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Housing Coalition Headlines

Community Housing Coalition of Madison County, NC

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 Lee Hoffman
 Jennifer Reda
 Mike Bradley
 Jennifer Flynn
 Jennifer Woodruff

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Christopher Brown, Executive Director
 Chris Watson, Client and Grants Coordinator
 Annie Jaradat, Intern
 Interim Volunteer Coordinator
 Katie Hart, Administrative Assistant
 George Austin, Repair Needs Assessor
 Jake Owen, Repair Needs Assessor
 Mike Ray, Bookkeeper

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Management Musings

By Christopher Brown, Executive Director

The CHC Board of Directors shook some things up this month, and wow, the times they are a-changin'! Our Board President for almost a decade, Lee Hoffman, is stepping down but will remain on the board as a Member, and we greatly appreciate all his years of leadership and continued service. CHC is excited to welcome Lin Von Dreele as our new Board President! Lin has been a dedicated CHC board member for over six years. Filling Lin's previously held role as Secretary, we are also excited to welcome Dagmar Haubold as the new Board Secretary! We are so pleased that Lin and Dagmar both stepped up to bring their many talents to their new roles. The other big board-related news is that long time board member Lori Hagan Massey resigned (read our farewell to Lori in the "Splinters from the Board" column). Her passion for CHC's mission to eliminate unsafe housing in Madison will be dearly missed.

It was a lively party at this month's Donor Appreciation Event! CHC hosted the gathering on May 10th to thank all its generous donors who support our efforts to ensure safer housing in Madison. Lots of smiling faces mingled on the floors of the Madison County Arts Council, and it was a joy for me to speak with many of you and extend my appreciation for your contributions. Thanks to all the CHC Board Members for providing delicious appetizers, and much applause for the music of David Hughes, our very own Jake Owen, his son Ben Owen, and June Trevor, for playing some excellent foot-stomping old-timey tunes. Their fiddle, banjo and guitar filled our ears with the sounds these mountains have enjoyed for many years.

We were also pleased that Mountain Housing Opportunities attended the event. It was the perfect opportunity for them to give us the

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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.

\$10,000 check for CHC's participation in helping to get the Mars Hill Commons apartments built and supported in the community. The money will certainly fuel CHC's continued efforts to maintain and create affordable housing through empowering and engaging with the community to connect with resources that are available.

The Melvin R. Lane Grant application process is nearing the finish line! Gratefully, with the input, hard work and advice of several key people, we completed the written application this month. A bow of thanks to Rick Molland (my predecessor as ED at CHC) and my mother, Jan Rotella, for their invaluable feedback and scrubbing brushes to help us polish our submission. And also a hearty pat on the back to staff members Chris Watson, Katie Hart, and myself, for eating and breathing nothing but the Melvin R. Lane application for several days as we got down to the wire. As I've said before, the process itself has been a welcome challenge and being named a finalist was a wonderful growth opportunity for CHC! The last step is CHC's presentation to the Lane Fund on June 27th, which will be given by yours truly and CHC Board Member Jennifer Reda. We hope it's a home run!

On a final note, CHC will be taking its Board meetings out into the community this summer. As an effort to connect more with the people in the varied hills and hollers we serve, CHC is going "on tour" all over Madison and hosting its meetings in several different venues. June's Board meeting will be at the Spring Creek Community Center in Hot Springs on June 18, with an Information Session starting at 6:30pm that is open to the public. Join us if you are able!

Splinters from the Board

Thank you, Lori Hagan Massey!

Without roots, a tree can't grow tall. Without the birth of an idea, no great organization can take shape to address the needs of its community on the backs of those who advocate for providing service where it is urgently called for. What also holds true is that without Lori Hagan Massey, CHC would not be here today. With Lori's resignation from CHC's Board of Directors this month, it feels appropriate to honor the integral part she played in helping to "birth" our organization almost 20 years ago. She and others saw a dire need for housing repair assistance in Madison County, and they turned that awareness into a call for action.

It was 1996, and Lori was working at Independent Living. A client had come to her one day in tears, saying that her roof was leaking and she didn't know where to turn. "I can vividly remember sitting at my dining room table," Lori told us, "thinking there has to be more in Madison County to help individuals with their housing needs." Remembering how community members had pulled together once before to help build a ramp at this woman's house, Lori got to work. She organized a series of public meetings to get everyone in the community to the table to see what kind of help was available and where the gaps in services were.

