

The PHA Experience



Philadelphia
Housing Authority

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Five Pre-Apprenticeship Grads Make History



Four of the newest graduates of PHA's Pre-Apprenticeship Program who have entered the Electrician's Union IBEW Local 98 pose with their instructor. From (Left to Right) Shelton Mack, Alex Perez - Electrical Instructor, Jeffrey Ragin, Syreeta Anderson, and Robert Allen.

Five graduates of PHA's award winning Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program have made history with their acceptance into the Electricians Union. The five range in age from 19 to 43. They represent the largest number of program graduates to enter The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 98 at one time. George Johnson, the coordinator of the program, says a total of 15 Pre-Apprenticeship graduates are now members of one of Philadelphia's premier

building trade unions.

These graduates are trailblazers, helping Local 98 to ensure that the union's membership becomes more diverse. The five proud grads are Gregory Bryant, Syreeta Anderson, Robert Allen, Shelton Mack, and Jeffrey Ragin.

George Johnson says he was ecstatic when he learned that five graduates had passed the difficult electrical exam; it is the most challenging union to join. He says their chances of finishing the upcoming five-year program and gaining their journeymen's card are very good because of their talent and their math skills. "The exam currently used by the union is a very strong exam. The people who pass it are pretty good at what they do, and have great opportunities to go further in the trades," he says.

Another first occurred recently when Clair Aikens, who graduated in the 12th cycle and entered the union earlier this year, achieved her dream of entering Local 98's telecommunications program. She is the first woman ever admitted to the program and possesses architect-

tural drafting skills as well as electrical skills.

Alex Perez, the Pre-Apprenticeship instructor from Local 98, is very proud of these graduates. He says their commitment to the program was very high.

"When they passed, I felt so elated; they have set a new standard for our program," Perez exclaimed. "They had determination. A couple of them told me they were born to be electricians. It's just amazing, really."

Perez says he teaches life skills as well as electrical principles in his instruction. Good personal habits and discipline are important to be successful as an electrician, he says, because working in this trade is a "life-altering career."

Jeffrey Ragin, the youngest member of this class (at age 19), had graduated from Parkway High School in West Philadelphia with plans to go to college or the Air Force. He was always good in math and says he would have probably studied accounting. Then, he learned

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Great Grandmother Earns Diploma

At age 65, most of us are happy just reaching for a social security check. Juanita Sprowal had other ideas. She happens to be one of PHA's newest high school graduates. Ms. Sprowal, who lives at Raymond Rosen, celebrated reaching retirement age by earning her diploma at William Penn High School.

She has a built-in fan club with six daughters, 12 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. She

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Graduate Juanita Sprowal surrounded by her six daughters (from left to right), Donna Sprowal, Gay Carroll, Carmella Rahman, Juanita Sprowal, Juanita A. Sprowal, Anita Gregory and Dawn Sprowal.

Harrison Residents in Iraq



Bessie Hoyle holding picture of two daughters from left to right Donna & Danielle Hoyle

One family from PHA's Harrison Plaza is giving more than its share to the U.S. military effort in Iraq. Donna and Danielle Hoyle are over there, putting their lives on the line everyday.

While fighting half way around the world, Donna and Danielle have their roots in Philadelphia. They write and call often to keep tabs on family and friends at Harrison, located near Temple University in North Philadelphia. Their mother, Bessie, has lived at

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MLK: Next Hot Spot for Homeownership

PHA has begun marketing beautiful new affordable homes at another rebuilt development. The first of what will be 90 homes for sale have just gone on the market at Martin Luther King, just south of Center City.

"That's going to be a hot place," says Linda Staley, head of PHA's homeownership department. "All of our homeownership properties have been very popular but we expect this one to soar to the top of the list," she says.

Like PHA's other homeownership sites, MLK offers three and four-bedroom homes. The prices are a bit

higher because the homes are located so close to the Avenue of the Arts and South Street. But the homes are still affordable for moderate-income families.



New townhouses in South Phila. for sale at PHA's Martin Luther King Development

Wachovia Bank is playing a large role in the homeownership effort at MLK. It provided the financing to build the houses, and just as it did at other PHA homeownership sites, it will have mortgage representatives at the sales office to help applicants through the process.

The first homes at the Martin Luther King development will be ready for move-in by March and the

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PHA Appeal Leads to Donation for Katrina Family

A local labor leader, responding to an appeal from PHA, has made this holiday season a much happier one for a Gulf Coast family left homeless by Hurricane Katrina. The recipient of his kindness believes it was divine guidance that caused his act of generosity.

Ken Washington, Director of Governmental Relations for Local 332 of the Laborers Union, donated \$1,000 to the victim and her family. They came to Philadelphia from a shelter for abused women in Mississippi.

Washington responded to an appeal by PHA Commissioner Nellie Reynolds and Corliss Gray, a long-time resident activist, during the September meeting of the Housing Association of Delaware Valley (HADV). Gray is on the staff at HADV while Reynolds sits on the group's board. Washington is the vice-chairman of HADV.

Shortly after the appeal, Washington said his family foundation would give \$1,000 to a family in need.

And this family certainly was in need. They were living at a shelter in Mississippi to stay away from an abusive father. But they lost even their shelter when the incredible storm came through and wiped out most of the town. The family wants to remain anonymous for fear that the father might locate them, but is clearly thankful not only for the fact that Philadelphia took them in but that people here cared enough to provide extra money.

The Gulf Coast woman told The PHA Experience that she was very surprised



Ken Washington responded to PHA appeal to help a Katrina family.

and very grateful, even shocked, by the \$1,000 donation. She used the money to buy some necessities for her family and a few things to make her kids happy again.

"I really would appreciate it if you do tell them that I greatly appreciate what they've done," she says.

The woman also believes that the donation was an act of God. "When people are giving from their heart, I say it's God, it's a blessing. When they have a heart for another person that they don't even know, that is just overwhelming to me."

Washington works as the Director of Governmental Relations for Local 332 of the Laborers Union. He says he and his family feel very fortunate. They wanted to help another family in need through Washington & Associates, the family foundation run by his sister, Karen.

