

Winter 2025

# THE PHA Experience

A Community Newspaper For & About Residents

## Celebrating the Completion of Sharswood Revitalization!



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PHA celebrated the completion of the Sharswood neighborhood revitalization—a bold and ongoing investment in affordable housing, economic opportunity, and community renewal. This celebration brought together residents, city leaders, and partners to honor the progress made through the Sharswood/Blumberg Choice Neighborhood

Transformation Plan. Attendees enjoyed PHA vendors, and guided tours of new community spaces and housing. Special remarks highlighted the vision behind the redevelopment: to restore Sharswood as a vibrant, inclusive, and thriving place to live, work, and grow.

# Soaring Into Next Year



Every year, I am amazed at what we have accomplished. This year is no different. I want to thank all of you whom I have the privilege to serve. I also want to

thank the PHA Board, Resident Advisory Board (RAB), staff, Mayor Parker and HUD Secretary Scott Turner for their steadfast support.

This was a year of many firsts, I will reflect on just a couple of items. PHA announced its historic expansion and preservation of affordable housing: the “Opening Doors Initiative,” a \$6.8 billion strategy to overhaul PHA’s existing housing portfolio. While also building and acquiring new units to meet the growing demands for affordable housing. Under the plan, PHA intends to renovate all 13,000 existing public housing units, build 3,000 new units, and acquire 4,000 private-sector units to convert into affordable housing.

The Opening Doors Initiative is a part of broader strategy to realign resources to ensure PHA is able to keep residents housed as well as assist the thousands of applicants that remain on the waitlist. This requires right-sizing the PHA workforce. Doing so will result in \$28 million in annual savings, which will be redirected to preserving housing, providing enhanced services to residents and well expanding affordable housing. These cuts will not impact your services but instead will provide better services overall. I ask for your patience through this transition.

In October 2025, PHA opened 2112 Ridge Avenue, its first supportive housing initiative designed to support young adults exiting foster care or are housing insecure in partnership with City of Philadelphia. Residents of 2112 Ridge will be assisted by Valley Youth House, PHA’s on-site supportive service provider with decades

of experience servicing youth and young adults experiencing housing instability or homelessness, including those involved with the foster care system.

Additionally, in order to enhance public safety at or near its developments, PHA implemented a number of anti-violence initiatives. The agency worked closely with the RAB, whom received a grant from the City of Philadelphia, on anti-violence efforts primarily focused on black men helping them with trauma, preparing them for the workforce and job placement. PHA, in partnership with the Civic Coalition to Save Lives, partnered on a successful pilot program that housed 30 people whose lives were impacted by violence.

PHA efforts to address gun violence also extended to the implementation and installation of ShotSpotter a violence prevention program that provides real time alerts to PHA and Law enforcement partners. Where there are gun shots in the targeted coverage area. This allows PHA and its partners to provide targeted responses and deploy resources to areas with high incidents.

Throughout 2025, PHA held resident’s events to assist residents with self-sufficiency, empower and just help each of you. This newspaper recaps just some of the activities this year from the opening of indoor swimming pool to a spelling bee.

I am looking forward to next year. I am remaining cautiously optimistic of what a new year will bring. I hope you will look have a positive outlook too. From all of us at PHA, we wish you a happy holiday season and cheers to a prosperous, healthy new year.

Kelvin A. Jeremiah  
President & CEO

## We Are Here to Help

PHA Headquarters is again open to walk-in traffic during normal business hours.

### IMPORTANT PHA CONTACTS

Contact	Phone Number
PHA Customer Service Center	<b>215 684-4000</b>
PHA Office of Public Safety (Administrative Office)	<b>215 684-4840</b>
PHA Office of Public Safety (Emergencies)	<b>215 684-1911</b>
Maintenance (Business Hours)	<b>215 684-8920</b>
Maintenance (After Hours)	<b>215 684-1911</b>
Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program FSS coordinator	<b>215 684-5309</b>

FSS is a program which coordinates housing assistance with other resources to assist families to achieve economic self-sufficiency. Participation generally lasts five (5) years, during which participants identify educational, professional, and personal goals.

