



Asheville Housing . . . WORKS!

Asheville Housing Authority Newsletter • April 2016

Our Core Values:

- Compassion
- Equity
- Fairness
- Integrity
- Openness
- Patience and Respect

Contact Numbers

- Altamont Apartments
(828) 225-1948
- Aston Park Apartments
(828) 239-3545
- Bartlett Arms Apartments
(828) 225-1948
- Deaverview Apartments
(828) 257-2670
- Hillcrest Apartments
(828) 257-2666
- Klondyke Apartments
(828) 257-2677
- Lee Walker Apartments
(828) 257-2668
- Pisgah View Apartments
(828) 257-2664
- Southside Apartments
(828) 257-2673
- Woodfin Apartments
(828) 225-1948

Administrative Offices
 165 South French Broad Ave.
 Asheville, NC 28801
 Phone: (828) 258-1222
 Fax: (828) 254-2276
 www.haca.org
 @AvlHousingAuth

Letter from Our CEO



Gene Bell, CEO

In the last retreat of the Asheville Housing Authority's Board of Commissioners they adopted seven core values for the organization. The core values that were approved are **Respect, Compassion, Openness, Integrity, Equity, Fairness, and Patience**. They adopted the values in order to establish a baseline of service expectations for the staff to provide to the residents, community, vendors and funders. As the Chief Executive Officer of the Asheville Housing Authority, I am committed to working towards these values and ensuring that our staff does the same.

How will our organization accomplish our core values? It will be through our interactions with each individual we encounter; it will be through our telephone and email communications; and it will be in our follow-through on our commitments.

This organization has undergone several transitions over the past 20 months including the implementation of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Rental Assistance Demonstration program (RAD), and in doing so we realized that we wanted to become more effective. One of the areas we have become more effective in is preparing apartments for new residents after they have been vacated. By making this improvement we have been able to serve more formerly homeless individuals and families, thanks in part to a strong partnership with Homeward Bound.

Recently, our staff and several of the staff members from Homeward Bound participated in a two-day training session that focused on supportive services. Our goal is to not only successfully house individuals and families who were formerly homeless, but to also provide wrap services around them and our other Asheville Housing Authority residents as well. We are committed to supporting our residents through the implementation of our core values.

During the coming months, we hope that you will see our core values in action as you interact with members of our staff because we are committed to making sure that . . . Asheville Housing Works!

Warmest regards,

Gene O. Bell
CEO

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Lee Walker Heights - Vision and Guiding Principles

Vision: We will replace Asheville's oldest public housing property with a transformational new mixed-income community, including one-for-one replacement of the 96 subsidized units to be scattered throughout a total of at least 200 units. We are optimistic that a neighboring Biltmore Avenue property can be added to the project, allowing mixed-use development and expansion to as many as 400 units, with the deeply subsidized units ultimately dispersed throughout.

Guiding Principles:

- **Transformation.** We will establish an innovative new model for Asheville, mixing deeply subsidized housing with affordable, workforce and market rate housing serving a broad range of families and individuals who want to live, learn, work and retire in Asheville's vibrant downtown neighborhood.
- **Participation.** Residents will have a continuous voice from the beginning of the process to the end, including selection of the co-development team, the construction manager, and all aspects of planning and construction for the new community. Residents at the time of conversion will have the right to return to the newly developed community. Our goal is to build a community they will be proud to return to and call home again.
- **Connections.** The timeworn, isolated public housing project will be replaced with one that is connected to surrounding streets and neighborhoods by as many road, pedestrian and bicycle access points as possible. We will also maximize connectivity through transit, technology, education, employment and social realms. We will strive to include sustainable opportunities for co-working, education, affordable dining and shopping in and near the renewed community. Children and family interests will be prioritized with a safe, convenient location for children to catch the bus and an ample, on-site supportive after-school program.
- **Collaboration.** Asheville Housing is partnering with Mountain Housing Opportunities, WNC's premier nonprofit housing developer, and a strong team of local architects, engineers and builders, along with a nationally recognized affordable housing design consultant. To the greatest extent possible, we will use the collaborative Integrated Project Delivery model in the design and construction phases. We are reaching out to private employers interested in developing housing opportunities for their workers, and to the full range of public and private entities that will be needed to make this transformation a success.

