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Housing Coalition Headlines

Community Housing Coalition of Madison County, NC

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Chris Watson, Client and Grants Coordinator
Annie Jaradat, Intern
Interim Volunteer Coordinator
Katie Hart, Administrative Assistant
George Austin, Repair Needs Assessor
Jake Owen, Repair Needs Assessor
Mike Ray, Bookkeeper

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Management Musings

By Christopher Brown, Executive Director

While I was hoping to shout from the rooftops this month that the Melvin R. Lane grant was awarded to CHC, alas, I'll have to save that celebratory "yawp" for a different future success. The foundation informed CHC last month that we did not get the grant. They apparently considered extending the number of recipients so that CHC could be included, which shows how close our agency came, but it just wasn't possible. The news, I'll admit, was heartbreaking at first. What about all the homes in Madison that are falling apart but can't get served because CHC doesn't have the capacity? What about all the extra hours put in by staff and the numerous hoops CHC jumped through successfully (with our fair share of blood and sweat) to get where we did?

Well, I can assure you, CHC is still on a train moving full steam ahead. None of that work we did for the Lane Fund was in vain. As Lee Hoffman, veteran CHC board member, reminded me, "It's about the journey, not the destination." The organizational coaching we received as Lane Fund finalists laid out a clear path for the work CHC has to do. We are much further along on our way now to becoming a healthy, sustainable agency than before we applied for the grant a year ago. But more than that, we feel galvanized by this turn of events because it makes clear that CHC will lift itself by its own boot straps AND by the help of its own community. We're still going to increase capacity, and we're going to do it by engaging more with our community - to raise awareness, to get more involved - so Madison can grow stronger with us.

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chcmadisoncountync.org

Web Page
www.chcmadisoncountync.
org

Find us on [Facebook!](#) Search "CHC Madison" then go to our page and "like" us.

Who We Are
CHC is a 501(c)(3) independent, non-profit organization, governed by a volunteer board. CHC's mission is to promote and facilitate healthy, safe, and [affordable housing](#) in Madison County, NC.

It's a good thing we're "scrappy," as I like to say. As part of our increased community outreach efforts, our FUNdraising Committee recently brewed up the idea for "Eats & Drinks for Equal Housing." Already in progress, and for each month going forward, a local eatery will be supporting CHC by donating 10% of their sales one day per week for the entire month. July was ZUMA COFFEE month. I'd like to send many thanks to owner Joel Friedman for lending CHC his outstanding support!! Zuma keeps downtown Marshall buzzing, and the CHC banner, donation box and brochures were on full display inside its walls. Having this long-standing local business help CHC get the word out about safe and affordable housing has been a HUGE boost!

Next up in August, you can support CHC by going to Good Stuff on Thursdays for a tasty beverage and something sizzling from their grill. Know that 10% of the money you spend will go towards securing CHC's housing work for our Madison neighbors.

Splinters from the Board

By Dagmar Haubold, Secretary

The Board of Directors of the Community Housing Coalition welcomes Katherine Early as the newest member. Katherine is a long time resident of Marshall and brings a wealth of experience with her. Recently retired, she is a former CPA and has extensive experience with non profit organizations, which is invaluable to CHC. Katherine is also an enthusiastic gardner and grows her own food. She is an avid reader, and belongs to the Marshall Library book group which meets once every month. Welcome Katherine!

Speaking of board members and CHC...

It is both an honor and a privilege to serve on the Board of Directors of such a community minded organization. In the past several months, CHC has held board meeting in various community centers throughout the county, most recently in Spring Creek on June 15th. These meetings serve to spread the word about CHC and its work throughout the county. We were warmly received by its members and everyone benefitted from the networking members were able to do with one another.

CHC is actively seeking new board members to fill some vacant positions. If you are enthusiastic, have a desire to be involved in your community, are not afraid to work hard, and want to make a positive contribution please let us know. We want to hear from you!

Volunteer Corner

By Annie Jaradat, Volunteer Coordinator

This summer has been a roller coaster of emotions for me as the volunteer coordinator for CHC. As I went out to the many different home site visits and talked with our neighbors over the past few weeks, I was able to actually see their current housing conditions. This was a reality check; it is one thing to read about them on the numerous work assessments that we see on a daily basis, but it is truly an eye opener to actually see it with your own eyes. The images I saw and stories that I heard will ever be a part of who I am and make me work even harder in my job at CHC for my neighbors in Madison County.



Even though I saw some pretty bad living conditions, I am filled with hope and optimism after this summer. I have seen our summer mission groups transform homes, change lives, and bring forth hope. There were so many groups who came

to work with us this summer and each brought their own unique talents and strengths. Each and every one of these groups inspired me not only to be a better person, but also showed me that even in small numbers what a difference a few can make in the lives and in the homes of others.

As you read this, my hope for you is that this will inspire you to become involved, if not already, in helping CHC continue to be that bridge to our neighbors in having access to the people, resources, and tools in order to have safe, decent, and affordable housing.



