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Housing Coalition Headlines

Community Housing Coalition of Madison County, NC

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 Jennifer Flynn
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 June Trevor, Local Volunteer Coordinator
 Chris Watson, Grants and Office Support Coordinator
 George Austin, Repair Needs Assessor
 Jake Owen, Repair Needs Assessor
 Mike Ray, Bookkeeper

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Management Musings

By Chris Brown, Executive Director

Summer is always the busiest time of year for CHC as we are not only handling daily operations and new client applications, but also welcoming and organizing the many volunteer groups who show up year in and year out, eager to work. We salute you, volunteers! You make CHC's mission possible to carry out!

We have opportunities to area individuals to volunteer. Join us and the crew from the Madison County Sherriff's Department on August 22nd for our next Neighbors Helping Neighbors work session. See below for how you can get involved.

We are in the midst of our Summer Appeal for support. There is still opportunity for you to contribute your donation to help us recover from additional summer expenses.

Before the French Broad gets too chilly, don't forget [Blue Heron Whitewater](#) is hosting community raft days as a fundraiser for CHC and other local community organizations. This is a fun and easy way you, your family and visiting guests can support our work. See below.

"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.



Splinters from the Board

By Dagmar Haubold

The Importance of Community

While there continues to be a discussion about what actually defines community, for many people it is a shared sense of cohesiveness among a group of individuals.

For generations, an individual's community often served a vital role in terms of camaraderie and acting as a support system. With society moving at a faster pace due to technology, busy schedules, population density, and the frequency with which we change jobs, homes and locations, it has become increasingly more difficult to feel a sense of community.

Having lived on Long Island for a significant part of my life, I can personally speak to that. Part of the issue in highly populated areas is a question of boundaries. When each "town" runs into the next one, and one strip mall follows another, it is difficult to feel connected or have a sense of belonging. As a child of the sixties I often yearned for a sense of community and lamented the lack of one.

Then, about eight years ago I moved to Madison County. Here I pretty much found what I was looking for: people getting together in order to promote and advance a shared interest. There are lots of examples such as Neighbors in Need, Madison has Heart, Beacon of Hope, the Heritage Festival, Art on the Island, and the Community Housing Coalition to name just a few.

CHC has the word *community* built right into its name. It's staff and volunteers work tirelessly and for little monetary compensation to improve the lives of Madison County residents less fortunate than themselves.

Its "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" program truly encourages people to have a vested interest in their community by volunteering to get together one Saturday a month for a 'barn raising.' In this case it could be fixing a broken staircase, weatherproofing some windows, replacing a storm door, etc.

Whether your interest is local or global you may want to consider attending more community events, buying from local merchants, supporting schools and community organizations or volunteering. A strong sense of community benefits the individual as well as the greater society. People of all ages who feel a sense of belonging tend to live happier, healthier lives, and strong communities create a more stable and supportive society.

"The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life".
Jane Addams

Volunteer Corner

By June Trevor, CHC Volunteer Program Coordinator

Volunteer Corner – June Trevor, CHC Volunteer Program Coordinator

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS WORKDAYS: Madison County Sheriff's Department Crew Will Help A Neighbor in August!

We welcome the Madison County Sheriff's Department as our next work crew for our August 22nd Neighbors Helping Neighbors workday, rescheduled from July 18th. Thanks so much, in advance, to participating staff from the Sheriff's Department staff for devoting a Saturday to serving one of our clients.

LOTS MORE NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS WORKDAYS WORKDAYS TO JOIN!

We welcome more groups and individuals to sign up for an available Saturday Workday! CHC provides site supervision, materials and water for these fun, low skill workdays. Just bring along a bag lunch and a commitment to volunteer at the site from 10 AM until 3 PM! To sign up, contact me at 828-649-1200 or june@chcmadisoncountync.org.

Upcoming Workdays (All are Saturdays, 10 AM to 3PM): 2015

August 22 – Madison County Sheriff's Department

September 12 - New Spring Church

October 17 – **Need volunteers!**

November 14 – **Need volunteers!**

2016 (All workdays 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

LEARN MORE AT THE SEPTEMBER 10TH NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS INFORMATION SESSION!

Mark your calendars now for our *Neighbors Helping Neighbors* information session/open house on **Thursday, September 10th, 4-6 PM** at the CHC Offices in downtown Marshall. Drop in for some snacks, fellowship and information on how to get your agency or group involved in helping neighbors with home repairs! More details to come in the August newsletter!

SUCCESSFUL SUMMER!