"My sister and I have been truly blessed," he says. "There's no way we couldn't do something. We thought \$1,000 could help a family more." Washington also says they also made the donation to encourage others to follow in their footsteps, if not with money, then with their time and talent.

"As long as I have something, I have to share it. It wasn't given to be mine. It was given to me to bless someone else. We believe bread tossed upon the water will come back a thousand fold," he says.

Washington and others here in Philadelphia show by their actions why we call this the city of brotherly love and sisterly affection.

Katrina Evacuees Make New Home In Philadelphia

To borrow from someone else's phrase, victims of Hurricane Katrina have a friend in Philadelphia. In fact, they have lots of friends. Hundreds of people evacuated from the devastated Gulf Coast region relocated to Philadelphia and were welcomed by the city, PHA and its residents.

Pictures on TV of citizens who had lost everything compelled Mayor John Street to call Washington, and offer to house evacuees. The city first set up Katrina headquarters at the Wanamaker school building in North Philadelphia. PHA employees joined workers from the school district in volunteering many hours around the clock to get the school ready for evacuees. Then PHA took the new arrivals on tours of available housing, with



PHA residents and employees prepare lunch for Katrina evacuees.

executive director Carl Greene personally playing the role of tour guide. At each stop, residents of PHA communities greeted the newcomers with hugs and warm welcomes.

The first family to move into a PHA property was Norman and Tabitha Jackson. The Jackson's were extremely pleased and exclaimed, "PHA and the city have not just given us a place to live, but a sense of well being. We lived hundreds of miles away and had nothing when we came to Philadelphia. After the warm treatment we have received from the Housing Authority, we plan to make this city our new home."

To make our out of town evacuees seem more like guests, Commissioner Nellie Reynolds spearheaded a down home southern-style meal at the Johnson Homes

development. Residents, assisted by PHA staff, produced a scrumptious meal complete with entertainment. Katrina victims seemed surprised at how we Northerners could make Southern food taste so good. Of course, we didn't tell them our secret; the lead cooks were from the South or have family from the southern climes.

Shameem Choudhury from New Orleans spoke for many of the evacuees, "everything was great, the decorations, the music and especially the food. This is the closest you can get to a home cooked meal." Commissioner Reynolds brought home the feeling of the residents, the city and PHA, "we're just trying to help families rebuild and become whole again. This is what we're about, extending a hand to our brothers and sisters."



Norma and Tabitha Jackson are presented with keys to their new home by PHA Exec. Dir. Carl Greene.



Cake served at the lunch welcoming new residents.

Campaign Begins to Recruit Resident Councils

Residents of PHA communities have the opportunity to influence the agency's policies and decision-making. Yet, many residents are missing the chance to vote, speak up and be heard through their Resident Councils. Some PHA sites are without representation at all.

With that in mind, Asia Coney, President of the Resident Advisory Board has begun a new campaign to encourage more residents to get involved, especially as PHA rebuilds its sites and offers more services. Your input is critical to the success of the agency and its ability to maintain a high level of customer satisfaction level.

"Resident Councils have a significant role in the formation of partnerships that will improve the quality of life for public and assisted housing residents. They are critical, in that they are elected by residents to be the voice of the residents," Coney says.

Resident Council members are active participants in the management and policy making of PHA. They identify strategies to improve conditions for PHA residents. Residents at each site elect council members.

Resident Organizations make up the Resident Advisory Board (RAB). The board works to improve the living conditions of PHA residents by coordinating the efforts of Resident Councils citywide. The RAB consults and advises the PHA Board of Commissioners on issues that affect public housing.

Resident Councils and the Resident Advisory Board are a relatively new idea, less than 40 years old. Public housing residents had little or no say in the deci-

sion-making process before 1965 when the U-S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) was formed. Before the birth of HUD, residents had to join various neighborhood and political committees to get relief on various issues. They could also complain to Washington, but there was no process and no guarantee that they'd get the changes they were seeking.

The creation of HUD led to the formation of Resident Councils and the Resident Advisory Board. The board was formed in 1969 and incorporated in 1971.

The impetus for the Resident Advisory Board and the Resident Councils came in the late '60's. A tenant activist filed a complaint with HUD requesting that it withhold funds from PHA's modernization program. The complaint contained a demand that residents receive the right to take part in the design and implementation of the program.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in 1969 to resolve the matter. The agreement was made between the Tasker Homes Resident Council, the Richard Allen Resident Council, the Association for the Improvement of Richard Allen, and the Philadelphia Housing Authority.

In 1970, a PHA resident was appointed to the Board of Commissioners. Resident leaders asked city officials to include a public housing resident on the PHA board. The City Controller appointed the first resident member from a list of names submitted by the Resident Advisory Board (RAB). Today, Nellie Reynolds, a Johnson Homes resident, sits on the PHA Board of

Commissioners.

PHA residents have more input today and more control over their lives and surroundings. The Resident Advisory Board guards against unfair practices, sees that residents have good, quality services, and even has input on the selection of PHA's Executive Director, while advising the PHA Board and the City. The board and others like it also have national recognition.

"The Housing Authorities consult with them on conditions, proposed policies, modernization and all other issues," Asia Coney says.

Resident Councils at each site see that maintenance programs live up to their names. They regularly review the performance of site superintendents and managers, and they have input on the budget for each site.

"Another major responsibility for the councils is getting information out to residents and regularly hosting community meetings to hear from and represent the position of the residents at their site or area," Coney says.

PHA residents who are at least 18 years old, the head of their household and in good standing are eligible to serve on the Resident Council at their site. Each council has five officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer.

If you have a desire to serve your community on the Resident Council, call Tenant Support Services, Inc. (TSSI) at 215-684-1016 for more information.

Senior Programs Events...

