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# Housing Coalition Headlines

## Community Housing Coalition of Madison County, NC

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 June Trevor, Local Volunteer Coordinator  
 Chris Watson, Grants and Office Support Coordinator  
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 Mike Ray, Bookkeeper

Contact

13 S. Main St.  
 P.O. Box 1166  
 Marshall, NC 28753  
 828-649-1200

Email

CHC@chcmadisoncountync.org

Web Page

www.chcmadisoncountync.org

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## Management Musings

**By Chris Brown, Executive Director**

Wow! What a successful summer - 12 roofs in Madison replaced among many other necessary and urgent repairs. More on CHC Summer 2015 to come below.

This summer would not be a success without the volunteers, of course, but lest we forget to thank the CHC staff whom determine & assess, coordinate & manage the 1000 plus volunteers, 1000 plus tasks needing completion & 1000+ phone calls, emails and texts that make up the servicing of our neighbors homes. Please join me in thanking June, Watson, Jake & George! Give them a call sometime and just say hey! we appreciate what you do!

This past Friday's ribbon cutting ceremony celebrated the creation of 48 new units of affordable housing in Mars Hill. Let's not forget there are still many Madison county neighbors who don't meet the criteria to become a Mars Hill Commons resident and for some Mars Hill Commons is just not the right fit for their housing needs. For those neighbors, and the many others still in need of safe, healthy and affordable housing CHC must press on through advocacy, education and resource development to accomplish it's mission to promote and facilitate that housing. If you believe in that mission I ask you that you consider making a tax deductible donation to Community Housing Coalition, of Madison County - today!

We'll have more to come in forthcoming newsletters, but wanted to let you know that CHC will be hosting the 2nd annual

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.

fundraiser Incarcerate for Housings Sake on Saturday 10/3 during the Heritage and Lunsford Festivals in Mars Hill. If you know of someone who CHC should Incarcerate for Housings Sake, please let us know. Be on the look out for IHS Wanted posters for folks needing your help to get "bailed" out and help CHC continue it's mission, for housing's sake!

It's your last chance this coming Sunday, September 6 to ride the French Broad for CHC and other Madison county charities. [Blue Heron Whitewater](#) is hosting community raft days as a fundraiser for CHC. This is a fun and easy way you, your family and visiting guests can support our work.

## Splinters from the Board

By Jennifer Flynn

### Teach a Person to Fish...

When I first became aware of CHC, I was surprised to learn of the number of homes within the vicinity of downtown Marshall where people were living, particularly the elderly, with no running water or indoor plumbing. Straight-piping was still a common practice. Through grants to assist these homeowners to modernize their dwellings, the housing conditions have improved. But as any homeowner knows, houses require constant maintenance and repair, and so CHC continues to serve those who may not be able to afford, be physically able or have the know-how to repair their homes. Grants and CHC projects such as Reclaim Madison and Neighbors Helping Neighbors are working to address the affordability of home repair and maintenance in Madison. CHC is often recognized for getting the work done, but providing the **know-how** is often neglected to be mentioned as another service that CHC provides in Madison County.

With each volunteer work crew, either those on mission trips from out of state or our local volunteers from Madison working with Neighbors Helping Neighbors days, a new set of skills is passed on. An overwhelming project may become quite simple with a little guidance. Volunteers *and* able homeowners have learned how to build handicap ramps, repair roofing and plumbing, replace unhealthy and unsafe flooring and countless other hands-on skills that they may not have had before CHC's involvement.

Volunteers and homeowners learn not only from CHC staff, but also from other volunteers. What skills do you have that you can offer to others? If you have a particular set of skills that might be useful in assisting with CHC client projects, please reach out. Would you like to learn about basic home repair while helping your community? Home repair can actually be fun! And you get the joy of improving the lives of others. If you're interested in learning, volunteering with CHC is a great opportunity. Contact [June Trevor](#) to learn how!

This skill transfer is not something for which CHC actively seeks funding, but it happens as a result of the community oriented action approach which makes CHC so effective in achieving its mission. If you're unable to volunteer, but would still like to support CHC in this aspect of its work, please make a charitable contribution through the [CHC website](#) so that we can maintain a skilled staff and work to train others in our community.