For more information, contact David Nash
dnash@haca.org or 828-239-3505.



Fostering Leadership Through the Motherhead Program

In the fall of 2014, I asked Charlie Glazener if I could take over teaching a Motherhead class in Hillcrest Apartments. The previous teacher did not want to teach the class unless she had the commitment of ten participants. Unfortunately, she lacked the understanding that relationships had to be built in order to see that type of commitment from Hillcrest residents. I was not only excited about the Motherhead program, I was motivated to help develop the relationships that were needed to get people involved with the program.

Week after week, I knocked on doors and invited moms to join the Motherhead group. I was not always welcomed and was blown off many times. Residents told me not to waste my time because they have had many organizations that offered to help within their community; however, "the people don't actually show up" when it is time to do the work. I told them that regardless of what others had done, I still was going to try.

Erin Hill and I showed up at the Women's Wellbeing and Development Foundation's office every Wednesday and two moms showed up for the Motherhead group. As we continued to knock on doors and put up flyers, the Motherhead group grew to three moms. Eventually, we grew to a group of eight mothers.

In addition to the residents, three members of the Unitarian Universalist church, Eleanor, Susan, and Marsha, joined the Motherhead group. Marsha,

who is a retired doctor, provides child care during the Motherhead group's meetings. The Unitarian Universalist's members became actively involved in the Motherhead effort after their congregation read the book, *The New Jim Crow*, and had become active in the Black Lives Matter movement. The members of the Unitarian Universalist congregation have expanded their commitment to Hillcrest. Members of the congregation now provide GED tutoring to residents, and they are also building relationships with residents.

After months of building trust, friendships and literacy skills with the moms and kids, we embarked on leadership skill development. Additionally, we brought in empowerment and informational speakers to inspire the moms. The moms in the Motherhead group have heard from Julie Mayfield (then City Council candidate), Terry Bellamy (Former Mayor of the City of Asheville, Director of Communication for the Asheville Housing Authority), Laura Misner (College Foundation of North Carolina), Ann Dupre Rogers (Smoky Mountain Health), Dr. Sam Kaplan (professor from UNC-Asheville) Lisa Bovee-Kemper (minister from the Unitarian Universalist Church), Josh McClure (YWCA for Hip Hop classes), and Leah Berger-Singer (YWCA for Diabetes wellness support) just to name a few.

The moms' leadership skills have grown through the Motherhead and engagement process. Last year, the moms presented at an Asheville City

School System's Board of Education meeting about the Motherhead group. During their presentation, the moms asked the members of the Board of Education to come visit the Hillcrest community in order to hear the ideas and suggestions the residents have to offer to the superintendent and the members of the Board of Education.

Making these connections with the Hillcrest moms through the Motherhead group has opened up new opportunities in Hillcrest. This past November, five of the moms from the group were elected to the Hillcrest Resident Association as President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Sergeant of Arms. The moms are now active in connecting with Life Works and other self-efficacy and sufficiency programs in an effort to move the Hillcrest community forward.

With all of the new relationships that have been built, the moms are committed to continuing the work that is needed to ensure that parents and students living in Hillcrest are aware and involved in their children's education and future. The moms say, "my child/ren will not fall in line as expected for the school to prison pipeline because we are going to show up and let folks know that we do care. We will fight hard for our children and ourselves!"

I am grateful for the opportunity to learn and grow with the powerful moms from Hillcrest.

Submitted by Marta A. Williams

Head Start

Give your
3 or 4 year old
A Head Start!

Recruiting
Children for
Fall, 2016.

Reclutando
niños para el
otoño, 2016.