January

- January 6** Happy Birthday Celebration
TBA
10:00AM — 2:00PM
- January 10** Senior Advisory Board Meeting
Bentley Hall
10:00AM — 12:00PM
- January 17** Senior Town Meeting
TBA
1:00PM — 3:00PM
- January 27** Senior Day - Super Bowl Friday (Dobbins High)
Wilson Park
11:00AM — 3:00PM

February

- February 14** Sweet Heart Health Fair
John F. Street Community Center
10:00AM — 12:00PM
- February 21** Senior Town Meeting
TBA
1:00PM — 3:00PM

March

- March 21** Senior Town Meeting
TBA
1:00PM — 3:00PM

April

- April 7** Happy Birthday Celebration
TBA
10:00AM — 2:00PM
- April 11** Senior Advisory Board Meeting
TBA
10:00AM — 12:00PM
- April 18** Senior Town Meeting
TBA
1:00PM — 3:00PM
- April 21** Volunteer Luncheon
Spirit of Philadelphia
12:00AM — 4:00PM

May (Older Adult Month)

- May 12** Spring Fling Fashion Show
Wilson Park
11:00AM — 3:00PM
- May 16** Senior Town Meeting
TBA
1:00PM — 3:00PM

Pre-Apprentice Program Grads Join Electricians Union

(Cont from Page 1)

about the Pre-Apprenticeship program from several sources, including The PHA Experience.

"I felt the benefits would come sooner by entering the trades instead of taking four years in college to begin work," he says. "My parents were behind me 100 percent. They're probably happier than I am right now about being in the electrician's union. They see that I have a good chance to be successful while I'm young." Ragin's father is a truck driver for Yellow Freight Lines who has also worked as a mechanic. His mother is a bus driver for the Philadelphia School District.

"Unflappable" Commander Raymond Hartfield



When asked for the one word that best describes Commander Raymond Hartfield, his boss says "unflappable." Commander Hartfield has been with the PHA Police Department for his entire career or more than 31 years, after a three-year stint in the military. He handles a wide range of responsibilities that affect you.

PHA Police Chief Richard Zappile says Hartfield has been a steady influence in the department, keeping his focus no matter what the issue is or how stressful the situation might be.

Hartfield heads the Community Relations Unit that deals with domestic violence and resident conflicts. He also oversees the unit that arranges transportation if you need a ride to a PHA community event, meeting or other PHA activity.

If your neighbor is too noisy or has a serious problem affecting others, or if you are the victim of abuse Commander Hartfield is the one to call. His unit will provide transportation to court if necessary, serve protection orders and walk a resident through the entire process.

Chief Zappile says residents love the commander because of his helpful, easy going manner. Employees also appreciate him because he's a team player.

Commander Hartfield oversees several of PHA's youth related programs including: Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE), Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT), Youth Violence Reduction Partnership (YVRP) and the Explorers and Career Venturing Program.

His advice: empower yourself by taking control of your environment by getting involved with neighborhood community groups and by encouraging resident leaders to get involved.

Gregory Bryant, 43, the most senior member of the graduating class, graduated from Central High School. He was a gifted student who went on to Howard University in Washington before dropping out after two years due to personal problems. Then, Bryant drifted from job to job, working in retail, the grocery business, and also as an emergency medical technician for several private companies.

Greg says he learned about the Pre-Apprenticeship Program through a friend and from staff at the Family Self-Sufficiency program. He says he gained a lot of confidence after entering the program. It helped him

develop his math skills and excel at something like he has never excelled before.

"This is a perfect opportunity for me to embrace something that's always been a challenge (math) and then learn something that's very practical, then apply it," Bryant says. "For someone who's been squandering a lot of years, I feel that I can compensate for some of the lost time."

Bryant summed up his feelings about joining the electrician's union with a touch of humor. "In Genesis, what it really says is: God created electricians and electricians said let there be light!"

Dare To Be Great

During this fall-winter season we wish all of our residents and coworkers a happy and healthy holiday season. If knowledge is power, then the source is education. The Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program is designed to assist students to recognize and resist the pressure to experiment with drugs and understand how to avoid violence. Many of our children's schools are included because of the interest and excellent cooperation that exists between the School District of Philadelphia and the PHA's Police Department, and their united goal "to keep all children safe."

The DARE program, the pioneer preventive effort founded in Los Angeles in 1983, is going high-tech, interactive, and decision-model-based. The program has reinvented itself by incorporating the latest scientific preventive research with state of the art teaching techniques. Gone is the old-style approach to prevention in which a police officer stands behind a podium and lectures to straight rows. New DARE officers are trained as "coaches" to interact with students, facilitate small group discussions, creative role-plays and sup-

port kids with refusal based strategies in peer pressure situations.

In addition, children learn the facts regarding drugs such as tobacco, marijuana, alcohol and inhalants. They practice making healthy decisions based on authentic scenarios involving personal and peer pressure situations. They learn how to develop positive friendship foundations and alternatives to drugs and gangs. Officers coach children to empower themselves with the confidence to take charge of their life and make the right choices to avoid drugs and violence. This year, 26 million students in the US in over 12,000 communities and 80% of the school districts will benefit from the DARE program.

In order to qualify and participate in the DARE culmination and earn a Certificate of Achievement, a student must complete his/her DARE student planner, attend school, demonstrate good behavior, write a DARE report, keep their body drug free and assist with a school project. If you want to bring this important program to your school, have your school principal contact the PHA Police Department's DARE/GREAT Unit at 215-684-1069.

A Message from the Executive Director

I'd like to make an urgent appeal for you to do all you can to conserve energy this winter, for your benefit and for the benefit of other PHA clients. Every year we talk about conserving energy and keeping our utility bills paid, but this winter it's a higher priority than ever. You've probably heard about the steep increases in heating costs. PHA clients living in Scattered Site housing or participating in the Housing Choice Voucher Program will see those increases when their bills arrive. Those families must conserve to avoid rate shock. It is equally important that residents in PHA developments conserve. The more the agency has to spend on utilities the less it will have left to spend on housing and



Carl R. Greene

other programs.

We have already begun a series of energy workshops to teach conservation techniques. When you receive notice that a workshop is coming to your community please try to attend. You will hear directly from the utility companies on how to save energy and lower your bill. They will also discuss payment programs so you don't risk having your

heat turned off.

We are also investing in this campaign. We are the first housing authority to begin building Energy Star homes. They'll be coming on line next year at Lucien E. Blackwell Homes. Earlier, thanks to PECO, we installed solar panels on homes at Greater Grays Ferry Estates. We have begun replacing old toilets at PHA properties with new energy efficient models. We have asked our employees to keep the heat

no higher than 68 degrees in PHA offices.

