

## Celebrating 75 Years

The year is 1941. In Greensboro, the average cost of a new house is slightly over \$4,000, average rent is \$32 a month, the average annual wage is \$1,750 and 7,728 Greensboro citizens live in substandard housing. Concern over living conditions and overcrowded housing experienced by many was brought to the City Council. After studies and surveys, the Greensboro Housing Authority (GHA) was created to improve housing conditions for low-income families.



**Greensboro Historical Museum visitors were able to view GHA's past, present and future**

This year, GHA celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary by *Celebrating the Past* and *Welcoming the Future*. GHA's Anniversary has been incorporated in events held in late 2015 and throughout 2016. As part of last year's National Night Out, residents received banners and fans denoting the historic occasion and anniversary cakes were supplied to resident councils for events being held this year. A display at the Greensboro Historical Museum gave visitors a view of GHA's past as well as information about our current operations and future plans. In honor of the hard work by GHA staff in making the housing authority one of the nation's best, staff was invited to attend a Grasshopper's baseball game where a GHA staff person threw out the first pitch.

GHA staff, commissioners, partners, residents and visitors came together on July 21<sup>st</sup> to celebrate our past and welcome our future as the largest affordable housing provider in Guilford County. Speakers for the event (pictured below) includes U.S. Congresswoman Alma Adams, Resident Council President Gloria Rankin, NC State Senator Gladys Robinson, Mayor Pro Tem Yvonne Johnson, GHA youth Courtney Kimbrough; CEO Tina Akers Brown, and Board Chairperson Manuel Dudley.

Those attending the program were able to view PowerPoints of our past, present and future narrated by Tracy McCain of WFMY-TV and view a video produced by UNCG's media students especially for GHA's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The video featured present and former residents, present and former directors, and commissioners speaking about the history of the housing authority and what it was like growing up in our early communities. The video is available for



**Speakers for GHA's Anniversary Celebration on July 21**

viewing on Greensboro Housing Authority's YouTube channel.

GHA's first communities, Morningside Homes and Smith Homes, were built in 1951 and gave 800 families, including many returning World War II soldiers, a decent place to live.

What a difference 75 years makes! Greensboro Housing Authority now serves over 12,000 citizens in our 20 affordable housing communities and through our voucher programs. But some things remain the same.

GHA still serves our neediest citizens – those with low-incomes, the elderly and the disabled. Six thousand and eighty-six families live in safe housing because of its housing programs. That translates to 5,592 children, 1,284 elderly, and 2,697 disabled citizens who have a home at GHA and all the wonderful things a home means.

Throughout its 75 years, Greensboro Housing Authority has held true to its mission to provide safe, quality, affordable housing to low-income families, elderly and the disabled in the Greensboro community; to maintain a secure community environment; and to encourage personal responsibility and upward mobility of residents while maintain the fiscal integrity of the agency.