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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  
George Austin, Repair Needs Assessor  
Jake Owen, Repair Needs Assessor  
Mike Ray, Bookkeeper

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## In this issue:

- [Management Musings](#)
- [Splinters from the Board](#)
- [Reclaim Madison](#)
- [Volunteer Corner](#)
- [Grant Update](#)
- [Donation Box](#)
- [Closing Thoughts](#)

## Management Musings

**By Chris Brown, Executive Director**

February started with a bang with our Neighbors Helping Neighbors workday on February 7th. Thank you to staff, board members and volunteers who made this a great day. We had wonderful weather for it!

Speaking of weather, lots of wintry weather always makes me think of the folks looking to their ceilings wondering if this storm is the one... the one that will cause their home to all come crashing down. Please remember your neighbors who have less than you as we go through bitter cold temperatures and high winds! Check on those around you.

As always, there are lots of opportunities to get involved with the work of CHC in Madison:

- On March 3, we'll hold a Neighbors Helping Neighbors info session (See below)
- Our next Neighbors Helping Neighbors workday is March 7 and another scheduled for April 11. Contact June Trevor to sign up: 649-1200 or [june@chcmadisoncountync.org](mailto:june@chcmadisoncountync.org)
- As always, you can make a donation to help keep our lights on and our staff humming.

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.

Check your mailboxes in the coming weeks. Our FUNdraising Committee has been working on a great annual event.

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 .... **Come join us!**

## Splinters from the Board

By Larry Burda

### Volunteerism

The theory, act, or practice of being a volunteer or of using volunteers in community service work.

In Madison county many organizations are operated with volunteers. Having served in a number of these organizations I have observed that many of the same people appear in many of these groups which makes for a small number of people in the county that participate as volunteers. The reason may be that some people feel ill prepared to participate or have job and family obligations that disallow them to become involved. Others just get "burned out" and decide they need to step back or away from their involvement and obligations or their participation is not making a difference.

Obviously, CHC must function with volunteers to attain the goals that have been established by the board. In my mind that goal is attempting to improve the living conditions of our needy residents which hopefully will provide an improved living environment leading to a healthier life style. In order to understand the challenges in recruiting volunteers, one must understand the statistics of volunteerism in the United States. The following is data gleaned from the Bureau of Labor statistics and comes from data collected in 2014.

- 8 million people volunteered in the US or 25.3 % of the population.
- + 22% were men
- + 28.3 % were women
- By Age Groups
- + 35 to 44 year olds were the most likely to volunteer 29.8%
- + 20 to 24 year olds were the least likely to volunteer 18.7%
- + 16 to 19 year olds 26.1%
- Married persons volunteered at a higher rate 30%
- + Those never married 20.2%
- + Those of other marital statuses 21.1%
- By Race and Ethnicity Groups
- + Whites volunteer at a higher rate than other groups 26.7%
- + Blacks volunteer at a rate of 19.7%
- + Asians volunteer at a rate of 18.2%
- + Hispanics volunteer at a rate of 15.5%
- By Education Level
- + Those with a higher level of education volunteered at a greater rate than those with a lower level of education.
- + Among college graduates age 25 and over 39.4 %
- + Persons with some college or associates degrees 27.3 %
- + High school graduates 16.4%
- + Less than high school level 8.8%

Volunteers spent a median of 50 hours on volunteer activities per year. Many more facts pertaining to volunteerism were cited in the Bureau of Labor Statistics, but those noted above seem to have more impact on CHC.

When one looks at the demographics of our county and based on the above data, it behooves us to take good care of our volunteers. We all are grateful for those of you who have already donated your time and to those

of you who are thinking of it in the future!

## Reclaim Madison

As many of you may know, CHC has been investigating the possibility of starting a store, similar to the ReUse store of Habitat to supply reclaimed building materials at a low cost for the community of Madison County. Efforts are underway to get this project going!

We are seeking volunteers to help get Reclaim Madison, our used building materials and household items thrift store, up and running. As a kick starter we will be collecting materials starting in March and leading up to a spring yard sale on May 9th in downtown Marshall. But, before we can start collecting we need volunteers to lead and assist with the collections. If you are looking for a way to get involved, work with people throughout the community and help get this venture off the ground, please contact Chris Watson at 649-1200 or [chrisw@chcmadisoncountync.org](mailto:chrisw@chcmadisoncountync.org).

