



Charleston-Kanawha Housing Highlights

February 2007

Homeownership



Charleston-Kanawha Housing's Board of Commissioners congratulated the latest Section 8 homeowner, Sheryl Decker, at their February 26, 2007 meeting. Pictured above from left: Mike Comer, Alan McVey, Sheryl Decker, Katherine Dooley and Vernadine Crothers.

Sheryl Decker entered into the Section 8 program in January 2005 with her two children. Sheryl has been an employee with the Kanawha County Public Library since December 12, 2001, where she is in charge of children's programs. Being employed at the library has come in very handy since her main hobby is reading. With her elementary education background, she has successfully home schooled her two children.

Sheryl decided to enroll in the Family Self-Sufficiency program exactly one year after entering the Section 8 program. Once on the program she took advantage of the HCV Homeownership Counseling classes offered by RCCR.

Sheryl became a homeowner on December 12, 2006, the same date she became employed with the library in 2001. She wanted to be independent of her landlord because she was tired of paying someone else's mortgage and set her mind to accomplishing her goal before the year was over.



Housing Day at the Legislature

Charleston Kanawha Housing participated in Housing Day at the WV State Legislature on Monday, February 19, 2007. Housing Authorities and providers set up informational displays to educate legislators about the importance of these programs and the need for additional funding and support.



The Housing Trust Fund Bill was read in Senate Chambers during the event. The bill passed the House Finance Committee on February 27, 2007 and it was recommended for passage. The bill provides a source of revenue to fund the Housing Trust Fund through a \$20 real estate transfer fee for every piece of real estate (residential and commercial) that changes hands.

The Housing Trust Fund provides loans or grants for local governments, local housing authorities, and non profit developers constructing affordable housing. The funding is distributed through competitively selected proposals.

Activities eligible for funding:

- Construction, rehab, repair or acquisition
- Matching funds or other federal or state projects
- Pre-development costs for non-profits if increased production will result
- Loan guarantees
- Down payment and closing costs
- Risk underwriting products not provided by the private sector

To date, monies from the Housing Trust Fund have resulted in:

- 48 homeless transitional/shelter beds
- 27 new or rehabilitated single family housing units and a 4 unit multi-family rental project
- 55 units of rental housing
- 13 single family homes

Help for Uninsured

More Help for America’s Uninsured is Here!

All of us want to be healthy, but as anyone who does not have health insurance can tell you; the road to good health is not always easy. There are nearly 46 million people without health insurance in the United States today.¹ Many more Americans simply lack insurance for prescription drugs.

Without access to doctors, medical tests and prescription medicines, the uninsured often wait until conditions become critical and more difficult and costly to treat before seeking care. Nearly half of the uninsured have postponed needed care, and at least 18,000 Americans die prematurely each year because they lack health coverage².

Where to Get Help

Fortunately, there are programs that can help you. If you don’t have prescription drug coverage and are having difficulty getting the medicines you need, contact the following resources for more information:

- **Pfizer Helpful Answers** is a family of programs that helps people without prescription coverage save on many Pfizer medicines, no matter their age or income. People with limited incomes may even qualify to get their Pfizer medicines for free. For more information, call 1-866-706-2400 or visit www.PfizerHelpfulAnswers.com.
- **The Partnership for Prescription Assistance** is an industry program that offers a single point of access to more than 475 patient prescription assistance programs, including more than 180 programs offered by pharmaceutical companies, such as Pfizer Helpful Answers. For more information, call 1-888-4PPA-NOW or visit www.PPARx.org.

Preventive care such as regular doctor visits and life-saving medicines is essential to good health. We must work together to ensure that these essentials are available to all.

¹ US Census Bureau. “Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2004.”

² The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the

Safe & Drug Free Schedule

Skills For Managing Anger (All Ages Welcome)

The Skills For Managing Anger program aims to teach concepts and skills to children and adults in how to manage their anger without resorting to aggressive violent behavior. It will be delivered through six one-hour class sessions held in the community rooms at all eight public housing communities. Prizes and class incentives will be given to resident participants. Community service hours are given for participating.

Class sessions will consist of videos, role-playing exercises and workbook materials. Below is information on when this program will be available in your community.

Monday March 12,
 Orchard Manor 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 South Park 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday March 13,
 Littlepage 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 Oakhurst 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday March 14,
 Washington Manor 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 Hillcrest 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Thursday March 15,
 Dunbar 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
 Rand 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Funding provided by Charleston-Kanawha Housing & the Governors Safe & Drug Free Communities Program U.S. Department of Education Communities Act

Phase I Redevelopment Begins



Demolition of the former China Garden restaurant on Patrick Street was completed in January. Twenty new town homes will be constructed on the newly cleared site.

Resident Comment Line

We Want to Hear from You!
348-1096



All calls are welcome and remain anonymous.