Bríndele a su hijo
de 3 a 4 años
la oportunidad de
un Head Start!

Head Start is a free, comprehensive, child and family development program for families with children 3 or 4 years old who meet income guidelines. Head Start serves children with disabilities. Head Start classrooms are conveniently located and limited transportation is provided at some sites!

828-252-2495 • 25 Gaston Street in Asheville

Head Start es un programa gratuito, completo que comprende el desarrollo del niño y familiar, para familias con niños de 3 a 4 años que llenen los requisitos económicos de elegibilidad. Head Start sirve a niños con necesidades especial es. Las closes de Head Start están convenientemente ubicadas. Servlcios de transportación limitada son ofrecidos en algunos centros.



Arthur R. Edington Education and Career Center Gets a Mural Makeover with the Help of Youth

The Arthur R. Edington Education and Career Center located in the Southside neighborhood received a mural makeover thanks to a collaborative effort led by Ian Wilkinson with the Asheville Mural Project. Three youth groups spent a week painting the three panels installed on the exterior of the building. The Asheville Housing Authority received funding from Buncombe County's Diversity Fund and private donations to complete the mural. Additionally, DeWayne Barton was integral in acquiring the sources of funding for the project.

Wilkinson assigned local artist CJ Randall and intern Julia Schniedewind to complete the task of gathering community input and developing a mural design. Randall said, "At its heart, the mural is about being inspired to take a path in life and make something of one's self, the value of an education in pursuing that goal, the bonds of family and community, the joy of music, and the heroes that shape us."

Participants included Residents' Council's "My Community Matters Empowerment Program" participants, Hood Huggers International's program participants led by DeWayne Barton, and Asheville GreenWorks' youth education leadership program participants.

Gene Bell, CEO of Asheville Housing Authority, said, "A core principal in our vision for the building is engagement of the surrounding community. As such, the renovation of the building itself provided ongoing opportunities to train and employ locals, especially public housing residents. The creation and installation of the mural are indicative of our commitment to this building remaining a beacon of hope, opportunity and change."

The Asheville Housing Authority purchased the building from the City of Asheville in 2012. The once African American Livingston Street School was a Parks and Recreation center after integration of the school systems. After a three year renovation by the Asheville Housing Authority, the building was dedicated as the Arthur R. Edington Education and Career Center on November 1, 2014. Arthur R. Edington was the last principal to serve when the building was operated as an elementary school.

For more information visit www.haca.org or www.ianthepainter.com.

Jackie Barnard . . . Committed to Excellence

Asheville Housing Authority lost a dear employee this year, Jackie Barnard. Hard working, dedicated, sincere and committed are just a few of the words that friends use to describe Jackie Barnard. Jackie had worked for the Asheville Housing Authority since 1993. He began his career working in Klondyke Apartments as a Laborer; however, he quickly progressed and became a Lead Painter. He helped to train and supervise several individuals. Nettie "Kitty" Boseman described him as, "A good friend and supervisor. He encouraged you to do your best, and he would show you how to do things and not just tell you. I am going to miss him."



Through his time at the Asheville Housing Authority, he focused on perfecting his talent, and was considered a "master painter." He not only completed plastering and painting tasks, he did them on time with a wonderful attitude. He always had a smile on his face and a good story to tell about his beloved Oakland Raiders.

As his supervisor, Jay Gurney stated that, "Jackie did not need supervising. He received his work orders and worked diligently until they were completed. He made sure that he completed his tasks on time and effectively worked with and around maintenance to help turn apartments around efficiently. He was truly a good employee." Barnard leaves his family and a host of co-workers to cherish his memory. He will be missed.

Making Homeownership Possible for a Veteran

The transformation occurred first in his mind, then in his life. Mr. Greene served in the armed forces and after serving his country he decided to settle in Asheville. Unfortunately, even though he worked hard, he was not able to afford the high cost of rent in Asheville. He never thought he could own his own home, after all he was unable to afford his rent in 2009; however, he underwent a major transformation between 2009 and 2015. During one of his visits to the Veterans Administration Hospital (VA), Mr. Greene learned about the U.S. Housing and Urban Development's Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Voucher Program (HUD/VASH).

