

Community News

A Quarterly Publication of the Greensboro Housing Authority

Spring 2012

GHA Wins Award for Stoneridge



A WINNER! - The newly renovated Stoneridge Community.

The Stoneridge Community renovation, which included a new Community Center--the first GHA facility to be constructed to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver certification standards, won the "Building Healthy Homes" award at February's Housing Summit 2012.

"We are very pleased and appreciative of this recognition for our efforts to create quality, sustainable housing for the Greensboro community and very excited to receive this award on our first new construction to be built to LEED

standards," said Chief Executive Officer Tina Akers Brown.

The honor rewards "outstanding contributions that exceed expectations, are innovative and make a measurable impact on Greensboro's future," officials said.

The Housing Summit is an annual conference for housing professionals, advocates, agencies and local citizens, hosted by the Greensboro Housing Coalition and the City of Greensboro in partnership with the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Do You Ever Think of Your Own Home?

JOIN THE FAMILY SELF SUFFICIENCY (FSS)/ HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAM TODAY!!!!

Do you ever think about:

- Owning your own home?
- Moving away from your current location?
- Becoming self-sufficient?
- How to effectively reach your goals?

GHA's FSS/Home-ownership Program will:

- Help you develop an individual goal plan.
- Provide information about financial planning, home buying, credit repair, etc.
- Provide you with referrals to agencies.

So what is holding you back from reaching your goals?

- Childcare?
- Transportation?
- Education?

Let us work with you to identify and solve the issues that put up barriers that keep you from reaching your dreams!

JOIN US TODAY!

Contact FSS Case Managers: Sabrina Abney, at (336) 303-3003, Tiffany Dunlap, at (336) 303-3009 or Rebecca Mabry, at (336) 303-3034

In February, GHA mailed a postcard to all heads of household, including the elderly, inviting them to join the Family Self-Sufficiency program.

So far, 10 households have joined the program and 46 more have expressed a strong interest. Three others are pending.



Claremont Courts Makes Blankets for Project Linus

Claremont Courts residents and volunteers joined forces with *Parents as Teachers* and *Thriving @ 3* to make blankets for Project Linus during a February Friendship activity at Peeler Recreation Center on Valentines Day.

GHA youth also decorated Valentine Cookies.

The handmade blankets and afghans will be donated "to provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized or otherwise in need," according to officials of Project Linus. The group holds similar activities across the country "to provide a rewarding and fun service opportunity for interested individuals and groups in local communities, for the benefit of children."

"I am extremely pleased by the outpouring of support Project Linus has enjoyed," said the group's National President Carol Babbitt. "The comfort brought to a child by a Project Linus security blanket should not be underestimated."

Project Linus produces and donates more than 350 blankets a month to children in hospitals, shelters, social service agencies "or anywhere that a child might be in need of a big hug."



BLANKETS AND COOKIES FOR CHILDREN - Residents of Claremont Courts Thriving at Three program join volunteers to decorate cookies and create blankets for Project Linus.

GHA's Customer Bill of Rights

The annual Customer Service Training yielded more than just better customer service.

It resulted in a *Customer Bill of Rights* and a pledge "to provide exceptional customer service to every individual that we come in contact with."

The training, conducted by the Carolina Improv Company, centered on three main objectives:

- To understand typical reasons for customer anger and dissatisfaction
- To review the four steps of dealing with customers
- To communicate better with our customers

GHA's Customer Bill of Rights

Be Courteous

Be Professional

Listen

Provide Prompt Service

Use Appropriate Body Language

Focus on Issues--Not the Person

Be Patient

Positive Attitude

Follow Up

Time for Youth to Register for the Poster Contest

The April 27 deadline for GHA youth to register and get their posters ready for the 2012 “What Home Means to Me Poster Contest” is coming fast.

The competition, which is open to all Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher Program youth, is divided into three age groups--Elementary (K-Grade 5), Middle (Grades 6-8) and High (Grades 9-12).

Three GHA youth, two high school students and a middle schooler, were national winners last year.

