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Housing Coalition Headlines

Community Housing Coalition of Madison County, NC

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Management Musings

By Chris Brown, Executive Director

Warm season's greetings, CHC friends!

It is during this time of year when we are reminded of all the many blessings we have to give thanks for. As we say farewell to June, I am thankful for all the memories of building and creating a strong, local volunteer base and program through Neighbors Helping Neighbors. We give thanks to be able to live in a community that is changing the world for the better one neighborly act at time. And I am thankful to be a part of an organization partnered with many other organizations in this community dedicated to making this community healthy holistically through healthy homes, healthy food, healthy economy, healthy fellowship. Healthy relationships with our neighbors equal a healthy community!

I am thankful for the fantastic and tireless service-oriented CHC family, which makes me appreciate the simple pleasures in life. Sometimes it is the pleasure of a hot drink beside a warm fire in a cozy home or sharing a fine meal with family and friends. CHC's mission is to help provide and maintain safe and healthy housing in Madison County. I am grateful to be a part of this work so that more families in our community can enjoy those simple pleasures.

Lastly, I am thankful for CHC supporters. There are many opportunities for you to get involved and help support this worthy cause. You can volunteer your time or contribute to our current fundraising campaigns: our Giving Tuesday, and the Winter Appeal letter, soon to arrive in your mailbox. If you aren't shopping local, you

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.

can also support local through Amazon's [Smile program](#). See the CHC Facebook [page](#) to stay up to date on how to take part. The first step is to join us in that simple pleasure of a hot drink beside a warm fire in a cozy home with this issue of Housing Coalition Headlines. Enjoy!

Splinters from the Board

Generosity and Gratitude

By Jennifer Reda

In this thanksgiving and holiday season, giving and gratitude are topics afloat. I recently heard a community leader offer this reminder, "Generosity is an expression, not a measure, of our gratitude." Hearing these words took me immediately back to moments I have witnessed in CHC world when the residents we serve school us, as the volunteers working on their homes, in acts of generosity. These acts are genuine, often grand expressions of gratitude!

A resident this summer prepared lunch for the work crew re-roofing her house. It was no ordinary lunch; more like a Thanksgiving feast. A young teenager in relaying the story to me excitedly shared, "While people were banging like crazy on the roof above her, she was cooking away in the kitchen to feed us!" On a limited income with a meager grocery budget, her home-cooked meal was an extravagant gift.

During the springtime, I have the pleasure of scouting worksites for volunteers. These trips often result in time for conversation and storytelling with residents. While chatting with them, I learn more about their story, their family life, what they hope for tomorrow, and what they enjoy doing today. One woman shared with me her craft of sewing beautiful handbags from scrap pieces of fabrics. I carry one today because she insisted on me taking my favorite as a token of her gratitude. "I want you to have this one," she said with a twinkle in her eye. "I can tell you like it." With many hours of labor and love dedicated to its creation, the lovely little bag, her artwork, was an inspiring and generous gift.

Now it is winter, and I think about these gracious neighbors of mine whom I met in the warmer months. I hope they have a pantry filled with canned vegetables and a room warm enough for sewing peacefully.

Reality is, many homes in Madison County will not. As colder weather sets in, the challenges of living in sub-standard housing conditions rise. This is an important time of year to support the work of CHC. Please consider giving of your time, talent, or treasure this winter, not as a measure, but as an expression of your own gratitude for the warmth and safety of "home."

Volunteer Corner

By June Trevor, CHC Volunteer Program Coordinator

ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS! NEW EMAIL ADDRESS FOR VOLUNTEER COMMUNICATIONS

Since I retire at the end of November, we have set up a new email address for communications related to volunteering with CHC. Effective immediately, you can contact VolunteerCoordinator@chcmadisoncountync.org to convey your volunteer interests or updates. We expect to have a student intern assuming the volunteer coordination role during Spring Semester 2016 who will be checking that email address regularly. You can also continue to call 828-649-1200 regarding volunteer needs. CHC will keep you posted about long term plans for the Volunteer Coordinator position.

