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Housing Coalition Headlines

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Jake Owen, Repair Needs Assessor
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Management Musings

By Christopher Brown, Executive Director

I'm happy to report that Blue Mountain Pizza month was a success! Thanks to Matt Danford and the Blue Mountain Pizza team for supporting Community Housing Coalition as their March non-profit of the month! And thanks to all the pizza lovers who came out to support CHC and promote safe and affordable housing in Madison County. CHC raised close to \$1,500 and was able to reach its goal of meeting the dollar-for-dollar donation match of up to \$500 that Blue Mountain Pizza so generously offered.

While we're on the subject of good news, CHC has been approved once again to receive Urgent Repair Program (URP) funds. The North Carolina Housing Finance Agency is funneling \$3.9 million to URP in 2016, of which CHC has been awarded \$100,000 to respond to urgent repair needs. To hear more about this success, read Chris Watson's coverage later in this newsletter.

April has been a busy month of planting many seeds for CHC's future. The summer season will be upon us before we know it! Preparations have begun for the legion of summer volunteers that will hit atop the grounds of Madison this year. We are excited to welcome back all the Volunteer Mission Groups that have joined CHC as partner heroes in serving those in need of safe housing.

Another big "seed" for us is undergoing the intensive application process for the Melvin R. Lane Fund grant award, for which CHC has been named a finalist. The size of this grant would be \$150,000 spread out over three years, and it would be a hugely important "win" for our organization. The Lane Fund's mission is to support social

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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.

services for the youth, disabled and elderly citizens of Western North Carolina. Previous grantees include organizations such as Children First/Communities in Schools of Buncombe County, Homeward Bound, The Mediation Center, and the Blue Ridge Literacy Council.

Let me say this – without jinxing the Lane Fund's final decision – being selected as a finalist for this grant has been a great achievement in itself! The Lane Fund program for finalists requires non-profits to complete an Organizational Assessment provided by WNC Nonprofit Pathways. Luckily, the Lane Fund pays for this opportunity and CHC, as a result, has received top-notch organizational coaching. The experience required a consultant to meet with myself and CHC's board of directors to identify our non-profit's strengths, challenges, and priorities for moving forward. We've learned an incredible amount about ourselves through this review process. Whether or not CHC is awarded funds, we've been able to target key strategies for improving and expanding our impact to serve more of our neighbors in need. The deadline for CHC's completed application is May 16, and the Lane Fund will announce their funding decisions in July. Wish us luck!!

On a final note, if you get the chance, tune in to my radio interview with 95.5 wART host Les Reker on the mission and bright future of CHC. The broadcast will air on Friday, May 6th from 2:00-3:00pm, with an encore broadcast the following Tuesday, May 10th, at 1:00pm. We will also post on Facebook an MP3 version of the interview.

Splinters from the Board



By Rev. Steve Honeycutt

Over the past few years there has been an increasing call for affordable housing. There is a disturbing trend for a majority of Americans that their wages are not rising to meet the increased cost of living. This results in a number of families not able to afford housing. This is particularly true in areas of high population density.

An equally serious problem facing our residents of Madison County is the issue of 'non-inhabitable' housing. The priority for many is keeping the lights on, heat, food, and other basic necessities of life. The elderly are typically in the worst shape since they are on a fixed income with the same basic expenses as well as increased medical expense. The lack of disposable income results in housing deteriorating to the point of severe problems. Roofs, weather stripping, and basic weatherization are just a few of the significant problems our residents face. The focus of CHC is to try to meet these needs in our county. CHC depends on grants *and* the generosity of individuals and organizations to continue to provide this service for Madison County.