Many factors have combined to bring about the energy cost crisis. We may all have our opinions on how we got into this predicament. But one thing's for sure: now that it's here we must contend with it. Attend an energy seminar. Work with us so we can help you and so that we can continue to provide quality housing for as many residents as possible. Thank you.

The PHA Experience

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People You Should Know



Linda Shaw

Linda Shaw has been with PHA for seven months and is a Program Manager for the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program. Linda supervises the recertification process for PHA residents, monitors all quality control issues, and the Housing Quality Standards (HQS) inspections.

Linda is proactive in responding to tenant concerns, such as making sure inspectors arrive when they are scheduled. She also oversees tenant requests for relocation. Linda also works closely with landlords regarding issues

such as rent payment and landlord obligations.

Her accomplishments at PHA result from Linda's positive attitude, but also from working within a teamwork environment. Linda says that the work in the HCV department is a team effort, "...it's me as a part of a team, not by myself." With that said, Linda has acquired the role of overseer of all things HCV, and her team assists her in all ways possible.

Linda holds a B.A. in Drama from San Diego State University and has obtained a Master's degree in Educational Administration from the University of Utah. Prior to becoming a part of the PHA team, Linda spent the past six years in Kansas working for Blue Hills Community Services for the Affordable Housing and Education Administration. Linda says, "I chose this position at PHA because it's a more hands on job focused on community which is more important to me than development."

Linda's favorite quote is, "Have faith and be patient, especially when things get stressful." You may contact Linda Shaw at 215-684-1570.



Georgette Galbreth

Georgette Galbreth is PHA's Manager of Construction Support. Her job is to make sure that PHA residents live in healthy homes. Her group makes repairs in cases of mold or bad indoor air quality and they also monitor levels of lead. Also, before PHA builds new homes, it's her team's job to get all the environmental approvals.

Galbreth came to PHA seven years ago from Detroit where she supervised that city's building inspectors. Before that, she was a remodeling contractor.

As part of her job, Georgette supervises PHA's Healthy Homes Program. The program targets safety and health hazards in Housing Choice Voucher

properties that can lead to asthma, lead poisoning, and allergies in children. PHA received a \$1 million grant from HUD earlier this year to pay for the program for the next three years.

As part of the program, Tenant Support Services, Inc. (TSSI) hired four residents (two Housing Choice and two from public housing) to inspect homes, particularly those with asthmatic children under six years old live.

Georgette says inspectors will train residents how to identify conditions that cause asthma in their homes and how to prevent their kids from having attacks. For example, leaky roofs or leaky plumbing can lead to mold problems that cause kids to have an asthma attack.

Galbreth says her goal, no matter what the program, is preventing illnesses and the conditions that cause them.

You can contact Georgette Galbreth at 215-684-5757.



Sherrie Bedford

Sherrie Bedford has been with PHA for nine years as a police officer and an instructor with PHA's Drug Abuse Resistance and Education Program - DARE. Officer Bedford worked as a bike patrol officer for the first five years at PHA, and then got involved in the DARE program, which she says has been the most fulfilling.

As DARE instructor for PHA, Sherrie is determined to teach children how to say no to drugs. She travels citywide to all schools adjacent to PHA developments to teach students from grades K-6 about issues such as: drug abuse, how to avoid violence, and how to make good decisions in life.

Officer Bedford has been acknowledged by her colleagues as a great DARE instructor, but also by the City of Philadelphia and its school district. She has received numerous community service awards and commendations from many schools in Philadelphia, including: the Good Samaritan award, and a community service plaque from the National Organization for Black Women in Law Enforcement. "I am really active in the lives of children, not only at PHA," she says.

Prior to joining PHA, Officer Bedford worked as a police officer for the Chester Housing Authority.

Officer Bedford has had a firm focus on law enforcement, but her passion seems to come from the love of teaching children about how to deal with life. She is a mother of two children, three foster children, and has two granddaughters. She says that her parents always told her "take care of your children and take care of your responsibilities, so I just picked up where they left off." You can contact Officer Bedford at 215-684-1069.



Sharon Robinson

Sharon Robinson is an asset manager in the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program and has been a member of the PHA family for 19 years. Over the years, Sharon has consistently moved up the PHA ladder from Clerk Typist I to her current role.

Sharon oversees Contract Negotiation, which monitors the productivity of the leasing process from its inception to the clients' move-in date. Everything from the inspection of the home, to landlord/tenant eligibility, to billing, is included in her daily service to our clients. She personally negotiates all agreements with the landlord to ensure that the tenant is being charged an appropriate rent

"We're here to ensure that all clients obtain affordable, decent, safe and sanitary housing," she says.

In addition to Contract Negotiation, Sharon is responsible for Portability, a program where out-of-state HCV residents want to relocate to Philadelphia. Once she confirms that the client is eligible, she then issues them a voucher for transferring their paperwork into the City and takes them step-by-step through the process of becoming a PHA resident. "My biggest joy is when the client leases the unit that they have selected and when you see the family in the lobby, it's just hugs and kisses," she exclaims. Sharon seems to be very modest when she says, "I'm just here to serve", but clearly, Sharon Robinson is someone that is dedicated to the families she helps.

You can reach Sharon Robinson at 215-684-4324.

How to Get Your Personal Experience Into Your Paper

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

Skills For Life Expanding to More Sites Harrison Residents Serve



Skills for Life volunteer mentoring young student.

The West Philadelphia Skills for Life Program is now open and accepting new participants. The program is conducted at the Calvin Presbyterian Church at 60th and Master Sts. and is offered Monday through Friday between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. The new location makes the program easily accessible by West Philadelphia students and residents. "This site will be a tremendous asset to the Skills for Life Program, because they have a multitude of activities in addition to the science, math, computer technology and literacy components of the program", according to program manager, Patrick Ameen-Akbar.

The Skills for Life Program offers a safe environment, a positive atmosphere, academic support, personal development and career exploration for 14 and 15 year old olds living in PHA communities. The program is geared towards academic achievement, with the ultimate goal of a college degree.

