



Christopher Brown <chris@chcmadisoncountync.org>

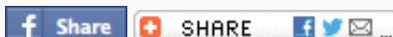
CHC Madison County News Welcome 2016!

6 messages

Christopher Brown, CHC of Madison County
<CHC+chcmadisoncountync.org@mnb.email>
Reply-To: Executive Director <CHC@chcmadisoncountync.org>
To: Christopher Brown <chris@chcmadisoncountync.org>

Mon, Feb 29, 2016 at 5:34 PM

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Community Housing Coalition



Housing Coalition Headlines

Community Housing Coalition of Madison County, NC

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Management Musings

By Christopher Brown, Executive Director

In being a part of CHC, I am fortunate to be reminded often of the importance and power of community. I was recently asked my opinion on the national election. Feeling a bit cheeky and weary on the topic, I returned the question with a question to the questioner about their neighbor's health. Their response, "What does my neighbor have to do with our nation's president!?" To which I responded "To the president... not much, but to the nation's health & success... a whole lot!" That is the paradigm shift CHC works to promote each day through those we serve and those who serve, with those who donate and those considering, and always amongst the CHC team that

Needs Assessor
 Jake Owen, Repair
 Needs Assessor
 Mike Ray, Bookkeeper
 Annie Jaradat, Intern
 Interim Volunteer
 Coordinator

Contact

13 S. Main St, Suite 304
 (physical)
 P.O. Box 1166
 (mailing)
 Marshall, NC 28753
 828-649-1200

Email

CHC@
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.

are the boots on the ground promoting that philosophy.

Who are the leaders of this charge to the Madison Community at large and beyond? The CHC Board of Directors! We are looking for more leaders to join their ranks. Are you interested? Do you know someone who would be perfect to answer the call? If so, please contact the Board of Directors at BOD@chcmadisoncountync.org or by calling the CHC office at [828-649-1200](tel:828-649-1200).

This Saturday was our first Neighbors Helping Neighbors workday of 2016. What a great way to kick off the NHN season with 25+ neighbors! Some who've been served before, some who will be served in the future, all who believe in the power of service of one's neighbor! Many thanks to Interim Volunteer Coordinator, Annie Jaradat & Jake Owen for making the 1st NHN such a tremendous one!

Thanks to the worker bees! Worker bees like Chris Watson (aka Watson!), CHC Client & Grants Coordinator, are the energy behind CHC's success of service to our neighbors. Read more about what a day in the life of Watson is like, but I warn you, you may be exhausted after reading! Thanks again Watson! We appreciate you!

Splinters from the Board

By Lee Hoffman

We have had some very compelling contributions over the past several months in the CHC newsletter. You have been asked to walk momentarily in the shoes of someone who lives without the security of a warm, dry, safe home; and to consider how you may seek assistance to improve that situation. I was recently clearing my desk in an effort to also clear my mind and focus. As I was shifting things from one pile to another and prioritizing my mess, I came across several items which took me back to some "crisis" or period of high stress. In considering these events, which at their moment in time, were (or seemed to be) so consuming or insurmountable, I now realized they are not even considered and have been replaced with some other insurmountable problem or challenge. But when I compare my "problems" with things that I know others are facing I have to pause and be so very thankful for my "problems". People who face staggering health issues, inadequate housing or homelessness, domestic violence, mental health issues, hunger - these people are facing problems which make me embarrassed to complain about anything that may be happening in my own life. In that moment I say to myself: Be Thankful! Be Grateful! Be Gracious! Love!

On a happier note, I wanted to update you briefly on the Mars Hill Commons housing development completed last summer. CHC recently received some demographic data on the community residents. I can share with you that approximately one half of the initial occupants are from Madison County. There are several residents from Yancey and Mitchell Counties, and the remaining from Northern Buncombe County. At the time of this writing, all 48 units at Mars Hill Commons are rented. From all of the information that I can gather, the development has been a good fit for the Town of Mars Hill. There have been no events or incidents requiring the attention of Mars Hill PD. The grounds and facilities are well managed and residents are very happy with the quality. This development demonstrates well the need for quality affordable housing in Madison County. We all need to be advocates whenever and wherever possible for more investment in existing and new housing that is safe, healthy and affordable.