The HUD/VASH program provides financial assistance for housing to veterans. The voucher can be used for rental assistance or homeownership. Initially, Mr. Greene used his voucher to assist him in paying his rent. In 2014, Mr. Greene met Asheville Housing Authority's Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) and Homeownership Coordinator, Katelyn Mattox, who worked with him to get him ready for homeownership. Mr. Greene and Katelyn worked together for one year. Mr. Greene was the first individual to use a HUD/

VASH voucher for homeownership. "We couldn't have asked for a better client to be the first HUD/VASH participant to successfully go through the homeownership program, and become a homeowner," said Mattox.

According to Mattox, "The Asheville Housing Authority can help eligible families use their HUD/VASH voucher to purchase a home, which assists them with their mortgage payments. With the help of the Homeownership Coordinator, the family can work towards becoming mortgage ready and purchase a home. Once purchased, the home is owned by the family; however, the Asheville Housing Authority provides monthly financial assistance payments to the lender on the family's behalf.



Today, Mr. Greene is enjoying his home and appreciates the opportunity that the Asheville Housing Authority and Veterans Administration have provided him. He is especially grateful for Katelyn working with him to become a homeowner. If you would like information about the HUD/VASH voucher program, please contact Ms. Katelyn Mattox at 828-239-3536.

Remembering Keith William DeBlasio

Hopeful, dedicated, and committed are three words that describe the legacy of Keith William DeBlasio. DeBlasio was a dedicated member of the Asheville Housing Authority's Residents' Council. He was relentless in his pursuit to provide hope and opportunities for the residents of the Asheville Housing Authority. As a resident of Hillcrest Apartments he volunteered his time and service on the Hillcrest Residents' Association.

Most notably, DeBlasio was known for his tenacity to get things done. He attended the City of Asheville's Citizens Police Advisory Committee, and noted that there were not any low-income individuals nor residents of Asheville Housing Authority's neighborhoods who were serving on the committee. He took a stand, and applied for a position on the committee. He became the first resident of Asheville Housing Authority to serve on the committee. His time on the committee was spent ensuring that the residents of Asheville Housing Authority were treated fairly by the police officers who served them.

Lastly, during his tenure with the Residents' Council, DeBlasio helped to coordinate a trip to Wilmington, NC for several of the Asheville Housing Authority's youth to participate in the Black Man Running 5K. Nearly 20 students participated in the effort. Students were afforded the opportunity to run in the event and hear great speakers as part of the event. DeBlasio efforts made such a big impact on the organizers of the event that they plan to work with the Residents' Council to host an event in Asheville in the future.

Keith William DeBlasio will be missed and his legacy of service on behalf of social justice will have a lasting impact on the Residents' Council, Hillcrest Apartments, and Asheville Housing Authority for years to come.



Green Opportunities: Your Community Partner

There is no such thing as a new beginning, but new endings can be created each time you make a decision. Green Opportunities (GO) is an organization that advocates for new endings. **No matter where you are in life, you can GO forward from here.** Through its 15 weeks job training program, GO helps adult students obtain the training, certifications and case management that they need to overcome barriers to employment.

The Asheville Housing Authority has made a commitment to assist residents with achieving self-sufficiency. GO runs two flagship training programs that can facilitate this: Kitchen Ready and Built Environment. Both programs are taught by faculty from Asheville Buncombe Technical Community College.

The Kitchen Ready program trains students for employment in Asheville's growing culinary industry. Students learn the fundamentals of working in a commercial kitchen, cooking elaborate three-course meals and lunches for the community, and interacting with some of Asheville's premier chefs.

The Built Environment program trains students for employment in the construction industry and building trades. Students gain hands-on experience by working on community projects and operating a carpentry business, Southside Woodworks.