PHA Section 3 Resource Center **215-684-8926**

The PHA Section 3 Resource Center helps PHA residents and those receiving housing assistance find their place in today’s economy by increasing skill and educational opportunities and connecting them to decent jobs, postsecondary training, entrepreneurship workshops, and homeownership.

To schedule an appointment for career training enrollment opportunities, email the Workforce Center at [vaux@pha.phila.gov](mailto:vaux@pha.phila.gov).

### Where can I access the Public Housing Customer Service Portal?

You may access the Customer Service Portal by going to the PHA Home Page ([www.pha.phila.gov](http://www.pha.phila.gov)) and clicking the banner for the Public Housing Customer Service Portal.

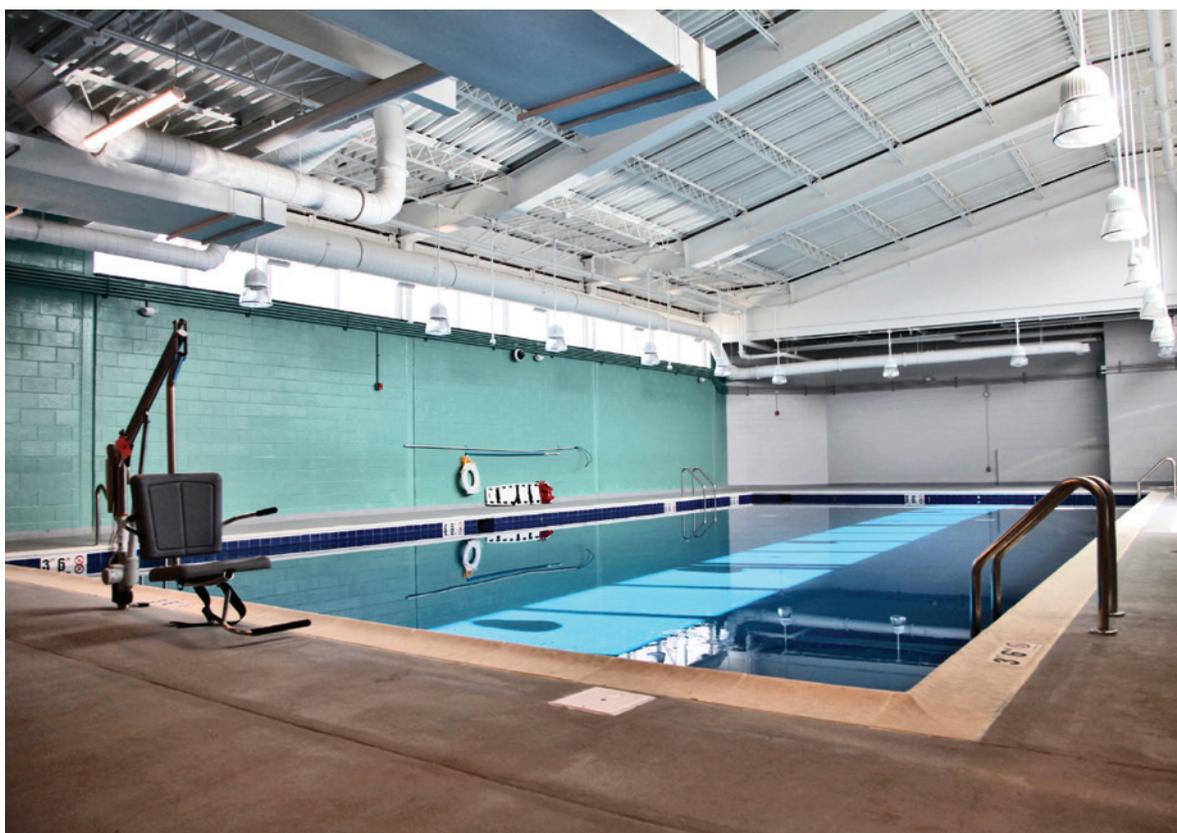
## 2112 Grand Opening



PHA opened its first building designated for young adults from the ages of 18 to 24 navigating the path to independence from being housing insecure. This four-story, 36-unit mixed-used building was developed to

provide affordable housing with on-site supportive services primarily for young adults that are aging out of foster care or are housing insecure.