Each and every neighbor, along with all of the summer mission groups that I met this summer as our paths have crossed, will forever have a special place in my heart. I have had so many helping hands over the past few weeks that I would like to give a sincere thank you to our amazing summer Social Work Intern, Stephanie McCullough and our wonderful office volunteer Laura Cheatham. I appreciate you and appreciate all the hard work you have put into helping CHC. These women are awesome and have worked so hard. All of our staff and volunteers have done a super awesome job and I would like to thank each and every one of you!

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Updates

Want to get involved? We are still seeking volunteers for upcoming NHN workdays. If you or your group is interested, please email: volunteercoordinator@chcmadisoncountync.org

NHN Workdays in 2016 (All Saturdays ~ 10 am to 3 pm) Volunteers Signed Up Repair projects will be announced.

August 27- Wells Fargo

September 17- Printpack Medical

October 15- Still in need of volunteers and/groups to sign up

November 12- Still in need of volunteers and/groups to sign up

Client & Grants Update

By Chris Watson, Client and Grants Coordinator

Our summer season is over filled with activity. It is an incredible time at CHC with an amazing amount of work being completed in a relatively short amount of time. In many instances the summer mission groups are putting the finishing touches of a year-long effort to stabilize a desperate housing situation. One example of how the CHC community worked to return pride, dignity and safe housing to a family involved hired contractors, urgent repair grant dollars, summer mission volunteers, and big effort by the family. Eight people, spanning three generations were sharing a single wide home with only one small working bathroom. The other bathroom floor had completely rotted through and the bare ground was visible through the floor joists. A child had fallen through the floor in the bedroom next to the bathroom. Winter was moving in a there was nothing to keep the cold air from coming through the missing floor and into the home. The entire family was overwhelmed, dejected, and depressed.

CHC staff worked with several contractors to begin repairs on the bathroom and within a few weeks the family had a new bathroom. During the process Jake Owen, the project manager, made sure that there was always some work that the family could do to move the

project along, such as reattaching the skirting. Through these little tasks, the family begin to take on more and more of the responsibility for the home's repair. By the time summer came around, the family had removed the old, filthy carpet that was aggravating the children's respiratory issues and replaced it with beautiful laminate flooring. A summer group from Glory Ridge installed a new roof, and during the week the husband out worked the volunteers.

Over the course of the project, I could visually see the burden of poor housing lifted from the family's shoulders and replaced by pride and joy in a home that was now safe, healthy and dry. Housing issues can become so bad that they completely overwhelm the family, especially since housing is usually just one crisis of several that low-income families regularly face. By taking their hand and saying we are going to fix this problem together a catalyst is created that improves lives far beyond simply fixing a hole in the floor or a leak in the roof. This is what makes our jobs so rewarding and makes CHC a true Coalition. Big thanks to all our staff, volunteers, donors and neighbors that make this community building work possible.

Support CHC at Good Stuff Thursdays in August!



CHC has partnered with [Good Stuff](#), another terrific local eatery in Downtown Marshall, to help raise funds for our neighbors in need of home rehabilitation. Each Thursday during the month of August, Good Stuff will donate 10% of its proceeds to CHC. They are

open 11am until 10pm on Thursdays and have a great menu of burgers, tacos, wings and more, as well as some good libations, if you're so inclined. Come on out and enjoy the pool table, pinball machines, juke box and board games. Additionally, you might just find some local musicians plucking away on stage. Help us help our neighbors with home repairs while also helping yourself to some **Good Stuff**.

Donation Box



CHC is proud to be a United Way partner! As you make contributions to the United Way of Madison County, you can designate CHC as a recipient.

If you would like to make a donation to CHC directly, those donations are always welcome. You can mail a tax deductible gift to The Community Housing Coalition of Madison County, P.O. Box 1166, Marshall, NC 28753. Or visit our website at <http://www.chcmadisoncountync.org> to make a donation online.

Thank you!

Legs & Regs

This month, legislators in the NC General Assembly voted down a dangerous proposed bill that would have eroded consumer protections against common home dealer abuses. SB 491, or "The Manufactured Home Purchase Agreement Change" bill, would have eliminated certain buyers' rights, such as requirements that dealers return payments made by buyers if the dealer reneges on contract terms. It's a celebration for housing advocates who made calls to their state representatives and voiced their concern over predatory lending

practices in the mobile home industry.

Closing Thoughts

Late summer storms can threaten your home if any trees on your property are in danger of toppling down. A safe practice would be to remove dead or dying trees that are close enough to damage your home. Other accidents waiting to happen are trees with dead branches or branches that are crossed or rubbing, and trees with forked trunks, which are prone to infection and potential weakness. Prune trees when they are young and consider cabling or bracing weak forks or branches in older trees of high value. Inspect your trees each year and in all seasons and look for signs of decay (cavities, cankers, and cracks). Finally, enjoy the shade and birdsong these beautiful species bring to your life and to those who share your home!!



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