57% of GO students have a criminal history. Some students need child care. Other students need their GED. GO helps people overcome these barriers. Whether you are interested in woodwork, getting an introduction to HVAC or learning how to become a chef, GO has a spot for you. The opportunities are endless. We would love to meet with you to talk about your future employment, and see what we can do to help you. Don't stay where you are! Plan your way forward. Contact Green Opportunities today to talk about your new ending.

GO's next training cycle starts soon! Sign up today by coming to GO's office at 133 Livingston Street to complete an application. Orientation is March 8. Don't miss this opportunity to take your life and career to the next level.



Keeping Clean Neighborhoods is a Priority

Maintaining clean neighborhoods is a goal of the Asheville Housing Authority. Unfortunately, due to the volume of trash, debris and clutter that is being thrown on the ground, it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep each development clean. We are requesting your help to keep each development clean.

During recent community inspections, we noticed an excessive amount of trash within various developments. It is the policy of the Asheville Housing Authority that residents are required to keep yards free from trash, debris and clutter. Site Managers will be actively working to help reduce the presence of debris and clutter at each development. One of the ways that they will be doing this is by charging no less than \$35.96 to the accounts of the residents whose yards, sidewalk and porches have trash, debris and clutter.

Additionally, residents will be charged for any improperly placed containers, remaining garbage and/or for not returning your cans to the appropriate storage locations. Residents are responsible for returning trash cans to their designated storage area no later than 9:00 am the morning following trash collections.

Your lease requires that you maintain the areas associated with your unit in a neat and safe condition.

The lease states the following:

Outside the Apartment: Resident families are required to:

- Keep their **yards** free of debris and trash (regardless of who threw the trash down).
- Keep **exterior walls and sidewalks** free of graffiti.
- Keep **porches** clean and free of hazards; make sure that any items stored on the porch or outside do not impede access to the apartment.
- Keep **steps** clean and free of hazard.
- Keep **sidewalks** near the unit clean and free of hazards.
- Keep **storm doors** clean, with glass and/or screens intact.
- Keep **outside stairwells** clean and uncluttered.
- Do Not leave **abandoned or unlicensed cars** in any yard or parking area.
- Do Not **repair vehicles** on any HACA properties.
- Keep **laundry areas** clean and neat; remove lint from dryers after use.
- Keep **utility rooms** free of debris, vehicle parts and flammable or hazardous materials.

Recycling in the Southside Community is Going Extremely Well

Asheville Housing Authority, AHA's Residents' Council, City of Asheville, and Asheville GreenWorks are working to make recycling easier and convenient for all residents. In the fall of last year, the Southside Neighborhoods - Erskine, Livingston and Walton Apartments - were chosen to participate in a Zero Waste AVL recycling pilot project as part of an effort to reduce the amount of waste going to the landfills by 50% by 2035. According to Amber Weaver, City of Asheville's Chief Sustainability Officer, the City of Asheville would like "to divert 14 tons of waste from entering the landfill, increase public awareness about recycling and recycle 14 tons of materials by June 30, 2016."

Asheville GreenWorks administered a survey about recycling to Southside residents prior to implementation of the pilot program. Based on their comments and suggestions, a pilot initiative was crafted. GreenWorks distributed in-home recycling bins, informational materials and a big, blue recycling carts at the start of the program, which made the implementation of the recycling program flow smoothly. Walton Neighborhood President, Shuvonda Harper believes, "The program is going great! When I look at the numbers and see that there are very few contaminated carts, and growing participation, I am happy. I believe a lot of the success is due to the kids. My kids remind me to recycle because they recycle at school and it is natural for them to want to do it at home."

According to Kerby Smithson, City of Asheville's Sustainability Analyst, "every two weeks Southside residents are diverting about 2,500 pounds from the landfill. This would add up to about 65,000 pounds annually, or 65 tons." The program is working because the residents are using the information they were provided and following the instructions. "People were excited about the project and immediately began participating," said Dawn Chavez, Executive Director of Asheville Greenworks.