While participating in the Skills for Life Program,

students are encouraged to explore different perspectives worldwide. Students are involved in discussion of relevant domestic and local affairs. This encourages them to analyze and debate various topics, so that they can develop an opinion of their own. Academic Support is offered so that the students can receive help as the need arises. Shavonne Lewis said, "Before the Skills for Life Program, I was failing Physics. I didn't have a good understanding of it, I received tutoring at the Skills for Life Program and today I passed my Physics test for the first time this school year."

Besides the new center in West Philadelphia, Skills for Life is available in seven other locations throughout the city. Offering the program in so many neighborhoods gives PHA families the opportunity to register for a program that is located close to home or school. The program provides students with a monthly SEPTA transpass and a weekly stipend throughout the school year.

For more information please contact Carolyn Stewart, Executive Dir. of WEPAC at 215.452.0333, extension 16, or Patrick Ameen-Akbar at 215.684.1196.

Skills For Life Locations

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

(Cont from Page 1)

Harrison for 25 years. She says the community is a family oriented place where neighbors care for each other.

This nurturing atmosphere helped keep Donna and Danielle focused especially while they attended the Harrison school across the street. As a result, they both earned good grades, their diplomas and even received awards for never missing a day of class from kindergarten through high school.

Bessie's focus has and always will be on her daughters. She believes that God is watching over them and keeping them safe while at war. Her daughters are doing as well in the service as they did in school. Daniel started in Iraq as a 2nd lieutenant and is now a captain. Donna joined the Army as a private and was recently promoted to specialist.

Danielle plans to work toward a master's degree and then head for a tour of duty in Korea. Donna, who has committed to eight more years in the Army, wants to capitalize on her journalism background and possibly go into broadcasting.

Bessie wants businesses and politicians to sponsor a special welcome home for the troops when they return. She says because most of the troops are so young they need support from the community, especially those who don't have family. She has encountered some resistance to a big welcome home celebration. Bessie doesn't think she is asking for much, just recognition for the men and women, like her daughters, who risk their lives for our freedom. One thing's for sure, you can bet on a major celebration at Harrison Plaza when Donna and Danielle Hoyle return home.

Housing Choice Voucher Family Self-Sufficiency Program

OFFERING THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

EDUCATION:

GED CLASSES
ADULT EDUCATION
COMPUTER CLASSES

EMPLOYMENT:

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

HEALTH:

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

LIFE SKILLS:

BUDGETING AND HOME OWNERSHIP COUNSELING

SOCIAL SERVICES:

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

YOUTH PROGRAMS:

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM
YOUTH ART PROGRAM
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PHA Residents Celebrate the Holidays



Musicians and singers made up of Residents and PHA staff having fun at Gladys B. Jacobs.



Santa helped deliver presents to many children including Victoria Brown seen here with TSSI director Asia Coney and PHA executive director Carl Greene.



Seniors at Mt. Olivet set to enjoy their Christmas lunch. Pictured here are Rhea Williams, Emma Jones, Sarah Furlow, Sara Williams, Louise Keys, Phyllis Dean, Diane Allen, on the other side Connie Keys.



Elsie Marshall, Lettie Carey, Laura Gillard, Liz Waldo, Margerite Boyer, Winifred Lewis.



Catrina Rogers with son Bronsan who was one of many children receiving gifts through the TSSI/PHA Toys for Tots program.



These ladies say this is the best way to bring in the holiday. From left, Robin Nelson, Gertrude Health, Shirley Spencer, Janet White, Odessa Peak.



These folks just finished eating what they called a banquet made for a king. Florence Booker, Marguerite Harris, Catherine Floyd, James Harris, Andaea Foster.



Emlen Arms prize winners took home cd and dvd players. The winners included Winifred Lewis, Santa, Margerite Boyer and Laura Gillard.



These Christmas caravan singers supplied the inspiration and fun as they sang carols to the seniors. They included, Deborah Strickland, Nafesa Edgarson, Jim Harris, Rosalind Sims, Vannie Miller, Cheryl Henderson, Walter Norris, Michelle Harmon.



Residents at Johnson Homes are proud to have PHA commissioner Nellie Reynolds on site. Georjean Brinkley, Marvinia Furlow, Josephine Rahming, Wallace Nicholson.



Tenants here said the scrumptious meal reminds them of the soul food lunch residents and PHA staff prepared for the Katrina victims. Margarete Boyer, Nadire Carroll, Olivia Blackwell, Noel Miller, Lynda Palmer, Nancy Carroll.



Seniors enjoying a wonderful Christmas party as the Tree Lighting caravan came to Katie B. Jackson.



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Major Changes to Medicare Plans are Here

page 10

Get ready for Medicare 2006!

PHA is helping senior residents prepare for big changes in the Medicare prescription drug program, called "Medicare Part D." Enrollment in Medicare-approved plans began on November 15th.

Center for Advocacy for the Rights and Interests of the Elderly (CARIE), held sessions about Medicare for residents on November 16th at Emlen Arms and on December 8th at Johnson Homes.

"PHA is committed to helping our residents get a good grasp of what the new Medicare plan will mean to them and their loved ones," said PHA Executive Director Carl Greene. "We arranged for these seminars so that all of the new program choices could be clearly explained."

At the presentations, volunteer Jacqueline Jefferson of CARIE shared very important information, and residents were eager to listen.

How The Plan Works

Generally, under Medicare 2006, seniors (65 and over) will pay a monthly premium of about \$37, and a yearly deductible of \$250 in 2006. Seniors will pay a share of prescription drug costs as well. Medicare pays for drugs up to \$2,250 in total. At that point, seniors have to pay for their drugs until the total for the year reaches \$3,600. Once seniors hit that threshold, they pay 5% of the costs and Medicare pays the balance, for the rest of the year. (We know. You need a degree in advanced calculus to keep up with this.)

Good news for people with lower incomes.

Medicare offers "Extra Help" to those who have:

Medicare; Medicaid with prescription drug coverage; Supplemental Security Income (SSI); or if the state pays for your Medicare premiums. If that describes you, consider these important points:

1. On Jan. 1, 2006 you will be automatically switched to a private plan selected by the government unless you choose a plan yourself. CARIE advises that you enroll



PHA's Jacquylene Miller, Services Coordinator, Senior Programs, showed residents new forms for the 2006 Medicare Part D prescription program at Johnson Homes. In a Medicare-approved plan before the end of the year.