CALL FOR LOCAL VOLUNTEERS! Now is the winter of our disrepair...

As winter approaches, it's a perfect time to volunteer to do simple, one-time repairs that make a world of difference for our clients. For example, we currently have four clients who need their pipes insulated. CHC can provide the materials if you would like to donate a few hours to help insulate pipes or similar weatherization tasks. If interested, please call CHC at 649-1200 or email VolunteerCoordinator@chcmadisoncountync.org.

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS (NHN) NEWS:



Sign Up for a 2016 NHN Workday While Slots are Open!

We invite local groups and individuals to sign up for NHN workdays still available in 2016. CHC provides supervision, tools and materials. New and former volunteers, and all skill levels, are welcomed. Volunteer groups who helped in 2015 are welcome to sign up again! All workdays are on a Saturday from 10 AM to 3 PM. Project details and directions to worksites are sent during the week prior to the workday. Volunteers just bring a bag lunch and a commitment to help a neighbor for five hours. Call 649-1200 or email VolunteerCoordinator@chcmadisoncountync.org if you want to sign yourself or your group up for any of the available dates below. Join other local groups who are finding NHN Workdays to be a fun, teambuilding experience.

NHN Workdays in 2016

(All Saturdays ~ 10 am to 3 pm) Volunteers Signed Up

| | |
|--------------|--|
| February 27 | MHU Christian Student Ministries (HOLD) |
| March 19 | 4H of Madison County |
| April 16 | |
| May 14 | |
| June 11 | |
| July 16 | |
| August 27 | |
| September 17 | |
| October 15 | |
| November 12 | |

SEE YOU SOON!

I much prefer saying that to "goodbye"! As I said in the last newsletter, serving as Volunteer Coordinator for such a fine nonprofit organization and the strong network of service-minded, hardworking and generous volunteers that all of you are has been one of the highlights of my life. You have each taught me so much about what it

truly means to be a good neighbor.

As a retiree, I'll continue to live in Madison County and see many of you in the community, those of you who live here and hopefully those of you who travel here each summer, so I do indeed expect to "see you soon"!

While it seems an inadequate expression to embrace all that you do for others, I must close by saying **thank you** with all my heart. Keep up the fine tradition of volunteer-based home repair, changing the world one home at a time!

Grant Update

By Chris Watson, Client and Grants Coordinator

2015 at CHC has experienced a great Water Fall. I say this because so many of our urgent repairs this fall have been associated with folk's water supplies. In the past several months we have replaced or repaired over a dozen water systems, including 6 water heater replacements, 2 new wells, and 4 broken pipes. These repairs remind me of how important it is to have a clean, dependable water supply and how fortunate we are to have funding to assist our neighbors when that vital need is not being met.

Without repair grant dollars and the support of the community to allow CHC to administer these grants minor plumbing leaks would go unaddressed for months or years. This would lead to much greater issues such as rotting floors, walls, mold issues and septic malfunction. These compounding health and safety issues not only increase the scope and cost of the repair, but also the impact to the community's health and the agencies that assist with public health. The healthier we can keep our homes and neighbors, the less strain the entire community has to bear.

CHC is almost always in need of plumbing help. If you have some plumbing skills, even if they are minor, we would love to have you volunteer. If you don't know much about plumbing but would like to assist on a project with one of our skilled plumbers in order to learn we can also provide that opportunity. Please contact Chris Watson by email: chrisw@chcmadisoncountync.org or call 828-649-1200 if you are interested in how you can put your existing skills to work and learn something new.

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!

Closing Thoughts

What is "giving?" There are many ways that all of us give. When we are warm and cozy in our homes, we often forget that many in our

community do not have adequate housing, nor enough food to eat. How can you give to solve for these problems? Do you support community organizations like CHC in your holiday giving? Or do you volunteer your time to help organizations in your community? It may be that you simply offer to find kindling for your disabled neighbor or that you donate food to a food pantry. However you choose to contribute to Madison County, we are so thankful for you and all that you do!



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