Breeze after school program.

After School Programs at Three Local Schools

We usually think of after school programs as study, study, study. But PHA has a better idea. Yes, studying is the main course for kids but the program is also seasoned with fun activities including dancing, drama and art. In addition, field trips take kids to a museum, an art institute, a skating rink or a movie.

For five years, the Point Breeze Performing Arts Center has been running these after school programs for PHA, Monday through Friday at Mantua Hall, Johnson Homes, Greater Grays Ferry Estates (GGFE) and the John F. Street Community Center. Activities are determined by the needs at each site. President and CEO Donna Brown says, "the program is absolutely worthwhile and I applaud PHA for taking this initiative. As we partner with PHA we try to provide quality programs for residents so they can become well rounded citizens."

Aisha Brown from Johnson Homes is just one of about 150 children from PHA that takes advantage of this free after school program, "I've been in the program for six years. It teaches us discipline and helps me with my homework. Since I've been here, my grades have gotten better. I love our workshops especially dance. This is the best program I've been to."

PHA picked Point Breeze to manage its after school program because of its long success record. Since 1983 Donna and Albert Brown have run the Point Breeze Performing Arts Center in South Philadelphia, a program that has impacted the lives of thousands of young people in the city. In addition to the after school activities, the Center has a jazz ensemble, a ballet class, a dance company, and instructs young adults in the field of the performing arts.

The after school program is sponsored by PHA, Philadelphia Safe & Sound and the Children Investment Strategy. Children from seven to 18 years old can participate. Your children can join at anytime. For more information call (215) 755-1014.

Scattered Sites Resident Ready to Go Out On Her Own

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(Cont. from Page 3)
 "I always wanted to have my own business. I just never found a busi-

ness that was good for me until I started painting," Tracy says.
 Hiring a painting con-

tractor can be expensive, mainly because of the cost of materials. Tracy advises her customers to buy

the paint and materials from local warehouses on their own, so those customers pay only for her labor. Contractors usually tack surcharges onto the cost of materials, greatly raising the cost of completing a job.

And as a business owner, Burton understands the value of a dollar. It cost her \$8,700 to start the business. She used her savings to pay for licenses, insurance,

and the equipment needed to run the company.

The company struggled at first, but she recently received contracts to clean two restaurants and another to remodel a private home. Tradot has also been doing work for The Ingerman Group, an umbrella of companies focused on residential real estate development, management and construction.

Tracy received inspiration from Juanita Maiga,

Assistant General Manager for Scattered Sites. She admired Juanita's attitude and ambition, and her rise through the ranks at PHA.

As for the future, Tracy Burton plans to be an employer who helps people that were in the same predicament that she was. She wants to show them that ambition and hard work do pay off.

Employee Goes the Extra Mile



Nola Mitchell, (71 years old), who lives at Parkview, enjoys some Christmas cheer, a meal delivered by Marcia Sadler.

(Cont. from Page 1)

"I have a giving spirit and I enjoy doing it," she says. "I was raised with the idea that when you extend yourself unconditionally, you get it back tenfold. The greatest reward is seeing that you've made someone happy, more than any material thing."

Visiting the shut-ins, Sadler says, is important spiritually, as well as physically, because they have few visitors, if any. At Christmastime, she gives out gifts and schedules a luncheon for all the elderly residents.

The gifts are generally things that residents can use, such as socks, can-

dles, and umbrellas. These are small items, but they mean a lot to people who have very little.

As for the cost of all this, Marcia says money is immaterial. "'Cause I'm blessed. When you give, God blesses a cheerful giver."

Step Up, Speak Up to stop crime

(Cont. from Page 5)

There has to be community involvement. They have to step up and do the right thing."

Rose Bryant, resident leader at Liddonfield Home agrees, and she is working to bring a Step Up, Speak Up event to her neighborhood. "I think it's a good program, because there is a lot of crime, but no one is step-

ping up," she says.

"Everyone says the police should get better, but really we should all get better. If we see something, we can make a phone call. If we don't speak up, the criminals will take over everything."

Although people think of the FBI as an agency focused on terrorism, the agency is also very com-

mitted to stopping crime. "Most people are more afraid of being shot than a terrorist attack," says Weis. He adds that if any part of a crime violates federal law, the FBI is able to pursue the investigation, so the crime is tried in federal, not state or local courts, and, if found guilty, the criminals land in federal prisons.

"If we can get involved, we can move a [victim's] family to protect them. In the federal system, criminals serve 80 percent of their terms, and they serve far away from where they committed the crime," according to Weis. He believes that communities are better protected this way.

The Step Up, Speak Up program was founded in Philadelphia, although other cities are now adopting it. It was originally developed through the FBI's partnership with Mothers in Charge (a national program led by mothers who have lost a child through violence.) This program also began in Philadelphia, created by mothers who believe their sons would be alive today if someone had spoken out, Weis says.