Volunteer Corner

By Annie Jaradat

I would like to introduce myself as the Interim Volunteer Coordinator for CHC. I am a senior at Mars Hill University and look forward to graduating in May

with a Bachelor's degree in Social Work, and a minor in Psychology. My passion is working in the community and empowering others to be the very best they can be. I would like to say that I am very happy to be doing my senior internship at such a wonderful and community driven agency. I first volunteered with CHC on a Neighbors Helping Neighbors workday during my junior year, while doing my "Change the World" project. I saw the impact that this agency was making within the community. This was when I knew that I wanted to be a part of the CHC mission and continue to volunteer. I am excited to be part of the team and look forward to assisting this agency in its continued efforts to promote and facilitate healthy, safe and affordable housing through advocacy, education, and resource development in Madison County.

**NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS IS STILL SEEKING VOLUNTEERS!
Sign Up for a 2016 NHN Workday While Slots are open!**



As an update on the continued success of Neighbors Helping Neighbors, we have over 20 volunteers signed up for our first 2016 NHN Saturday workday! Some of these volunteers are the children of previous clients and past recipients of NHN workdays.



We invite local groups and individuals, alike, to sign up for NHN workdays that are still available for 2016. CHC provides supervision, tools and materials. New and former volunteers, and all skill levels, are welcome. 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 work sites 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. Contact Annie Jaradat at 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 in with other local groups who are finding NHN Workdays to be a fun, exciting teambuilding experience!



NHN Workdays in 2016

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

February 27	MHU Christian Student Ministries
March 19	4H of Madison County
April 16	MHU Women's Studies Class
May 14	
June 11	
July 16	
August 27	
September 17	
October 15	

Grant Update

By Chris Watson, Client and Grants Coordinator

I feel very blessed to have a job working with and for the wonderful folks of Madison County. As newsletter readers you are already familiar with the great work that our agency performs to help alleviate sub-standard housing conditions. I wanted to take this month to provide a glimpse of a day in the life of a Client and Grants Coordinator. My job is to coordinate housing repairs for households that live at or below 50% of Area Median Income, about \$430/week for a family of two. Most of our clients make significantly less than 50% AMI and have a special need such as being elderly, disabled or a single-parent. Although there is no such thing as a "typical" day, I wanted to share what my days often looks like.

I start just before 9am, checking phone messages and emails. I return a call to a client whose husband has recently become disabled and can no longer do much work on the home. Her teenage son was recently in a car wreck and has a broken leg. The home is a 25 yr old manufactured home and has many of the problems common with this type of housing. There are electrical problems, a rotting deck, water damaged floors, no heat in the kids' room and other minor issues. The good news is the roof is in good condition and not leaking. She works and the family makes \$2,000 a year above our grant limits so we cannot buy materials or hire contractors. She says she can buy some materials with her tax refund to fix some of the issues if we can provide some labor and supervision. I always love to hear when clients offer up resources to help themselves and I refer the project to our Volunteer Coordinator for a possible Neighbors Helping Neighbors day this spring.

I return another call. This time from a resident who is in danger, on top of living in unsafe housing conditions. I refer her to My Sister's Place crisis line and hope for the best. This is the most difficult call I've ever had to take and it haunts my thoughts the rest of the day. An in-home healthcare worker for one

of our clients drops in seeking help for her own mother, who is suffering from cancer and has a leaking roof on her trailer. I provide an application and mention our Neighbors Helping Neighbors workdays as a possible solution for installing a new roofing membrane. She says she can pull together 6-7 skilled workers if we can purchase materials. She also offers to help at other NHN events.

I take a few minutes to walk down to Zuma to get a cup of coffee. While waiting in line I learn of a recent client whom we served by providing a major housing rehab. Her water pump froze last week and she was able to find a repair man and get it fixed on her own. This is great news, as we actively encourage clients to solve their own housing issues whenever possible.

I return to my desk and spend two hours filling our grant reports and funding requests.

I get a call from a contractor who has gone to look at an elderly client's home, where the entire back wall of the basement has fallen in. He says there is a spring seeping through the ground behind the basement and that it needs to be headed off before the wall can be repaired. This will be a huge job, but we agree that the house is good and is definitely worth saving. Thankfully we have HOME grant funds that we can probably use to save this man's home. We agree to meet at the home next week to discuss options.