2. You can check to see if you qualify by calling Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 or by filling out an "Application for Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs (Form SSA-1020) online at www.socialsecurity.gov. When in doubt, fill it out!

3. Medicare will be the new medication provider, but don't throw away your Medicaid card because it will still cover other healthcare services.

What is the Extra Help?

If your annual income and limited savings fall below \$12,123 for individuals and \$16,362 for a married couple living together, you will pay no monthly premium,

no deductible and only \$1 to \$5 per prescription.

If your annual income and limited savings fall between \$14,355 for individuals and \$19,245 for a married couple living together, you will pay reduced premiums, a deductible of \$50, and reduced co-payments for drugs.

What if I don't qualify for Extra Help?

Even if your annual income is higher than the Extra Help level, you still may be able to get assistance through Pennsylvania's Healthy Horizons program.

Enroll now! You will not be automatically enrolled in any plan and you will receive a penalty for as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage if you don't join a plan by May 15, 2006. Otherwise, your premium will increase 1% per month for every month that you wait to join - that's 12% per year.

Here are some helpful tips:

- Keep all of your mail from Medicare, Social Security, and your present health insurance plan, and bring it all with you to appointments that you make with Medicare counselors.

- If you already have prescription coverage, call your insurance company to see if your coverage is part of the new plan.

- Make sure your pharmacy accepts the plan you are choosing. If you get prescriptions by mail-order, check to see if they are covered.

- Watch out for fraud! There are phony plan providers trying to get people to pay into enrollment scams. Look for the Medicare-approved seal on all prescription plan marketing materials.

Important Phone Numbers for Questions about Medicare Part D

CARIE: 215-545-5728 or 1-800-356-3606, APPRISE: 1-800-783-7067; in NW and NE Philadelphia: 215-456-7600; In other sections of Philadelphia: 215-686-8462, Medicare: 1-800-633-4227

The PHA Experience • Fall 2005



Over 500 people took part in the 13th Annual Philadelphia "Be Utility Wise" Fair and Workshops.

Sixty PHA residents were among 500 people who came looking for ways to save money on their winter heating bills at the 13th Annual Philadelphia "Be Utility Wise" Fair. The fair was conducted by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission at Community College of Philadelphia just as a cold snap hit the region.

PHA is committed to lowering energy costs for its residents. PHA with the help of students from Drexel University called residents to notify them about the fair. The phone bank began after the agency mailed out flyers notifying residents of the event.

Valeria Bullock of PECO says most people at the fair

PHA Residents Warm Up to Energy Saving Tips

were concerned about their heating bills in the wake of rising fuel costs. She encouraged them to apply for low-income programs sponsored by PECO and PGW, as well as LIHEAP (the federal program that helps people pay their heating bills). These programs assist customers either with a discounted bill or through budget billing.

Bullock says despite widespread publicity many people still don't know these programs exist. "I think part of the problem is confusion. There's so much information out there, people get confused and they just count themselves out," she says.

Bullock encourages PHA residents to use low cost solutions such as caulking and weather stripping around their doors and windows. Still, she says, some people are unable to afford these materials. "I told one person how she could take old towels and roll them up and put them at the base of her door. You can use newspapers, you can use wood putty," Bullock says.

Another possibility is felt weather stripping, which costs less than \$3 a roll. And while plastic can be used over windows, Bullock says PECO doesn't recommend it because you might have difficulty escaping from your home in case of fire or some other emergency.

Regina Borton, one of the PHA residents who attended the fair, was looking for a way to keep her heating bill

down. Borton believes the most useful information was on the use of caulking and digital, programmable thermostats. Borton thinks the thermostats, which are inexpensive, compact and easily installed, will give her greater control over the heating for each room in her home.

PHA plans to bring energy conservation seminars to communities across the city. But for now, you can get further information on help you can get to pay your gas bill by calling the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission at 1-888-PUC-FACT, or the Office of the Consumer Advocate at 1-800-684-6560. For people with speech or hearing loss, call 1-877-710-7079.

Letters to the Editor

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

www.pha.phila.gov

Graduate to better

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**Health Partners is a health plan with a Medicare Advantage contract. Our Senior Partners Gold plan is open to all Philadelphia residents with Medicare. To be enrolled in our Silver plan, you must also be eligible for Medicaid.*

With a choice of plans, and NO referrals!

No matter what your age, it's important to keep learning. That's why we're inviting you to find out how Senior Partners can give you more benefits than original Medicare, and save you money!

You'll also be able to ask questions about the **new Medicare prescription drug coverage**, available with selected Senior Partners plans. If you're on Medicare and live in Philadelphia, your education isn't complete until you attend one of the free, no obligation sessions listed below.

A sales representative will be present with information and applications. Please call the numbers below for accommodation of special needs. Senior Partners is a Medicare-approved health plan.

MONDAY, JAN. 9

9:00 am - 11:00 am
Health District #9
131 E. Cheltenham Ave.

MONDAY, JAN. 9

11:00 am - 12:00 noon
West Philadelphia YMCA
5120 Chestnut St.

TUESDAY, JAN. 10

10:00 am - 12:00 noon
Health Center #6
321 W. Girard Ave.

TUESDAY, JAN. 10

11:30 am - 12:30 pm
Columbia North YMCA
1400 N. Broad St.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 11

10:00 am - 11:00 am
Health Center # 2
1720 S. Broad St.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 11

11:00 am - 12:00 noon
Lonnie Young Senior Center
1100 Cheltenham Ave.

THURSDAY, JAN. 12

11:00 am - 12:00 noon
Christian Street YMCA
1724 Christian St.

THURSDAY, JAN. 12

11:00 am - 12:00 noon
Free Library - Widener Branch
2808 W. Lehigh Ave.

THURSDAY, JAN. 12

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Gordon Medical Associates
6329 N. Broad St.

FRIDAY, JAN. 13

10:30 am - 11:30 am
Free Library - Richmond Branch
2987 Almond St.