"Follow your dreams and use your natural-born talents and skills to make this a better world for tomorrow." -- Paul Watson

## Volunteer Corner

By June Trevor, CHC Volunteer Program Coordinator



A profound THANK YOU to the hardworking crew at our August 22<sup>nd</sup> workday! A team of seven with the Madison County Sheriff's Department (Tom Banks, Brian Boles, Francy Denton, Lisa Cody, Will Martin, Michelle Quintero and daughter Ashlynn Quintero) along with volunteer Ralph Rongstad took on multiple repairs at a home in the Anderson Branch area. We look forward to working with New Spring Church volunteers at the September 12 workday!

**Consider Signing Up for An Upcoming Workday (All are Saturdays, 10 AM to 3PM):**

CHC provides supervision, tools and materials for our fun monthly workdays. Volunteers only need to bring a lunch and willingness to help a neighbor for five hours! Call me at 649-1200 or email [june@chcmadisoncountync.org](mailto:june@chcmadisoncountync.org) to sign up for any of the following scheduled workdays:

October 17 – **Need more volunteers!**  
November 14 – **Need more volunteers!**

**2016 Workdays (All are available for volunteer sign ups!)**

February 27  
March 19  
April 16  
May 14  
June 11  
July 16  
August 27  
September 17  
October 15  
November 12

**JOIN US UP ON THE ROOF! LEARN MORE ABOUT *NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS* AT OUR SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> INFORMATION SESSION!**

Drop by our "Rooftop" gathering on the lovely deck atop the SECU building in Downtown Marshall on Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 4- 6 PM at the CHC Offices in downtown Marshall. There will be plenty of refreshments, beverages and great information on how to get involved in our *Neighbors Helping Neighbors* campaign!



**LOCAL VOLUNTEER SAVES THE DAY**

Thanks to CHC Volunteer Kevin Rumble for responding so quickly in mid-August to our request for help repairing subflooring and installing

laminate flooring to pave the way for a client's return to her home following hospitalization.

### SUMMER NUMBERS ROLLING IN

Reports for a few projects are still coming in but the numbers to date are impressive. This past summer, twenty- two non-local volunteer groups have so far contributed over 12,900 hours and over \$41,000 in donated materials toward repairs for 40 clients. We were able to use Urgent Repair Grant funds for several of our summer groups' projects. We can't thank our Summer Repairs Program volunteer groups enough for traveling here to give so much of their time, resources and skills to improving Madison County homes.

## Community Raft Trips



It's not too late to get on the river before the cold weather arrives! How about taking a raft trip to support CHC and other wonderful community organizations? [Blue Heron Whitewater](#) is once again supporting CHC and other Madison County nonprofits through a donation of all proceeds received from their

Community Rafting Trips. CHC, Neighbors in Need, My Sisters Place, and Madison County Arts Council will receive funds from trips that have been held throughout the summer. Your last chance to have fun and support CHC is **Sunday September 6.**

## Grant Update

**By Chris Watson, Client and Grants Coordinator**

With summer coming to a close and the cold of winter only a few months away we are quickly transitioning from our summer mission program to winterization mode. Client applications for heating repair, insulation, doors and windows have started coming in quickly as folks prepare for winter. To serve those most in need we continue to seek out volunteers to help with projects. In addition we partner with Community Action Opportunities Weatherization services, local firewood ministries, and contractors to help ensure our neighbors are safe and comfortable this winter.

Many of our client's needs are relatively simple for volunteers to address, such as insulating water pipes and repairing underpinning. We do however have a couple of clients in need of window and door replacements. The materials for the projects are covered under the Urgent Repair Program but we would love to have a skilled volunteer or two donate their time to install them so that we can stretch our limited funding budget. If you know anyone in need of help before the upcoming winter, or if you would like to volunteer to help a neighbor get ready for the cold, please contact CHC as soon as possible.

## Donation Box

Financial contributions to further support our work are welcome throughout the year. You can always 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

If you're still looking for a way to get involved and can't make the next NHN workday, consider offering to clean out a neighbor's gutters who may not be able. Improperly functioning gutters can lead to much more damaging and costly repairs.

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