The Southside neighborhoods were Phase I of the initiative. A funding application has been submitted, and if it is funded Hillcrest and Deaverview neighborhoods will receive their recycling bins and educational materials as part of Phase II, while Klondyke and Pisgah View neighborhoods implementation will be in Phase III.

Do you live in the Southside neighborhood and would like additional informational flyers or refrigerator magnets for your home? If so, contact Asheville GreenWorks by calling 828-254-1776.



What should I recycle?

PLASTIC

containers #1 through #7 including:
bottles • clamshells • jugs
yogurt cups • lids • food trays

PAPER

cereal boxes • cardboard • newspapers
junk mail • milk & juice cartons • office paper
magazines • juice boxes • post it notes
wrapping paper • brown paper bags

METAL

soda cans • soup cans
aluminum trays • empty aerosol cans

GLASS

bottles • jars
blue, green, brown, and clear glass

ABTech Community College Basic Computer Skills for Job Seekers

M/W/F
9:00 am - 12 noon
April 4 - 15



With most of the job search being done online now, a basic understanding of computers is essential. In this class, you will learn:

- The parts of a computer and how they work together.
- Basic keyboarding
- Basics of emailing
- Basics of online job applications
- Basic tips for your resume.

NCWorks
career center
Asheville

HRD classes are offered at no charge to the student!

Sign up today! Call 828-251-6200

Class is offered at NCWorks Career Center Asheville

48 Grove Street



Nurturing Parenting
 15 sessions
 Thursdays, 5 – 7:30pm
 Dinner & Childcare Provided

- Evidence-based practice, in a confidential setting
- Parents of children ages 0 - 18
- An interactive program, where parents and children spend time together and separately
- Get support, learn about resources, and strengthen parent-child relationships
- Learn how to stop yelling, keys to child development, simple stress management techniques & new and effective parenting tools

To find out more & for referral info
 Call Kate Singogo:

(828) 329 - 5188

Referral Forms Can Also Be Picked Up and/or Filled Out At:
 25 Gaston St., Asheville, NC 28801

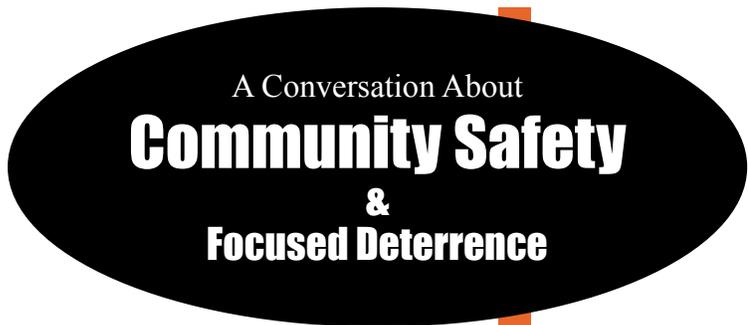


Community Action Opportunities
 HELPING PEOPLE. CHANGING LIVES.

Asheville Housing Authority

165 South French Broad Ave.
 Asheville, NC 28801

Asheville Housing Authority's mission is to provide safe, quality, and affordable housing, to expand available resources, and to collaborate with the community to create opportunities for resident self-sufficiency and economic independence.



A Conversation About

Community Safety

&

Focused Deterrence

April 5th at 6PM
 Arthur R. Edington Education and Career Center
 133 Livingston Street, Asheville

How can

FOCUSED DETERRENCE increase **Community Safety** in Asheville.?

What is

FOCUSED DETERRENCE ?

What do we mean by

Community Safety in Asheville.?

Facilitated by



In conjunction with
**Southside
 Community
 Advisory
 Board**

A discussion with:

Deputy Chief Wade Wood
 Sheriff Van Duncan
 District Attorney Todd Williams

Questions? Call Missy Reed at 777-7130