FRIDAY, JAN. 13

11:00 am - 12:00 noon
Free Library -
Paschalville Branch
6942 Woodland Ave.

THURSDAY, JAN. 19

10:00 am - 11:00 am
South Philly Older Adult Center
1430 E. Passyunk Ave.

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SP0654 10/05

Kids Learn About Business

page 12

August is a long way off but if you have a teenager at home who one day hopes to go into business you might want to consider having him or her apply for next summer's Business Boot Camp. The tough name is meant to indicate that this is an intense course, five days of training focused on business and entrepreneurship for kids, ages 15 to 18.

The idea for the course came from the Wharton School's Small Business Development Center at the University of Pennsylvania. Business Boot Camp is a part of a program called Y.E.S. (Youth + Entrepreneurship = Success) started in 1997. The program has been very successful in helping young people start or move their small business from homes to the marketplace.

The main goal of the Business Boot Camp is to develop future business leaders. The camp's directors believe that even if the kids don't start a business, understanding how business works will make participants more successful employees and leaders.

The extensive training covers topics such as Vision, Networking, Sales, Technology and Giving Back. While

in boot camp the campers listen to speakers, participate in business simulations and small group discussions. Students learn different skills, like How to Survive the Lean Years, Creating A Culture Of Giving Back, Proper Phone Etiquette and How to Give a Good Handshake. Previous camps have featured the CEOs of companies such as Timberland, Nantucket Nectars, AND1, and Forman Mills. PHA's Hope VI Coordinator, Rylanda Wilson, said, "This experience has opened the eyes of many kids. Now they know what opportunities are available."

Previous participants developed their entrepreneurial skills, made new friendships and networked with business leaders from all over the world. The program is open to all high school children, but only 100 are accepted each year. Hope VI teenagers are eligible for and will receive a scholarship, plus incentives that have included transpasses, lunches, and a \$50 gift certificate for perfect attendance and good behavior.

The 2006 Business Boot Camp will be held from August 1st to August 5th. Admission to the Business Boot camp is always very competitive. If you are inter-



2005 Business Boot Camp Attendees

ested in learning more, please contact Jeff Wicklund at 215.895.4078, or jeff@theenterprisecenter.com. The application deadline is Thursday, July 28, 2006.

Community Partners to Offer Residents More Training Opportunities

If you've been thinking about learning a new skill or advancing your education PHA has good news. Its Community Partners Program is expanding the number of choices available to residents. The program is key to the agency's goal of helping residents become self-sufficient. PHA has been contracting with professional agencies to provide 14 different programs offering education, case management, job skills training and job skills placement.

Leighanne Tancredi, Manager of Community Partners, says plans to expand the

program are based on the latest study showing where job growth will occur. The study shows that jobs in Philadelphia will be created in gaming, health care, retail, banking, cosmetology, auto repair (auto technology), computer related jobs, and welding (because of the growth at the shipyard). One other possibility is in robotics, which is used in a variety of industries.

Leighanne says the Community Partners Program is evaluating schools and other non-profit organizations that can do the best job of training residents in those skill areas. Some of the agencies are already in the program; others want to join. "The agencies currently doing business with PHA really enjoy the relationship that we have with them," Tancredi says. "They can also see that Community Partners is a really effective program."

The median salary for residents who graduate from Community Partners' job training programs is now over \$13 an hour. Over 200 households that once had zero income now are bringing in significant wages averaging \$12.25 an hour.

Tancredi says her department plans to hold "Partner Days" once the new Community Partners are chosen. Residents will come to one of PHA's community centers where they will be able to meet representatives of the agencies chosen for the program. "Partner Days" will most likely begin in March 2006, followed by "Open Houses" where residents visit each partner's facilities.

It all adds up to a lot of excitement and opportunity. Leighanne encourages PHA residents to take advantage of the Community Partners Program. "PHA residents are making significant headway toward self-sufficiency," she says.

Great Grandmother Earns Diploma

(Cont from Page 1)

says she had to drop out of school as a teenager to raise her family and she often thinks of what could have been "If I had done this earlier I would have had a better job, bought my own home and retired by now." But since she couldn't change the past she wanted to change her future. Even though she is raising two grandchildren and a great grandchild, she decided it was time she came first. So for two years she took three-hour classes every night.

Ms. Sprowal says it was awkward at first, being older than everyone else in the classroom including the teacher, but soon that didn't matter. "I was determined to learn and it turned out to be just wonderful, it was great for me. That's

what life is all about, getting a good education." And after years of work she received her high school diploma in June.

Ms. Sprowal has no plans to stop learning. She is now enrolled at Community College of Philadelphia four days a week on her way to earning an Associate Degree and wants to eventually become a teacher of African American history. Her professor considers Juanita the smartest student in the class.

For anyone else thinking it is too late to go back to school, Ms. Sprowal has this message: "Don't pass up the opportunity to learn. Life is too short to focus only on the physical aspects of life. Have love in your heart and knowledge in your head and you'll have it made."

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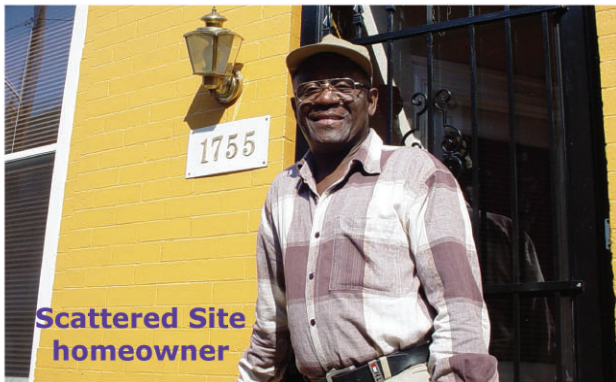
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Scattered Site homeowner



Falls Ridge



Greater Grays Ferry Estates

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**FSS Center–North 1516 Judson Way, Suite 206
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Mr. Gilbert Vega at 215.684.2057 or
Ms. Camille Johnson at 215.684.8114

Saturday January 14, 2006

First Time Homeownership Orientation

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

AND

Budgeting & Money Management

Learn how to define income and expenses.

