



Charleston Housing Highlights

July 2010

FSS Success Stories!!



Ashia Desper

Ms. Desper has been a participant of the Section 8 Rental Assistance program since July 2002 and entered into the FSS program in August 2004. Ms. Desper has been employed by Oakridge Center as a dietary cook since August 2005. She has three children. Unfortunately due to work and some life struggles Ashia had to put off her educational plan, however she is back on track and will be pursuing her CNA license in the fall followed by her LPN license. (She is pictured above far left)

Charity Landers

Ms. Landers has been a participant of the Section 8 Rental Assistance program since September 1999. In August 2004 Charity entered into the FSS program. Charity has an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice from WVSU and attended Garnet Career Center and is now a Licensed Phlebotomist. She is currently employed by CAMC (11/16/09). Charity resides with her three children. (Not pictured)

LeaAnn Wilkerson

Ms. Wilkerson has been a participant of the Section 8 Rental Assistance program since December 2003. In April 2005, LeaAnn entered into the FSS program. When she entered into the FSS program LeeAnn was employed by the WV Division of Juvenile Service and had attended WVSU studying Criminal Justice and was planning on going back in the fall. However her life took a different direction and now she is employed by CAMC where she enters doctor's orders for patients and plans on entering into the nursing program offered by CAMC once both of her children are in school. (She is pictured above far right)

Markisia Pendleton

Ms. Pendleton has been a participant of the Section 8 Rental Assistance program since April 2004 and entered into the FSS program in April 2005. When she began the program, Markisia was attending WVSU pursuing a Nursing degree, however, her education was put on hold to due to being employed full time. She has been employed with Genesis HealthCare since August 2006. Ms. Pendleton is a CNA and plans on continuing her education and her pursuit of a career in the nursing field. Markisia currently resides with her two children. (She is pictured above second from right)

Rhonda Thomas

Ms. Thomas has been a participant of the Section 8 Rental Assistance program since July 2002. After speaking with her Section 8 worker, Wendy Haddox, and Tammy Jones, FSS Coordinator pictured above second from left, she decided to enter the FSS program in September 2004. Ms. Thomas is a single parent with three children. Rhonda has been employed by Mountain State Press since June 2007 and she can't imagine where her life would be had she not entered into the FSS program, she states that the program has taught her the benefits of saving money and paying off debts to help improve her credit record. (Rhonda is pictured above center)

FSS cont.



Alondra McDonald

Ms. McDonald has been a participant of the Section 8 Rental Assistance program since November 2001 and entered the FSS program In February 2005. Alondra has a certificate in both Cosmetology and Medical Billing & Coding. Alondra is currently a full time student at WVSU and works at Saunders Staffing as a temporary employee. Alondra resides with her daughter. Alondra is pictured above with the CKHA Board of Commissioners, from left: Marie Prezioso, Mike Stajduhar, Kitty Dooley, Alondra McDonald, Nora Harris and Allen McVey.

Executive Director Testifies on Capitol Hill



Mark Taylor, Executive Director of the Charleston-Kanawha Housing Authority, testified before the House Financial Services Committee on HUD’s proposed Transforming Rental Assistance (TRA) Initiative. The hearing, entitled “The Administration’s Proposal to Preserve and Transform Public and Assisted Housing: The Transforming Rental Assistance Initiative,” was held on May 25, 2010.

Both written and oral testimony was offered by Taylor in regards to the TRA Initiative being considered by the committee. Mr. Taylor spoke in regards to the affects that the initiative would have on a housing authority such as Charleston.

Congresswoman Shelley Moore Capito, pictured above with Taylor, who represents West Virginia’s Second District, where CKHA properties are located, is the subcommittee’s ranking member. She complimented Mr. Taylor on the redevelopment efforts that have been made in the City of Charleston and praised him as a worthy advocate of housing for low-income individuals.

New Homeowner

Allen Lippke

Allen Lippke closed on his new home Friday, March 5th in Charleston. Mr. Lippke was fortunate enough to purchase the home that he currently resides in on the Section 8 Program. Mr. Lippke is 62 years old and raised his son as a single father. Mr. Lippke was a semi-pro soccer player until the age of 33. He served in the US Navy, doing top-secret work in avionics and Naval Intelligence and had an early career in theater (Broadway). Mr. Lippke was an understudy in the original cast of *The Fantastiks*. His acting career was cut short to serve in the military. He was the District Manager with AT&T in Denver and he ran graphics, word processing, library, and reproduction for the training center.

He moved back to Charleston and was the PTA President at Watts Elementary School 1985, 1986, 1987. Mr. Lippke coached baseball in Kanawha City 1983-1995. He was the official scorekeeper for the state baseball championships for 12 years and he coached soccer -recreational and Junior High. He was the founding 1st coach of Roosevelt Jr. High Soccer. In the 1980’s, Mr. Lippke owned and operated Father & Son Master Graphic Designers with his father. Later from the 1990’s up to 2001, he did free-lance graphic design and sign painting. He was a Sunday school teacher, youth leader and choir director at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church. He is currently retired and enjoying gardening and woodworking; specifically clock making. He has been a Section 8 participant since November 2002.

Lippert Terrace Container Gardens



Charleston-Kanawha Housing and West Virginia State University partnered to provide containers and plants for residents at Lippert Terrace. Twelve residents participated and planted peppers, tomatoes, herbs and marigolds to grow in containers on their balconies.