WINTER 2011

the ghc Advocate

A PUBLICATION OF GREENSBORO HOUSING COALITION

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From Beth's Desk

Greensboro Housing Coalition, the advocate for safe, fair, and affordable housing, works on both the individual level and the community level to expand people's opportunities for good places to live. With the conclusion of several major programs in the next few months — and the launch of new initiatives — our specific activities will change but our commitment remains constant.

- "Green & Healthy makes ene" is our new campaign integrating energy efficiency and healthy homes. GHC has partnered with the City of Greensboro's BetterBuildings program and NC A&T's Center for Energy Research & Technology to help families address unsafe housing conditions at the same time their homes are weatherized.
- Our outreach and education about Lead Safe Housing continues but our study of Integrated Pest Management in Multifamily Housing is almost finished (the complete report will be in the next newsletter).
- Watch the video documentary of the 2011 healthy homes bus tour on our website at www.greensborohousingcoalition.com.

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With your help in the past year we have counseled . . .

- 1866 households
- 52 homebuyers
- 377 homeowners facing foreclosure
- 49 homeowners with repair or utility issues
- 885 tenants searching for housing, resolving problems, or facing eviction
- 503 homeless individuals or families

Thank you to individual members:
Tommie Arnold, Betty Brown, Karl and Debby Fields, Emily Herman, Cathy Holcombe, Beth & Ray Huger, Linda Nelson, Betty Priestley, Maurice and Genie Schwartz, Palmer Shelburne, Janice Shuman, Robert and Ellen Worth.

Thank you to organizational members this quarter:
St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Lincoln Financial (matching employee contributions)

HPRP prevents homelessness for 360 families – and counting

With case management and temporary rental assistance, GHC has stabilized housing for over 300 children who had no place to go but the streets — or foster care, at a cost of $180,000 per month. Add the parents fleeing domestic violence who did not have to return to the abuser and the ex-offenders who have a better chance of staying out of prison — and we are making our community a much safer place to live at a much lower cost. This kind of "re-housing" is best practice for ending homelessness. But GHC will close out HPRP early next year because stimulus funds are supposed to be spent quickly. Families will continue to face homelessness after the funding is exhausted. **What will you do to join GHC in preventing homelessness?**

Profile of an HPRP success:

A young woman was released from the hospital and faced immediate padlocking; her landlord refused to delay the eviction but she was determined to have a home for her two children. We told her we could help her get moved if she was accepted by another rental. That same day she returned with an approval letter and we helped with deposits and a moving truck so that she was in affordable housing within a day of the padlocking. GHC prevented homelessness and the risk of child neglect – while strengthening this young woman's confidence in her own ability to maintain housing in the future.

From Beth's Desk, continued from page 1

- NC Foreclosure Prevention is our new resource for helping homeowners who are actively pursuing new employment after job loss. GHC also counsels homeowners about their options after their lenders have filed pre-foreclosure notices with the NC Commissioner of Banks. We are no longer providing long-term counseling about loan modifications due to loss of housing counseling funding. See article on page 4 for more information.
- Our Housing Hotline will continue to provide information, referrals, and advocacy for people in housing crisis. However, HPRP — Homeless Prevention Rapid Re-housing Program — will close by the end of January when this stimulus funding runs out. Despite GHC stabilizing housing for a record number of homeless families (or those about to hit the streets), there is no immediate source of funding to continue this essential service in our community. See the article at the left for more information.
- GHC has been instrumental in the development of the Cottage Grove Initiative to transform the South English corridor into a vibrant mixed income neighborhood, centered on Hampton Leadership Academy, with employment and retail opportunities. This initiative is spinning off to become a new non-profit organization with an exciting future. Learn more about Cottage Grove at the 2012 Housing Summit on February 29.

More than ever, your participation in GHC will make the difference in moving our advocacy forward through the new opportunities and challenges. Join GHC!