Saturday January 21, 2006

Credit Repair

Learn how to establish, maintain and repair credit.

Workshop 2
Sponsored by Citizens Bank

Workshops: 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

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

Call to register:
Mr. Gilbert Vega at 215.684.2057 or
Ms. Camille Johnson at 215.684.8114

Thursday January 19, 2006

First Time Homeownership Orientation

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

AND

Budgeting & Money Management

Learn how to define income and expenses.

Thursday January 26, 2006

Credit Repair

Learn how to establish, maintain and repair credit.

Whole Lot of Moving Going on at PHA After School Program

page 14

Philly Moves After School Program is moving kids off the streets and providing them a fun and safe environment.

Philly Moves is an after school program held at PHA's state-of-the-art John F. Street Community Center at 11th and Poplar Sts. The program is free and offered to any child from the age of six to 15.

There are plenty of activities to choose from including dance, vocal arts, drama, gymnastics, and visual arts. Kids can also get help with their homework, and free snacks are provided.

Philly Moves is a collaboration of the City of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Housing Authority, Tenant Support Services Inc., Resident Tenant Councils, School District of Philadelphia and the Point Breeze Performing Arts Center. These agencies have come together to provide families with a full menu of services.



Kids enjoying dance class at the John F. Street Community Center after school program.

"This program exposes children to a variety of things different from the dancing that they view on television. It brings forth a safe environment, because kids aren't home

alone," according to Adrienne Pyatt, After School Program Site Director. When participating in the after school program, students are required to do their homework and participate in the classes offered and to ask for assistance when it is needed. Eleven-year old El-Kasim Junious said, "I like the Dance and Gymnastics classes because we get to learn and use the hip hop dance vocabulary."

The Philly Moves program is open Monday through Friday from 3:00 to 6:00. In addition the program is available on most school holidays from 8:30 am to 4:30, which is ideal for working parents. When the School District of Philadelphia has early dismissals, Philly Moves is offered from 12-5pm.

If you are interested in the Philly Moves After School Program, at the Street Community Center, stop in and pick up an application, or call Adrienne Pyatt at 215.684.1956 for more information.

HCV Satellite Based Offices

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

Team A (Jenneane Tillar – Ext. 4-3051)

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

Team B (Saeema Saunders – Ext. 4-1359)

West Philadelphia Office
5207 Walnut Street
Asset Manager – Shannon Donohue
(215) 684-1448 (Fax #215-684-1366)
Zip Codes: 04, 31, 39, 43, 51 & Hope VI

Team C (Edwina Young (Temporary) – Ext. 4-3065)

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

Team D (Ursula G. Alvarado – Ext. 4-3126)

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

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

Northeast Philadelphia Office
4346 Frankford Avenue
Asset Manager – Shane Manila
(215) 684-1330 (Fax #215-684-1340)
Zip Codes: 11, 14, 15, 16, 20, 24, 35, 36, 37, 49, 52, 54 & Hope VI

Team F (Cheryle Smalls – Ext. 4-4474)

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

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

Neighborhood Network Coordinator – Monet Williams (Ext. 4-4628)
Blumberg Development
1516 Judson Way, (23rd and Jefferson St.)
Supervisor – Reginald K. Seabrook
(Fax #215-684-8080)
FSS STAFF

FSS STAFF

Rosalyn Sewell-Williams – Asset Manager/Acting FSS Administrator
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Gilbert Vega – ESS Coordinator for FSS
Blumberg Development
1516 Judson Way, 2nd Floor
Supervisor – Rosalyn Sewell-Williams
Phone #215-684-2057 (Fax #215-684-8080)

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

Edwina Young – FSS Intake Worker & Hope VI Intake Specialist and PHA Clients
Blumberg Development
1516 Judson Way, 2nd Floor
Supervisor – Rosalyn Sewell-Williams
Phone #215-684-3105 (Fax #215-684-8080)

Audrey Hickmon – FSS Coordinator/Case Manager (FSS PHA/HCV Clients)
Blumberg Development
1516 Judson Way, 2nd Floor
Supervisor – Rosalyn Sewell-Williams
Phone #215-684-2682

Employment Coordinator (Vacant)
1516 Judson Way, 2nd Floor
Phone #215-684-2681
Fax #215-684-8080

MLK: Hot Spot for Homeownership

(Cont from Page 1)

remainder will come on line throughout the year. The homeownership section is part of the larger MLK development, which also includes 138 affordable rentals.

PHA's homeownership program has been a smashing success with the first phases of Lucien E. Blackwell and Greater Grays Ferry Estates selling out fast. Sales have now begun at the next

phase at Blackwell. More homes also continue coming on line and are being bought just as quickly as Grays Ferry.

PHA also offers special homeownership programs for clients in the Housing Choice Voucher program and for families who live in Scattered Site housing. These families have to meet income and other requirements. For more information, call (215) 684-8015.

Start the new year with a low cost refurbished computer

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

How to receive a computer

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

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

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

Send your letter and deposit to:

TeamChildren
960 Rittenhouse Rd Audubon PA 19403



www.teamchildren.com 610-666-1795

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Community Partners Training Programs



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

Housing Counseling

Contact: Debra Williams 215-535-2957
1000 Orthodox Street
Philadelphia PA 19124

Job Retention for Employed Individuals

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

GED (adults 22 & older) & Housing Counseling

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

Family Self-Sufficiency

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

Home Maintenance Repair Program

Dennis Zimmer 215-728-4725
Orleans Technical Institute
1330 Rhawn Street
Philadelphia, PA 19111

Certified Food Handler

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

Hospitality Training Programs

(Front Desk, Culinary, Housekeeping, Travel & Tourism)
Contact: Aaron Jones 215-336-7700 ext 325
Opportunities Industrialization Corp. Inc.
1231 North Broad Street, 4th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19132

Child Care Provider & Child Care Assistant Training

Contact: Bernadette Brown 215-640-0880
ABO Haven
2 Penn Center,
Suite 1500
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Pharmacy Technician, Medical Billing Assistant Certified Nursing Assistant

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

Tuition is free to all eligible PHA residents.