For more information or to schedule a community rally, call Natasha Gale at 215-418-4381 or visit the Step Up, Speak Up web site, www.Stepupspeakup.com.

The PHA Experience • January 2007

www.pha.phila.gov



Adult Day Health Care

101 East Olney Avenue • Philadelphia, PA 19120
 Phone: 215-549-3444
 Fax: 215-549-5239
 Visit Us @ www.GraceADHC.com

At GRACE ADULT DAY HEALTH CARE, we offer care, assistance and social opportunities to seniors while giving respite to their families and caregivers.

At GRACE ADULT DAY HEALTH CARE, people with health problems, Alzheimer's disease, chronic illnesses, or physical disabilities are able to continue to live in the community while receiving professional services in a group setting.

At GRACE ADULT DAY HEALTH CARE, we found that involvement in an adult day care program can increase a senior's health and outlook.



At GRACE ADULT DAY HEALTH CARE, we provide a safe and caring setting for adults who do not wish to or cannot be left home alone.

At GRACE ADULT DAY HEALTH CARE, seniors can socialize with their peers and participate in outings and activities, as well as be supported with services that include licensed nursing care and nutritious meals.

We provide transportation to and from the center - Assistance with personal care.
 Small groups and individual activities - bingo, crafts, chess and a library!
 Funding is mostly provided by state, or city run agencies to eligible individuals.
 Some long-term care insurance policies may provide coverage.

For more information, or to arrange a facility tour, call: 215-549-3444

Irina Levin, Program Director

NOTICE TO SENIORS AND THE DISABLED

What would you say if we told you - you don't have to pay your credit card bills immediately? Most of our clients say, "Thank you." If your only income is from social security, disability payments, pensions or veteran's benefits - federal law states that your income can't be taken away to repay debt. You don't have to pay, and you don't have to endure frustrating calls and letters from collection agencies. You can live worry free as thousands of our clients do.

- DCSD shelters you from harassment
- DCSD protects your income
- DCSD is not a bankruptcy

Stop creditors from breaking the law - trying to collect debts you can't pay. An alternative for seniors and the disabled who don't need a bankruptcy and can't afford one.

Call Debt Counsel for Seniors and the Disabled at 1-800-992-3275 EXT. 1304

Debt Counsel for Seniors & the Disabled



Founded in 1998
 Jerome S. Lamet
 Founder and Supervising Attorney
 Former Bankruptcy Trustee
www.debtcounsel.net



Community Partners Training Programs



Administrative Assistant Job Readiness Program & Financial Services Job Readiness Program

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

Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Medical Billing Pharmacy Technician

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

Customer Service Training Commercial Drivers License Janitorial/Housekeeping Training

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

Home Maintenance Repair Program

Orleans Technical Institute
1330 Rhawn Street
Philadelphia, PA 19111

Hospitality Training Programs

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

Job Placement/Job Coaching

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

Medical Billing

Creative Urban Educational Systems
121 N Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Personal & Financial Development

If you want to develop a plan for your future, this agency is for you. The program includes: Life Skills Development, Career Guidance, family finance, Job Search Assistance, and household management.

MET
3801 Market Street Suite 2002
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Self-Employment Program

Enterprise Center
4548 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19139

To Register: contact your Economic Self-Sufficiency coordinator (see page 12). Most programs have rolling admissions & **tuition is free.**



PHA and Philadelphia Department of Public Health have partnered to provide you affordable health services*

Services for adults and children include:

- ⚙ Medical
- ⚙ Dental
- ⚙ Podiatry
- ⚙ Family planning
- ⚙ Childhood vaccines
- ⚙ Pharmacy services
- ⚙ X-ray & lab services



Health Care Center Locations

In North Philadelphia

Health Center #5
1900 North 20th Street
215.685.2933 - Medical Services
215.685.2938 - Dental Services

Health Center #6
321 West Girard Avenue
215.685.3803 - Medical Services
215.685.3816 - Dental Services

Strawberry Mansion

Health Center
2840 West Dauphin Street
215.685.2401 - Medical Services

In West Philadelphia

Health Center #3
555 South 43rd Street
215-685-7504 - Medical Services
215.685.7506 - Dental Services

Health Center #4
4400 Haverford Avenue
215-685-7601 - Medical Services
215.685.7605 - Dental Services

In Germantown

Health Center #9
131 East Cheltenham Avenue
215-685-5701 - Medical Services
215.685.2938 - Dental Services

In South Philadelphia

Health Center #2
1720 South Broad Street
215-685-1803 - Medical Services
215.685.1822 - Dental Services

In Northeast Philadelphia

Health Center #10
2230 Cottman Avenue
215-685-0639 - Medical Services
215.685.0608 - Dental Services

**Sliding scale fee based on family size and income. Bring proof that you live in Philadelphia. Bring any medical benefits documents.*



Philadelphia Housing Authority
Building Beyond Expectations

Carl R. Greene, Executive Director



PHILADELPHIA
Health Care Centers
Quality Health Care For All Philadelphians