## A New Day at Hartranft Community Center



PHA re-opened the Hartranft Community Center in North Philadelphia, which has been shuttered for two decades. The center is about 30,000 square feet on two levels. The center will also hosts

our after school program and child care program, an in ground indoor swimming pool, as well as a kitchen, large multipurpose rooms, and several classrooms.

## Somerset Station Grand Opening



PHA hosted an official grand opening event for Somerset Station Apartments, a newly acquired and constructed multifamily residential development in Port Richmond.



## Sharswood Development



PHA celebrated the ribbon-cutting of 65 affordable housing units in the Sharswood Community located in North Philadelphia. This is a part of the Choice

Neighborhood Initiative. This event also marks the unveiling of Philadelphia's first-ever sidewalk stamping throughout Sharswood.

## HUD Secretary Scott Turner Visits PHA



HUD Secretary Scott Turner toured the Sharswood community. He visited Grocery Outlet and visited PHA's Vaux Community Building. Secretary Turner

during his visit, had the opportunity to talk with current and former residents who went through PHA's economic opportunity programs.

## Senator Fetterman Visits Westpark Apartments



Senator John Fetterman toured PHA's Westpark Apartments. During his visit, Senator Fetterman met the PHA's Resident Commissioner Asia Coney and Westpark Resident

Leader Andrea Foster, and discussed the redevelopment of Westpark, which the Senator supported for federal funding.

## Gun Violence Intervention



PHA recognizes Kavlin Davis (right), Rasheid Robinson (middle), and Michael Wilson (left) for completing the Gun Violence Intervention Coordination Center (GVICC) program through Pushing Progress Philly (P3). This initiative is designed to support men aged 18 to 30 who have faced challenges related to gun violence, providing them with equal opportunities and a chance for personal growth.

Of the 30 available spots in PHA's Resident Programs & Partnerships (RPP) program, which focuses on housing individuals who were previously incarcerated,

all have been filled by successful participants. These three individuals have demonstrated resilience and commitment by completing the program's four phases, which include therapeutic components such as behavioral therapy, group discussions, and conflict resolution strategies. With PHA's support, these men, along with the others, have been provided with stable housing through PHA's housing coordination efforts, ensuring they have the necessary assistance for a promising transition.

## OneSight Vision Brings Free Eyeglasses to the Community



PHA collaborated with OneSight Vision Clinic to provide free eye exams and prescription glasses to PHA residents and the community at the Hartranft Community Center. This two-day event on November 12th and 13th drew a large turnout, allowing

participants to receive comprehensive eye care, including the opportunity to try on eyeglass frames. The event aimed to enhance residents' quality of life by making essential eye care accessible to those in need.

# PHA's OPENING DOORS INITIATIVE

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## PhillySEEDS Gala 2025



The PhillySEEDS Annual gala celebration is a time when PHA residents receive scholarship awards and homeownership recipients share their stories about the home buying process. This year, the event achieved a

record-breaking milestone with a sold-out venue, the highest attendance to date and honored United States Congressman Dwight Evans, as the Top SEEDS honoree.



# Annual Bookbag Giveaway



## Father Daughter Sneaker Ball



RPP hosted a Father's Day Sneaker Ball, featuring Philly Rapper Freeway at Hartranft Community Center. This event brought together fathers and daughters allowing them

to spend time together for Father's Day. Daughters wrote hand written letters to their fathers to express their love and gratitude.

## Annual Spelling Bee



PHA hosted its Annual Spelling Bee at Lucien E. Blackwell Community Center. PHA's Chief of Police, Shayne Smith hosted the Annual Spelling Bee. The

participant's consisted of youth from different PHA's developments. Each youth received a medallion for their participation.

