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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

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

CHC and other community based organizations are here to solve problems within our communities. Low income households in Madison County are still struggling within our community to meet minimum safety and health concerns in their housing situations. We are continually working to find solutions that fit our clients' needs within the community, and often we seek support from Federal and State level agencies to ensure we are able to do so.

Last month I reported on the end of low income housing tax credit and expected housing budget cuts in Raleigh. Those of you avid readers of the New, Record and Sentinel now know that Madison County is making budgetary cuts to housing.

Because we are a solution oriented organization we will continue our work to find solutions to any potential budget shortfalls. We are working through our Neighbors Helping Neighbors approach to empower and educate neighbors to help others and themselves with hand on skills and technical supervision. We invite anyone interested in participating to join in!

Other community businesses and organizations are showing up to support us in surmounting these challenges. [Blue Heron Whitewater](#) is again hosting community raft days as a fundraiser for CHC. This is a fun

"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.

and easy way you, your family and visiting guests can support our work.

Splinters from the Board

By Lee

What is the relationship between health, housing, and homelessness?

If you haven't already, you will soon be receiving our Summer Appeal letter asking for your financial support. The theme of this letter is ***Building Relationships***.

The Community Housing Coalition takes great pride in the fact that through the years we have built relationships which 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. Our ***Neighbors Helping Neighbors*** program is expanding both the number of clients we serve throughout the year, and also the number of local volunteers able to find an outlet for their time and talents. Through this new program CHC hopes to build relationships with over 100 new volunteers from right here in Madison County.

Through our Summer Volunteer Program, groups from around the country will come to Madison County to invest their time and resources to help our community. Many of these groups have been coming for over 10 years and have invested tens of thousands of dollars. We cherish these relationships and what they mean for many of our residents and our economy in general.

You are a tremendous asset and vital part of CHC's ability to improve housing in Madison County and build lasting relationships with people who need housing assistance. Thanks to your Generosity, your sense of Community, and your desire to Improve the lives and living conditions of others, the CHC has been able to impact literally hundreds of households. If you are not on our mailing list, you will not receive a copy of the letter, but please know that you can make a huge difference in someone's life. The need for safe, healthy and affordable housing cannot be understated, and the benefits derived from it cannot be underestimated. Please give!

Thank you for all that you do for our community, and thank you for your support of CHC.

Volunteer Corner

By June Trevor, CHC Volunteer Program Coordinator

Volunteer Corner – June Trevor, CHC Volunteer Program Coordinator

WELLS FARGO LENDS A HAND AT NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS WORKDAY!

On June 20th our first employee group volunteer team, a crew of staff and friends from Wells Fargo Bank, invested a day in helping TWO neighbors, family members who live in neighboring homes near Marshall. The crew included Wendi Strickland, Fabian Hughes, Karista Haynie, Ross Young, Alicia Duncan, Cherlon Young, Austin Boehme, and Malachi Banks. A big shout out from CHC to Cherlon Young with Wells Fargo for organizing this hardworking team! We also thank our exceptional CHC crew leader, Jake Owen, for organizing and overseeing the project, as well as Raven Forney, CHC Student Intern, and Lin Von Dreele, a member of CHC's Board of Directors, for providing volunteer support at the two projects.

Sign up for *Neighbors Helping Neighbors*! We welcome both

groups and individuals to sign up for any of our remaining available Saturday Workdays! 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 for this or any of the following workdays and get more details, contact me at 828-649-1200 or june@madisoncountync.org.

Remaining workdays are:

July 18 – Madison County Sherriff’s Department

August 22 – **Need volunteers!**

September 12 - New Spring Church

October 17 – **Need volunteers!**

November 14 – **Need volunteers!**

HOT FUN IN THE SUMMERTIME!