Volunteer Corner

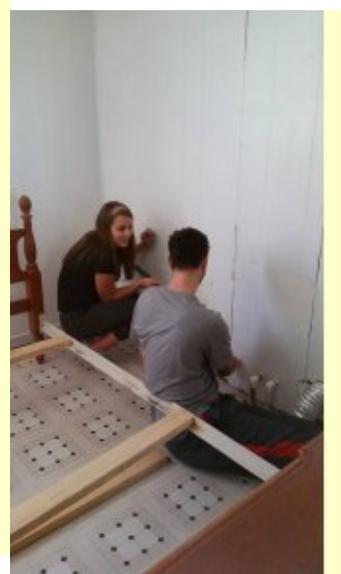
By Annie Jaradat

Where has the time gone? What an amazing eye opening experience that I have been able to be a part of for the last four months during my internship here at CHC. I could never repay CHC and the staff for the invaluable lessons, the encouragement, and the professionalism that was bestowed upon me since my very first day. I have seen the "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" Saturday workdays make life changing differences in the lives of our Madison County neighbors. I am always humbled by the wonderful giving spirit of others who so graciously give their time, energy, love and talents to help a neighbor in need. My experience here at CHC has not only helped me grow professionally, it has opened up my eyes to see my community and the people from a different perspective. I now see the importance of being involved, being able to give back, and paying it forward. I would like to express my gratitude for the opportunity in allowing me to do my senior

internship with such a wonderful, community driven agency. I look forward to continue working for and being a part of the CHC Team. It is hard to believe, but when I talk to you again I will be Annie Jaradat, BSW. I want to thank all who have been on this wonderful journey with me, I truly am blessed.



What an amazing "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" Saturday workday we had on April 16, 2016! We had volunteers from Mars Hill University, CHC staff, family and friends of CHC staff, a CHC board member, along with a previously served CHC client who was empowered and was able to give back. The family we served this month welcomed us with open arms and worked right alongside of us. I want to give a big shout out to all those who truly made a difference, for our neighbors and in our community! Thanks guys, you ROCK!!!



WAIT! We still have "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" 2016 project workdays!!! Please call our office at [828-649-1200](tel:828-649-1200) or email volunteercoordinator@chcmadisoncountync.org to sign up your group, family, or as an individual.

NHN Workdays in 2016
(All Saturdays ~ 10 am to 3 pm) Volunteers Signed Up

Repair projects will be announced

May 14
June 11
July 16
August 27
September 17
October 15

Client & Grants Update

By Chris Watson, Client and Grants Coordinator

Client & Grants Update

CHC staff recently completed our annual client review. During this process the staff goes through all of the active client files in detail in order to prioritize and organize work for the next year. This work is especially important in our efforts to match clients' needs with the agency's resources, including summer mission teams, local volunteer programs and program grant funds. CHC currently has **113 active clients** seeking assistance.

CHC just received word that the NC Housing Finance Agency has awarded us with \$100,000 in 2016 Urgent Repair Program funds. This will be the fourth year in a row CHC has received URP funding and the third year in a row we have received the maximum allotment of \$100,000.

These awards are granted to CHC in large part due to the huge in-kind contributions that our local and summer volunteers provide. These funds are especially important as they allow CHC to serve the community year-round with emergency repairs such as heating, plumbing, electrical and roof repairs. These funds also allow CHC to assist disabled clients with mobility enhancements such as wheelchair ramps and bathroom modifications. Thank you for doing your part!

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

CHC has been concerned over the massive wildfire that started at the Silver Mine in Hot Springs on April 21st. We'd like to extend a big thank you to Madison County firefighters and the Forest Services for working to contain the estimated 6,000 acre spread of the blaze. We know many of our clients and volunteers live in the area close to the fire, and may have been affected. Our thoughts and concerns have been with them.

This recent unfortunate event begs the question, when it comes to wildfire and home fire breakouts, are you prepared in case of an emergency? The Red Cross suggests regularly cleaning your roof and gutters and checking the batteries on your smoke detectors. Test your fire extinguisher annually and set aside household items that can be used as outdoor fire tools such as a rake, ax, saw, bucket and shovel to fight small fires before they spread. Make sure your driveway entrances are accessible for fire trucks and your house number and/or address are clearly marked. Do you know your evacuation route, both out of your home and out of your neighborhood, in case your primary route is blocked? Supplies to take with you would include water, food, personal documents, a first aid kit, valuable items, blankets, your cell phone charger, and a flashlight. Be prepared, and be safe!

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