As a result of these meetings and after a long road traveled, CHC sprung from the soil and spread its roots in these Madison County hollers. Thanks to Lori's initiative, and of course the vision and planning of many others, CHC came into being and was able to serve 75 clients in 2015. At a time when no organization existed in these parts to bring church groups together and volunteers who wanted to lend a hand, Lori's advocacy for tackling a serious problem in our community will always be recognized and appreciated.

On behalf of CHC and those we've served for almost two decades, we extend a heartfelt thanks to Board Member Lori Hagan Massey. We know this isn't good-bye forever, but we will miss you all the same!!

Volunteer Corner

By Annie Jaradat

Can I say that I absolutely love my job at CHC! I get to work with such a wonderful and supportive staff, committed CHC board members, and generous community members. I also get to work with the most amazing and resilient clients that CHC is blessed to serve on a daily basis. I am now working with summer mission groups that are coming to help us in serving clients over the next few months. These groups are from right here in North Carolina, and from as far away as Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Michigan. These groups are ready to work hard and make a difference in the lives of those within Madison County who are struggling with home repairs. They also provide fellowship and emotional support to the clients they serve. If you see these folks while you are out and about within the county, please say hello and give them a big Madison County welcome.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Updates



We had a beautiful blue sky filled "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" Saturday workday recently on May 14. Our wonderful neighbor being served was such a gracious host who provided all of the volunteers on this day with a wonderful lunch and she even had us a cake (Yummy)! This neighbor is both a current and past volunteer with CHC. We had an awesome day of hard work, food, fun, and fellowship. Our accessor Jake Owen was instrumental in setting up and providing skilled supervision during our "NHN" workday. Our board member Lee Hoffman graciously fought the ditch (for a French drain), along with many roots along the way. We unanimously deemed him the winner after such a long and hard fight. Let us give these guys a big thank you next time you see them. Our volunteer group was from All Saints Anglican Church in Charlotte; these guys worked hard and did a fantastic job! We are still in need of volunteers and/or groups for future "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" 2016 project workdays!!!



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

Volunteers Signed Up

Repair projects will be announced.

June 11- ***Still in need of volunteers and/groups to sign up***

July 16- ***Still in need of volunteers and/groups to sign up***

August 27- Wells Fargo

September 17- *Still in need of volunteers and/groups to sign up*

October 15- *Still in need of volunteers and/groups to sign up*

November 12- *Still in need of volunteers and/groups to sign up*

up

Client & Grants Update

By Chris Watson, Client and Grants Coordinator

CHC is very excited to announce that the Home Depot Foundation has awarded us with a \$2,000 gift card to buy materials and tools to support our Neighbors Helping Neighbors program. This gift from Home Depot will allow CHC to purchase tools such as ladders, saws, and plumbing tools to expand the ability of local volunteers to serve the community. The funds will also provide materials for clients that do not qualify for other grant dollars.

In addition to the gift from Home Depot, Mars Hill Hardware worked with CHC to outfit a hand tool box for NHN workdays. These tools include yard work tools, measuring tapes, hammers, crowbars, gloves and other hand tools. Mars Hill Hardware provided many of the tools for free and all others at a discount. Next time you need something from the hardware store, please visit Mars Hill Hardware and thank Mary, Jimmy, Jerry and all those fine folks for their support of CHC and its mission.

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

Spring cleaning isn't just for clearing away clutter and grime and keeping our homes looking neat and tidy. We can save on energy costs, too, with the following money-saving tips.

When our appliances are caked with dust, they have to work harder to do the same job. Appalachian Voices recommends cleaning the exhaust fans in your bathroom and your stove hood to help them run more efficiently. Check the intake vents on your dryer and refrigerator and clear them of dust buildup. Call and make an appointment with your local HVAC specialist to have your system serviced. Having debris and dust buildup can reduce the life of your system.

Also, keep rain gutters clear and unclogged to prevent damage to your home's roof and exterior. Climb a ladder and clean the goop out of the gutters. The decomposed leaves make great mulch or compost. Pay particular attention to the downspout. If leaves and debris are clogging it, water won't drain properly, and along with mildew and mud you'll end up with sagging gutters. Check all the spikes that are supposed to go through the gutter, through the fascia board and into the rafter behind it. Also check for the sources of any leaks, including holes in the gutters and cracked caulking in the seams.

The summer solstice will be here soon! Enjoy the sunshine!!!

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