The CHC Summer Repairs Program got off to a very active start, in spite of the hot temps, the week of June 15th with three volunteer groups in the county undertaking needed repairs at five homes. St. James of Wilmington, based at Glory Ridge Camp, served four local residents needing urgent repairs. St. Patrick’s Episcopal Church from Ohio returned to Madison to help a neighbor in the Big Laurel area. During the week of June 22nd, another Glory Ridge-based crew, St. Paul’s of Edenton paired with St. Andrews of Greensboro, provided significant repairs for three families. Two youth mission groups from Greensboro, Grove Community Church and Westover Baptist Church, accomplished significant repairs for three additional families. A huge THANK YOU to the leaders and youth participants with all of these productive teams!

We are two weeks into the Summer Program with numerous needed repairs accomplished! We look forward to tracking the results of continued good works to be provided by the 12 groups providing repairs to CHC clients during the remaining summer weeks!

MEET OUR SUMMER INTERNS

During our very busy Summer Repairs Program, the CHC staff relies strongly on interns to assist with the increased workload around volunteer support, communications with clients, updating client records as projects are completed and many other tasks. CHC is very fortunate to have two talented interns for Summer 2015. Raven Forney from Rutherford County, a rising Junior and Social Work major at Mars Hill University, is completing her summer Bonner Scholars community placement with CHC, working Mondays through Fridays. Ethan Bernhardt, who grew up in Madison County, is volunteering with CHC during his summer break from East Tennessee State University where he too is a rising junior. He is majoring in Public Health with plans for a career in community health. Please join us in welcoming Raven and Ethan to the CHC team.

Community Raft Trips

Do you like to get on the river? 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 June 7

Sunday July 5

Sunday August 2

Sunday September 6

Take a trip and contribute!

Grant Update

By Chris Watson, Client and Grants Coordinator

June kicks off the start of our summer missions program, and with it the opportunity to expand the impact we can have with our grant funding. In the first week we had a roofing membrane installed by Glory Ridge and St. James of Wilmington, NC on an elderly woman's home in Shelton Laurel. This project builds upon the roofing skills learned last summer and kicks off a summer in which we hope to install a record 8-10 new volunteer installed roofs.

In addition to the great work that the Glory Ridge groups are doing, we are especially pleased to have Recreation Experiences working with CHC this summer. Through their summer program, they have already replaced two roofs. One of the roofing projects required replacement of half of the roof rafters after a tree fell on the roof during a violent storm last year.

These amazing results are possible through the Urgent Repair Program funding materials and training. Roofing is the single most dire repair need for our clients and the expanding capacity to repair and install new roofing is an exciting new chapter in CHC's work. Last week, our URP program administrator was in Marshall performing his annual monitoring visit and said that CHC, "is using URP funding exactly how it should be used," and encourages other agencies to adopt our community-based approach. Here at CHC we are leading the way in community-based housing repair.

Donation Box

Not everyone is physically able to assist with our Neighbors Helping Neighbors days. Nor is rafting everyone's cup of tea. Other ways in which you can support CHC include responding to our Summer Appeal Letter. Reading the letter, contributing, and sharing about our work with other friends, family, neighbors and community members who believe in safe, healthy and affordable housing is an easy way to contribute to our work.

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

As we approach the beginning of a fiscal year for the County of Madison, we encourage our readers and supporters to reach out to our Commissioners and express your thoughts about the budget cuts that affect CHC and your neighbors in Madison. Reaching out to your elected officials and to remind them of what you would like them to consider in their decision making as it relates to CHC is another way you can be part of the housing solution in our community.

Wayne Brigman - Board of Commissioners Chair
wbrigman@madisoncountync.gov Clayton Rice - Board of Commissioners
 Vice Chair claytonrice@madisoncountync.gov Jim Baker - Commissioner
jbaker@madisoncountync.gov William Briggs - Commissioner
wbriggs@madisoncountync.gov
 Norris Gentry - Commissioner ngentry@madisoncountync.gov
 To contact the Commissioners, call the County Administration Office at (828) 649-2854, ext.
 Forrest Gilliam - County Manager fgilliam@madisoncountync.gov

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