Beth McKettinger

THANK YOU to GHC's extraordinary staff who have worked through incredible challenges to find the solution that best fits each person's housing crisis, especially when everyone (persons experiencing homelessness, tenants, rental owners, homeowners facing foreclosure, and mortgage servicers) are under stress from economic changes. So many of the solutions require detailed documentation from people who are in desperate circumstances that GHC staff must balance calm compassion with verification of countless details.
THANK YOU!

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

Green & Healthy Makes ene! Housing Summit 2012

- Featuring Shirley Franklin, CEO of Purpose Built Communities and former Atlanta Mayor
- Event includes video documentary of bus tour held October 6, 2011

Together, we can plan safe and affordable housing for a Green & Healthy future that makes ene for Greensboro!

- Housing Summit Raffle. Tickets are $2 and you must be present at Housing Summit to win.
  - *Sustainable Getaway Package at the Proximity Hotel in Greensboro, N.C. Enjoy a guaranteed early check in of 2 p.m. From the moment you arrive you will feel you've stepped away from it all. Waiting for you in the room will be our delicious housemade chocolate truffles and a bottle of wine or sparkling wine. Rest and relax in our light filled sustainable rooms, with water heated by the sun from our state-of-the-art solar panels. In the evening enjoy turn down service. The following day relax and take advantage of a late check-out of 2 p.m.*
  - *Spring Break at Carolina Grande Hotel, Myrtle Beach, SC (4/6-13, 2012). Outdoor pool with Jacuzzi, fully equipped kitchen facilities, close to golf courses and Myrtle Beach State Park, courtesy of Daphne Nxumalo*
  - *Fine china and tableware, courtesy of Replacements Ltd.*

We're also accepting nominations for: Building Healthy Homes, Sustaining Neighborhoods and Housing Our Neighbors Awards.

For more information, call Greensboro Housing Coalition, at 691-9521, www.greensborohousingcoalition.com.

GHC Honor cards available now

Honor all your friends with the GHC honor card this year. The card features the reproduction of a folksy painting by Bob Gould. Your gift of $5 per card supports the work of GHC and shares the ways that we make a difference for people facing housing crises.

Send your check to Greensboro Housing Coalition, 122 N. Elm St Suite M-2 Greensboro NC 27401, and tell us how many cards you would like.

Copy inside of card:
In your honor, I contributed to safe and affordable housing through Greensboro Housing Coalition: moving homeless families into housing, helping tenants and landlords resolve housing crises, helping homeowners prevent foreclosures and repair their homes.

Housing Fact: Holistic revitalization is a smart investment.
— *Warren Buffett*

Lead Paint: The Center for Disease Control's Update

The Advisory Committee on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program is finalizing a report that all lead exposure has damaging impact on children, calling for primary prevention. Beth McKee-Huger is the new representative of community-based organizations on this federal policy committee — at the very time that Congress and Health & Human Services are considering cutting funding for this effective lead poisoning prevention and healthy homes program. *Beth suggests contacting your House and Senate officials to let them know the negative impact these cuts will have on the community.*

greensboro housing coalition
122 N. Elm St., Ste. M-2
Greensboro, NC 27401

non-profit organization
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Return service requested

You paid your mortgage on time and worked every day. Then you lost your job through no fault of your own. There is HOPE to keep your home!

While you do job search (or train for new employment), talk to Greensboro Housing Coalition about your mortgage. Housing counseling is free and confidential. Information sessions are held every Tuesday at 8:30 am 122 N. Elm St., downtown Greensboro. Call Michelle at 336-691-9521 ext. 307 or 336-965-2089 to register.

The N.C. Foreclosure Prevention Fund is offered in partnership with the N.C. Housing Finance Agency and funded by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Get details about preventing foreclosure at www.NCForeclosurePrevention.gov. Or call 1-888-863-8631.

P.S. Tell your former co-workers, relatives, neighbor, friends at the beauty shop, church or synagogue, coffee shop….

Join us to make housing healthy!

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