Annie, our Volunteer Coordinator, and I visit a single mother who has been out of work for a while due to an on-the-job injury. Through our URP grant we had hired a plumber to repair her septic line, which had come apart under her trailer, spilling raw sewage under her home. She is very thankful and as we are leaving one of her teenage sons pulls in. He shows us pictures of a home he is helping build and offers to help us with an upcoming NHN event. We are especially excited by the fact that he appears to be a pretty skilled carpenter and is eager to volunteer.

That was the third client today to offer to help other clients. Annie and I smile and hope all the help comes to fruition. It's been great talking to folks that are willing to help each other and their neighbors. CHC has always repaired homes, but what I really enjoy is working to rebuild community and resilience in Madison County by connecting people, teaching skills and enjoying fellowship through work.

I spend the last 30 minutes of my day filing grant paperwork and assigning work orders to our assessors. I turn off my computer and go home.

Pizza Night for CHC

MARCH IS PIZZA MONTH AT CHC!!



We are proud to announce that CHC is the March non-profit of the month at BLUE MOUNTAIN PIZZA, located next to the library on Main Street in Weaverville. Matt Danford, Blue Mountain Pizza's civic-minded owner, supports local non-profits each month and was generous enough to include CHC in the schedule.

All month long, you can make donations in the designated box on the counter and they will be matched up to \$500.00. In addition, on Thursday, March 17th, 10% of the receipts for the entire day will go to CHC. Thursdays are big family nights where there is a low-cost spaghetti dinner, so invite

your friends and family to join you! If you don't have time to sit down and eat, you can definitely order carry-out!!

So put those low-carb diets on hold and celebrate St. Patrick's Day by supporting your local

non-profit organization, while chowing down on some of the best PIZZA IN TOWN!!! Invite 10 family and friends to do the same!

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 fondly looks to spring for the reprieve that will be, hopefully, delivered by mother of nature and the continued valiant efforts of neighbors willing to change the world by starting with improving it for their neighbors. Consider how you can assist CHC and your neighbors as the weather starts warming. We have plenty of opportunities and reasons for you to get outside. **Come join us!**



Community Housing Coalition • p.o. box 1166 • Marshall, NC 28753

<http://chcmadisoncountync.org>

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Norris Gentry <nentry@madisoncountync.gov>
To: Executive Director <CHC@chcmadisoncountync.org>

Mon, Feb 29, 2016 at 5:40 PM

Thanks 😊

Sent from my iPhone

[Quoted text hidden]

Christopher Brown <chris@chcmadisoncountync.org>
To: Kathleen Hart <Admin@chcmadisoncountync.org>

Tue, Mar 1, 2016 at 10:59 AM

Katie,

Thank you for all your help in this one. Please email Jen Flynn (jenflynn72@gmail.com) to introduce yourself, give her your email to be on the newsletter list, and feel free to share any other's emails that you feel may be interested in hearing about what's going on in the world of CHC.

Thanks,

Christopher Brown

Executive Director | Community Housing Coalition of Madison County
[828-649-1200](tel:828-649-1200) | Chris@chcmadisoncountync.org | www.chcmadisoncountync.org

PO Box 1166, 13 S. Main St., Suite 304, Marshall, NC 28753



*To promote and facilitate healthy, safe, and affordable housing
through advocacy, education, and resource development.*



[Quoted text hidden]

Christopher Brown <chris@chcmadisoncountync.org>
To: Norris Gentry <ngentry@madisoncountync.gov>

Tue, Mar 1, 2016 at 10:59 AM

Norris,

Thank you for reading!

Christopher Brown

Executive Director | Community Housing Coalition of Madison County
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[Quoted text hidden]

Christopher Brown <chris@chcmadisoncountync.org>
To: Kathleen Hart <Admin@chcmadisoncountync.org>

Fri, Mar 4, 2016 at 4:48 PM

Please print and post.

Christopher Brown

Executive Director | Community Housing Coalition of Madison County
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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Christopher Brown, CHC of Madison County** <CHC+chcmadisoncountync.org@mnbc.email>
Date: Mon, Feb 29, 2016 at 5:34 PM
Subject: CHC Madison County News Welcome 2016!
To: Christopher Brown <chris@chcmadisoncountync.org>

[Quoted text hidden]

Christopher Brown <chris@chcmadisoncountync.org>
To: Kathleen Hart <Admin@chcmadisoncountync.org>

Fri, Mar 4, 2016 at 4:48 PM

Ps...
View as webpage prior to printing.

Christopher Brown
Executive Director | Community Housing Coalition of Madison County
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