

## Connected Living Kicks Off at Stoneridge and Hall Towers

**GREENSBORO, NC** - Greensboro Housing Authority (GHA) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Tina Akers Brown invited Stoneridge and Hall Towers public housing residents to take advantage of an opportunity that will keep them better connected to family, friends, their community and the world. Residents between the ages of 55 to 95 attended the celebratory kick off for Connected Living (CL) in each of their communities on August 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.



GHA CEO Tina Akers Brown (2<sup>nd</sup> from left), Stoneridge Resident Council President Deburah Lloyd-Duggin (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) and GHA Chief Operating Officer Erica Moore (4<sup>th</sup>) join Connected Living staff in cutting a ribbon to signify the opening of the residents' computer lab at Stoneridge.

Referring to their participation in preliminary meetings about the computer program, Ms. Akers said, "It has been said that seniors are not interested in computers. But many of you have shown that this statement is wrong." Approximately 50 residents took advantage of the preliminary meetings in which their pictures were taken for their individual CL pages.

A ribbon cutting was held for the new computer labs located at each senior community during the event and CL staff showed residents how to use the easy touch screen to access a variety of programs. Connected Living, a social networking company that provides

technology, programming, classes and support to get the digitally underserved online, has been hired to teach GHA residents, many with little or no computer skills, how to log on, use social media and connect to the outside world.

Bob Delaney shared the following story of his experience with a Hall Towers resident at the Connected Living Kickoff. "I met Mrs. Virginia a 78-year-old resident of Hall Towers for 18 years. She amazingly made it to the front of the line and was the first person in the computer lounge. She looked me in the eye and with a soft but determined voice requested assistance in sending her son an e-mail. She proceeded to let me know she has been carrying around a pad of e-mails from family and friends for the past 3 years



Bob Delaney of Connected Living helps a Hall Towers resident set up an account and send her first email.

hoping and praying she would be able to send them e-mails to let them know how she's doing. Mrs. Virginia's son unfortunately lives outside the Greensboro area and her only contact with him over the past few years has been an occasional telephone call.”

“Within a few minutes she was signed into her Connected Living account and composing a quick e-mail letting him know she was fine and she loved and missed him. She also poked a little fun at him letting him know she has her own e-mail account, taking computer classes on Monday mornings and has this new thing at her community called Connected Living. She felt empowered and when that first e-mail was typed up and sent and the screen reported ‘e-mail sent’, she turned around in her chair and gave me a high five and said, ‘That's what I'm talking about’!”

Ambassadors from Connected Living will be on hand weekly to provide personal instruction to residents at each community computer lab. Residents signed up during the kick off for 12, one-hour classes that will begin at Stoneridge and Hall Towers in the next few weeks.