Art workshops for the contest are scheduled for April 9-12 at the Salvation Army Boys & Girls Clubs in Smith Homes, Ray Warren Homes, Hickory Trails and Claremont Courts/Laurel Oaks. Artists are free to use markers, crayons, paints, collages, textiles, fabrics and other art tools. Each entry must be accompanied by a short paragraph explaining the poster.

The entries will be judged locally with the winner getting \$100, second place \$50, third place \$25 and honorable mention \$15. The winners will go on to the regional competition, then to NAHRO for the national finals where the winners will get an additional \$100.

Last year was the second straight year that GHA has had a national winner. All three posters were included in NAHRO’s 2012 Housing America Calendar.

Parents can pick up art supplies for their child to



POSTER ART - Children create posters during art workshop at Hampton Homes.

complete a poster at the Hampton Homes, Smith Homes, Claremont Courts, Ray Warren Homes, Hickory Trails and Lakespring management offices.

Ground Breaking at Haworth A Partnership in Caring

GHA is partnering with The Servant Center to provide affordable housing for the area’s homeless veterans in the Glenwood neighborhood of Greensboro.

In addition to providing much-needed housing, the project will also help with the City of Greensboro’s revitalization of the area.

The Center plans to build and operate nine one-bedroom, permanent supportive apartments for low-income residents with disabilities. GHA will provide eight project-based VASH vouchers that will allow the Center to use eight of the nine units specifically for homeless veterans.

“We’re very proud to be part of this project, especially since it provides support for our veterans,” said GHA Chief Executive Officer Tina Akers Brown.

The vouchers will assure that no veteran will owe more than 30 percent of their income for rent, subsidizing the remainder. Since the vouchers are project-based, veterans will be able to move directly into a unit without having to wait for a Housing Choice voucher.



BREAKING GROUND - Shanna Reece, executive director of The Servant Center, joins others in breaking ground at Haworth House.

COMMUNITY NEWS is a publication of the Greensboro Housing Authority.

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Property Region I
Applewood • Claremont Courts,
Woodberry Run • Lakespring Court
Baylor Court
274-3491

Property Region II
Hampton Homes • Hickory Trails • Woodland Village
Abby Court
274-3236 • 297-2114

Property Region III
Smith Homes
273-3688

Property Region IV
Pear Leaf • Ray Warren,
Laurel Oaks • Silverbriar • Riverbirch • Foxworth
275-6995

Property Region V
Gateway Plaza • Hall Towers • Stoneridge
275-9892 • 272-7869

Housing Choice Voucher
Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) / Homeownership
303-3079 • 271-2546

Public Housing Family Self Sufficiency
303-3003 • 303-3009 • 303-3034

Client Services
370-4380

GHA Maintenance Emergencies
272-4137

Ambulance / Rescue / Fire / Police
911

Crime Stoppers
373-1000

Police Non-Emergency
373-2222

The mission of the Greensboro Housing Authority is to provide safe, quality, affordable housing to low-income, elderly, and the disabled in the Greensboro Community; to maintain a safe and secure community environment; and to encourage personal responsibility and upward mobility of residents while maintaining the fiscal integrity of the agency.

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450 North Church Street
Greensboro, NC 27401



LEADERS - Scout Leader Debra Julian (left) and GHA Chief Executive Officer Tina Akers Brown congratulate Girl Scouts Aneesh and Brittany Davis of Hampton Homes who teamed with their sisters to sell more than 250 boxes of Girl Scout cookies.

Girl Scouts Celebrate 100th

Girl Scouts from four communities sold hundreds of boxes of cookies this year in honor of the organization's 100th anniversary.

Awtyona Wilson of River Birch sold 300 boxes, and Aneasha and Brittany Davis of Hampton Homes teamed with their sisters to sell more than 250 boxes.

The Scouts will be working this year on their Financial Literacy Badges and some community service projects.

Six communities have Scouting Troops, and more

are welcome. Youth ages 5 to 17 years of age are invited to join and participate.

Here's a list of the Troops and their meeting times:

- Hickory Trails, Thursdays at 5:30 pm
- Hampton Homes, Wednesdays at 5:30 pm
- Ray Warren Homes, Tuesdays at 3 pm
- Smith Homes, Thursdays at 3 pm
- Applewood, Saturdays at 10 am
- River Birch, Fridays at 5 pm