## Senior's Annual Thanksgiving Dinner



## North Pole Comes To Ridge Avenue



PHA hosted the North Pole bringing holiday cheer to the Ridge Avenue Community. PHA lit up Ridge Avenue with 32 foot Christmas Tree, while welcoming Santa Clause and the Sixers Stixers. Speakers at the

event included PHA's President & CEO, Kelvin A. Jeremiah, PHA Resident Commissioner & RAB President Asia Coney, PHA Board Member Darrell L. Clarke, and Mrs. Darnetta Arce of Lower North Philadelphia CDC.

## Mother and Father's Day Celebrations





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"It is an honor and privilege to serve the hardworking folks in North Philadelphia."



- Senator Sharif Street



Pictured L-R is Bob "Young Bob" Davis (Hero's Mark Enterprise), Curtis D. Wilkerson (Decision Makers, Inc.) and Reginald Johnson (New Expanding Worlds). This was the Annual Northern Lights Public Service Awards Ceremony, honoring and recognizing community leaders who make North Philadelphia a great place to live, learn, work and worship.



**MORGAN CEPHAS** *for PHILLY*  
DEMOCRAT FOR CONGRESS

**Fighting for You, Fighting for Philly**

Morgan is running for Congress because she knows what it's like to work for minimum wage, to ride the bus for an hour each way to work, and to see gun violence while walking home from elementary school. Since joining the PA State House in 2017, Morgan has passed landmark legislation to reverse the trend of maternal mortality; improve dental health outcomes for children; reduce gun violence by banning ghost guns; bring dignity to incarcerated women; make student-loan forgiveness programs tax exempt; and expand public-private partnerships to increase childcare access. She has successfully secured over \$21 million to improve local schools, parks, businesses, and libraries and to jumpstart community development projects.

**In Congress, Morgan will fight for:**

- ✓ Lowering costs and creating jobs in Philly
- ✓ Affordable, quality healthcare
- ✓ Safer neighborhoods
- ✓ Stronger schools so every family can thrive

GET CONNECTED [MORGANFORPHILLY.COM](http://MORGANFORPHILLY.COM) [@MORGANFORPHILLY](https://www.instagram.com/MORGANFORPHILLY) [MORGAN FOR PHILLY](https://www.facebook.com/MORGANFORPHILLY)

PHOTO BY MORGAN FOR PHILLY



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I was born to a 14-year-old mother and raised in Section 8 housing while often relying on food stamps and other support programs. My life and career have been defined by overcoming challenges and giving back to my community. As a practicing physician for more than 20 years, I have become a national leader for health equity during the COVID-19 pandemic when I founded the Black Doctors Consortium and directly served more than 100,000 Philadelphians and mostly seniors, without access to testing and care. I then founded and built the Center for Health Equity in North Philly at 21st and Lehigh, where I work today, to provide expert health care to Philadelphians, including in the zip code with the city's lowest life expectancy. Now, I'm taking that same commitment to service to the next level. I've announced my campaign for Congress in Pennsylvania's 3rd District, and I'm honored to have the endorsement of Congressman Dwight Evans as he retires. "Dr. Ala Stanford is a compassionate and dedicated public servant, and I am proud to endorse her campaign for Congress," said U.S. Representative Dwight Evans. "Dr. Stanford was born and raised in Philadelphia, and like so many of our neighbors, she faced significant challenges growing up, but every step of the way, she overcame those challenges, succeeded through hard work, and never forgot where she came from. At this moment in history, Congress needs more fighters to push back against this administration, and I know Dr. Stanford is ready to represent Philadelphia and be that champion for the people of this city and the region." StanfordforCongress.Com





PHA's President Circle hosted a town hall meeting at Raymond Rosen Community Center. The meeting was to discuss current issues affecting residents daily lives. The student lead conversation and invited young residents to tell their stories and find solutions.



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# Christmas Tree Safety



As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.



## PICKING THE TREE

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.



## PLACING THE TREE

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.



## LIGHTING THE TREE

- Use lights that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.



## After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.

Check with your local community to find a recycling program.

Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

## FACTS

- ! **Almost one third** of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.
- ! Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- ! A heat source too close to the tree causes more than **one in every five** of the fires.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

Per the Philadelphia Fire Code, natural cut trees are permitted only in one- and two-family buildings. Phila. Code F-806.1.1.