



# Charleston-Kanawha Housing Highlights

August 2009

## S8 Family Self-Sufficiency Program Graduates Four



Starla Dillon entered into the Section 8 program in early 2003 with her four children. A short time later Starla decided to enroll in the FSS program. One of

Starla's goals was to obtain her drivers license and she achieved it. She continues to set goals for herself and work toward them. She is currently employed by Council on Aging where she has been since early 2007. Starla said families interested in the FSS program should, "Set your goals and follow through with them because anything is possible if you set your mind to it."



Jennifer Sigman entered into the Section 8 program in January 2003 with her two children. Jennifer, like most participants, wanted more for herself and her

children, so she decided to enter into the FSS program in March 2004. Since that time she has received a certificate in Medical Business & Clinical Specialist from NIT and started working for Valley Health Systems, (WIC). She has been with them for four years and loves it. With her hours she has been afforded the opportunity to be the D team coach and cheer coordinator for the Belle Bulldogs spending quality time with her children. Jennifer plans on using her escrow for a down payment on her future home. Jennifer encouraged others to take advantage of the FSS program, "work hard and stay on the program. It is most definitely worth

Lisa Brown entered into the Section 8 program in March 2003 with her two children. A year later she decided to enter into the FSS program. Lisa currently works at ResCare; she has been a certified caregiver for over 11 years working with the elderly, handicapped & disabled. Over the years Lisa has started developing medical problems of her own; however that has never deterred her from working. This should be a testament to her and the ethics that she has instilled in her own children.



Velvet Worstell, not pictured, entered into the Section 8 program in the spring of 2003, a few short months later she welcomed her daughter into the world. Velvet decided to enter into the FSS program in April of 2004 while attending WVSVU. While attending school and taking care of her daughter Velvet graduated with a BS in Biology & an MS in Biotechnology. Currently she is a Biology instructor at WVSVU and plans on furthering her education in the coming years. Velvet is a wonderful role model for her daughter - obtaining an education and overcoming life's struggles.

### About FSS

Charleston-Kanawha Housing offers a Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program for residents of both public housing and Section 8. The objective of the FSS program is to help motivated families move toward self-sufficiency. The process involves a five-year contract between the family and Charleston Housing in which the individual states their goals & activities for achieving self-sufficiency. Two goals must be met under the contract: the family must be free of any welfare assistance checks for one full year prior to the expiration date of the contract; and the participating family member must seek and maintain suitable employment and be employed at the expiration date of the contract. Any other goals of the family can be added to the contract, such as: improve credit, obtain GED, obtain job training and obtain childcare. Once a participant obtains employment, or better employment, and the rent increases, they may choose to create an escrow account from the difference in their rent payment, which would be available to the participant upon successful completion of the program.

### FSS Coordinators

Amy Lewis, Public Housing  
304-348-6451 ext. 214

Tammy Jones, Section 8  
304-348-6451 ext. 208

Please contact Amy or Tammy if you are interested in the program.

## New Faces at Charleston-Kanawha Housing



Kari Davis was hired on 7/13/09 as Accounting Clerk in the Finance Department. She is a recent graduate from Concord University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business

Administration with emphasis on Accounting and Pre-Law. Kari is a welcome addition to our Finance Department, and we are happy to have her here at Charleston-Kanawha Housing Authority.



Heath Fain was hired on 7/27/09 as Construction and Modernization Coordinator in the Special Projects Department. Heath was employed by Charleston-Kanawha

Housing Authority for two years before leaving to pursue other endeavors. We are sure he will be an asset to that department, and we welcome him back.

## EEO Officer Appointed



Frances (Susie) Halstead, Senior Services Coordinator, has been appointed to serve as Charleston-Kanawha Housing Authority's EEO Officer effective immediately. If you wish to file a grievance, you must follow

our Grievance Procedure which has been established to handle employee grievances in-house. The steps to follow can be found in Section 13 of the Personnel Policy. Susie can be reached on her company cell phone at (304) 561-4640. She also has a mailbox in the Administrative Office Building.

## Resident Council Quarterly Meeting

Charleston-Kanawha Housing staff and resident council officers met on July 28, 2009 for their quarterly meeting. Representatives were present from Washington Manor, Lippert Terrace, Jarrett Terrace, Orchard Manor and Littlepage Terrace. Each council representative gave an overview of the activities that had taken place for the quarter and announced any upcoming events in their communities. CKHA staff discussed current modernization efforts, the resident council budget process and programs such as the Neighborhood Networks computer labs and After-School Care.

## Let's Talk Trash

Charleston-Kanawha Housing staff, Amy Lewis, FSS Coordinator, and Michele Hatfield, Public Relations Coordinator, are conducting meetings in all family public housing sites to discuss the appearance of the properties. These meetings are an effort to reinforce the information outlined in the lease given to every tenant when they move into public housing. Issues being discussed include the following:

- Proper Disposal of Trash, in bags and in the dumpster.
- Keeping the yard area picked up outside of the unit.
- Blinds and screens in the windows being presentable & no blankets or sheets for curtains.
- NO POOLS of any kind are allowed.
- Lawn furniture only, no sofas or indoor furniture to be used outside.
- Pets must be legal and the pet deposit must be paid.
- Cars have to be legal, no working on or washing cars on CKHA property.
- Tenants are responsible for the actions of their guests.

Charleston-Kanawha Housing is reaching out to tenants to try to improve the look of these communities and prevent anyone from being evicted for lease violations. These meetings have been completed in Orchard Manor and are now being conducted in Littlepage. Tenants will receive a letter with their meeting date and time.