## Volunteer Corner

**By June Trevor, CHC Volunteer Program Coordinator**

### ***NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS SATURDAY WORKDAYS ARE UNDERWAY!!***

The first of our series of *Neighbors Helping Neighbors* Saturday workdays on Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> was a big success! A crew of 15 volunteers spent the day helping a neighbor near Hot Springs, efficiently completing a deck tear-off and replacement of the back steps while also recycling and stacking the wood from the old steps and porch. The productive crew even cleaned the gutters and installed downspouts! We are delighted that Laurie Jaradat from the Mars Hill University (MHU) Social Work club mobilized five fellow students and her two sons to pitch in on this project.

Please join us in thanking ALL of the volunteers who showed up for our inaugural workday!

The MHU crew: Laurie Jaradat, David Cross, Justin Cross, Michael Johnson, Sumner Stone, DeAndre Edmundson, Elizabeth Rafferty and Marquez Williams.

The CHC team: Lori Massey, Jennifer Hord, Chris Brown, Dana Brown and Áine Brown. Special thanks to George Austin (CHC assessor) and Larry Burda (CHC Board member) for lending their expertise with steps construction!

Here's the team testing out the new steps they just built on our first Saturday workday!



Looks like fun, huh? You too can sign up your group or just yourself to help on a Neighbors Helping Neighbors Saturday workday! **Here's the schedule for the remaining workdays in 2015:**

March 7     July 18  
 April 11    August 22  
 May 16     September 12  
 June 20    October 17  
 November 14

All workdays are from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Workday repair projects will be announced. Bring a bag lunch! CHC will provide supervision, materials and water for volunteers. To sign up, contact me at 649-1200 or [june@chcmadisoncountync.org](mailto:june@chcmadisoncountync.org).

#### **Neighbors Can Help Neighbors Any Day of the Week!**

Our regular individual volunteers are so valuable with needed wintertime repairs. Thanks to George Austin for volunteering four hours in January to replace a leaky roof on an addition for a client in the Mars Hill area. Thanks also to Bobby Haughey for contributing six hours of his time in February to pick up a new door in Asheville for a client and help our assessor Jake Owen install it at her home near Marshall.

**Learn how you can become a part of our growing local volunteer network by attending our free information session on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 PM** at the Madison County Cooperative Extension Center (Kitchen Conference Room), 258 Carolina Lane, Marshall. Refreshments provided!

Arrive between 5:30 and 5:45 for socializing and snacks and we'll start the session at 5:45 PM. CHC staff will explain how you or your group can join the volunteer pool and what support CHC can provide. Current CHC volunteers will be on hand to share their own rewarding home repairs experiences.

Representatives of any local groups (churches, businesses, local agencies, civic groups, students, youth groups) as well as any individuals interested in providing home repairs assistance (at least once a year or on a very occasional basis) to residents in need are encouraged to attend.

Contact me at 649-1200 or [june@chcmadisoncountync.org](mailto:june@chcmadisoncountync.org) with any questions, or to sign up to attend!

## Grant Update

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

The new year is off to a wonderful start! Three clients have already been served by Urgent Repair Funds leveraged with local volunteers. These repairs included a front door replacement, building new and safe entry steps, and roof repair. In total \$1800 in materials were

matched by over 90 hours of volunteer labor. Thank you to Bobby!

On Tuesday February 10<sup>th</sup>, the Madison County Board of Commissioners approved a contract for \$90,000 in HOME Investment Partnership funding. We appreciate the County and Commissioners supporting our work through this partnership. These funds will be used by CHC to perform rural housing rehabilitation and address client's needs that fall outside of the scope and ability of our volunteer base. The repairs slated to be completed this year include eliminating a sewer line that is straight piped into a creek, modifying a bathroom to make it accessible for an elderly disabled couple and installing a well for an elderly disabled man who currently has no source of running water.

## Donation Box

As noted in the article above, please consider what building materials you may have that you don't plan on using. If you have materials you would like to donate, please contact Chris Watson at 649-1200 or [chrisw@chcmadisoncountync.org](mailto:chrisw@chcmadisoncountync.org).

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 on-line.

Thank you!

## Closing Thoughts

As we approach spring and the buzz of activity it brings, please continue to keep in mind your neighbors and community. Though we've been through the coldest of weather this month, our hearts are warmed by the support given by the community to CHC.

**Thank you!**



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

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