

the **gnc** Advocate

A PUBLICATION OF GREENSBORO HOUSING COALITION

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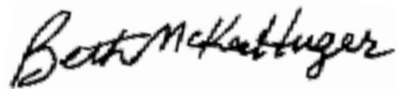
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From Beth's Desk

Greensboro Housing Coalition is the advocate for safe and affordable housing. Sustainable housing transforms opportunities: health, jobs, stability, clean air, and community. To reach this potential, GHC is bringing together dozens of community partners. We are seeking city council support for continuing to require RUCO inspections of all rental housing. We are advocating for Congressional funding of the National Housing Trust Fund to allocate \$1.65 billion for housing extremely low income people. We helped the City of Greensboro apply for the energy grant and prepare the Consolidated Plan, two initiatives that have brought Greensboro national attention for the innovative ways the city is integrating healthy homes and energy efficiency, affordable housing and economic development.

In the past decade almost everyone in Greensboro has experienced a decline in income — the previous approaches to housing and economy were not sustainable — but the new ways bring real opportunities.

Join GHC as an advocate for safe and affordable housing!




In the past quarter because of YOUR support of GHC:

- 119 people attended homebuyer classes
- 6 people attended rental classes
- 4 people received individual homebuyer counseling
- 75 homeowners were counseled about home repairs and utilities
- 229 households experiencing homelessness were counseled
- 362 people received tenant counseling



Purpose Built Communities consultants visit Greensboro

Consultants from Purpose Built Communities were in Greensboro for preliminary discussions on how their organization can assist local groups in transforming an east Greensboro neighborhood.

Purpose Built Communities (PBC), based in Atlanta, provides assistance to local communities to help them transform struggling neighborhoods into sustainable communities where

residents can thrive. Their model is based on the successful transformation of the East Lake neighborhood in Atlanta. PBC encourages a *holistic approach* to redeveloping a neighborhood by also addressing issues such as life-long learning, recreation, transportation, job development and commercial development in addition to redeveloping housing.

Meet the new
**Greensboro Housing
Coalition!**



Administrative Staff: Left to right: Michelle Headley; Beth McKee-Huger, executive director; Anna Busch Phillips

GHC builds broad community partnerships, assures fiscal and program accountability, and efficiently welcomes several thousand visitors each year. Administrative costs are less than 10%.



Sustainable Housing Team: Left to right: Deloris Brown, team manager; Umba Mwika; Hernan Sedda

Housing counselors promote sustainable housing by preparing homebuyers for wise purchases, negotiating loan modifications and other work-out plans for homeowners facing foreclosure, and assisting tenants to access affordable housing that fits each household's needs.

Have a housing question? Call 691-9521 for information
Have a complicated housing problem? Set up an appointment with a skilled specialist to work towards your goal.



Healthy Homes Team: Left to right: Willena Cannon; Skip Crowe, team manager; Andrea Dalporto

Healthy Homes Specialists do housing assessments to identify health risks (such as lead hazards, pests and other asthma triggers, or safety problems), educate residents about what they can – and should – do themselves to correct the problems, help tenants communicate with landlords, and connect homeowners and rental property owners with repair resources.



HPRP Team: Left to right: Masetta Dorley, team manager; Edwana Taylor; Brett Byerly; Frances McRae; Vivian Clarke

Homeless Prevention Rapid Re-housing case managers stabilize housing when families and individuals are about to become homeless – and move them into sustainable housing if they have already lost the roofs over their heads – through intensive services to get them back to self-sufficiency as quickly as possible.

Join us to make housing healthy!

Greensboro's plan for a resilient community!

Every five years Greensboro prepares a strategic plan for addressing housing needs; the 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan is the best in the nation at creating a plan that integrates affordable housing with economic development, transportation, and land-use plans so that people can get to work from homes in safe, inclusive neighborhoods — and use less energy for travel and heat. The federal government — especially HUD, Department of Transportation, and the Environmental Protection Agency — is awarding competitive funding to communities that know how to align all of these efforts, rather than to do projects in isolation or even at cross-purposes. The new Consolidated Plan compiles comments from hundreds of residents with huge amounts of data about household income — the number of Greensboro households in the lowest income level has more than doubled in 10 years, to over 20,000 households — in order to outline strategies that will dramatically turn around the economic challenges our city is experiencing.

Read the entire Consolidated Plan (or at least the Executive Summary) at www.greensboro-nc.gov.

More importantly, help implement the “resilient community” strategies as you plan the initiatives that your

business, civic organization, faith community, neighborhood, or family will undertake in the next five years. These strategies reflect the federal livability principles and Greensboro's commitment to environmental sustainability:

- Provide more transportation choices
- Promote equitable, affordable housing
- Enhance economic competitiveness
- Support existing communities
- Coordinate and leverage federal policies and investment
- Value communities and neighborhoods
- Recognize the environment as a critical element of community sustainability



housing fact:

"Downward mobility is the reality for Greensboro households and the housing market. The number of Greensboro households that can afford fair market rent dropped from 76,000 to 63,000; the number that can afford less than \$400 rent increased from 10,000 to 20,000."

Congressman Mel Watt visits GHC

On August 3rd, during the August Congressional break, U.S. Rep. Mel Watt and several members of his staff visited with GHC staff to get an update on critical issues in housing in Greensboro. To get a firsthand feel for local concerns, the Congressman met with a GHC client who was facing a housing crisis. He and his staff also received a briefing on other issues.

Watt's office makes frequent client referrals to GHC, especially on issues of foreclosures. Accompanying the Congressman were staff members Keith Kelly, Evan Raleigh, Dominique Tillman and Torre Jessup.



I'm RUCO. Get on the bus to see what Greensboro is doing to keep housing safe and healthy.

7th Annual Healthy Homes Bus Tour

Tuesday, Sept. 14, 3:00 - 5:00 pm
Call 691-9521 to reserve your seat on the bus!





non-profit organization
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Address correction requested



Thank you to new and renewing members since March:

Irene Agapion-Palmaris, Mike Aiken, Rowene Clark, Debby and Karl Fields, Emily Herman, Ray Huger, Anne McKee, Betty Priestley, Kenny Roundtree, Mary Nelle Smith, and Norman Smith

Thank you to renewing organizational member:

New Garden Friends Meeting and Presbyterian Church of the Covenant

Grants: Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro for homeless prevention, Z Smith Reynolds Foundation for Hispanic outreach

2010 Housing Summit: Mark your calendar!

SAVE the DATE February 16, 2011

Housing Summit 2011

**SUSTAINABLE
HOUSING
TRANSFORMS
OPPORTUNITIES**

Housing Summit 2011

Keynote: Carol Naughton, Purpose Built Communities
For Housing Summit awards, nominations will open Dec 1 for outstanding contributions in the areas of: Helping neighbors, Making housing green & healthy, Strengthening communities.