Home repair activity was rampant across Madison County during the month of July! Ten groups visited the county this past month to provide urgently needed repairs for 37 clients with 30 of these being served for the first time this summer. A big thanks to all of our July groups: First Presbyterian Church of Winchester, VA, Servant Event bringing youth from across the country, Shady Side Presbyterian of Pittsburgh, PA, Highland Presbyterian of Lancaster, PA; Friendly Avenue Church of Christ Youth Group from Greensboro and the following groups staying at Glory Ridge Camp: Christ Church of Charlotte, Forsythe United Methodist Church of GA; Holy Trinity Episcopal Church of Greensboro; St Paul's (Beaufort, SC) and Grace Church (Charleston, SC).

We look forward to having two more Glory Ridge groups here in early August to wrap up our Summer Repairs Program work. Outcomes of the Summer Program (total clients served, total contributions in terms of volunteer hours and in-kind donations of materials) will be featured in the August newsletter. Thank you to all of our Summer Repairs Program Volunteer Groups for all you do for our neighbors!!

Community Raft Trips



Do you like to get on the river? There's still time to take part this summer. 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 on the following dates:

2015 Community Benefit Trip Dates, 2:00 Half Day Trips
Sunday August 2
Sunday September 6

Take a trip and contribute!



Grant Update

By Chris Watson, Client and Grants Coordinator

In June the NC Housing Finance Agency (NCHFA), who provides the funding for the Urgent Repair Program, performed their annual monitoring visit to CHC. The purpose of this visit was to gauge our progress, determine compliance with the program, and to provide technical assistance. After file reviews in the office, we visited four client homes to see the work first-hand and talk to the homeowners about their experience. Chuck Dopler, the NCHFA case manager for CHC, summed up his visit as follows:

"Community Housing Coalition of Madison County is one of a handful of organizations receiving URP funds that can successfully combine volunteer labor, donated materials, and locally sourced funds to greatly expand the number of homeowners positively affected by its repair programs. One can determine by talking with the homeowners that CHC Madison is respected and honored in an area with a tight-knit community of people. We continue to applaud your sincere efforts, your strong commitment to the community, and the demonstrated outstanding results shown by your organization."

As further evidence of the amazing impact we are having on the Madison County community, CHC and our awesome summer volunteers have already completed 11 new roofing jobs. We continue to be encouraged and delighted by our volunteer's willingness to learn the new skills required for these technical repairs. In years past, roofing issues often went unaddressed due to lack of skill and funding,

but now we have volunteer groups requesting roofing projects and are finally taking a huge chunk out of the backlog of leaky roofs. Huge thanks to all our roofing volunteers and especially our assessors, Jake and George, who have offered their skills and time to train our new roofing crews.

Bike And Build Success!



Hot Springs resident, Maura Maloney, and the rest of the Bike & Build team completed their mission and made it from the Atlantic coast of NC to the Pacific coast of California on July 24th.



The group rode 3608 miles and worked along the way in Chapel Hill, Charlotte, Asheville, (NC), Little Rock, Fayetteville, (AR), Bartlesville, (OK), Stafford, (KS), Fountain/Colorado Springs, Buena Vista, (CO), and Prescott, (AZ).

Maura alone raised \$4550 for Bike & Build. 27 other young



adults participated. CHC will receive a portion of these proceeds. Congratulations and thank you to Maura and the Bike & Build riders for supporting and speaking out about affordable housing across the country!

Summer Appeal

In case you missed our Summer Appeal in your mailbox, here is a bit from the letter that we'd like to share.

The Community Housing Coalition takes great pride in the fact that our relationships are lasting and growing. Our donor base continues to grow with individuals and institutional grantors increasing their giving as CHC's capacity to impact the community grows.

The most important relationships we build are those with our clients. The need for safe, healthy and affordable housing cannot be understated, and the benefits derived from it cannot be underestimated. We have worked with some of our clients for many years. Cindy is one such client who first approached the Independent Living Program in 1998, and subsequently CHC, after needing some assistance with repairs to her mobile home and a ramp. Cindy had worked her way through an extremely abusive relationship and had that behind her. With no family in the area, groups of Volunteers went to her home and did necessary repair work. Volunteers from all over NC and the US accepted her as their friend and even sent Christmas packages. Ten years later there was an opportunity for a home due to the disintegration of her mobile home and the need for a safe and healthy environment to live in. Working two subsequent summers, over 1000 volunteers later, she was able to move into her own fully accessible home. Last week one of CHC's Founding Directors attended Cindy's wedding. This is an amazing story of one person's journey from despair to happiness, and CHC has been a grateful participant.

Cindy's story is one such example of how healthy, safe housing can uplift an individual and thus the community. Our work depends on your support. We are able to use grant funds to manage repairs and leverage further donations of materials, but our basic operations to maintain those grants and implement programs is funded through direct support from our donors. Please make 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

We hope that you, your family, and your neighbors are beating the heat this summer. Offer to check on your elderly neighbors who may not have adequate air conditioning in their homes.

We'll have more next month after we've all had a chance to catch our breath.



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

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