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Management Musings

By Christopher Brown, Executive Director

Last month I learned that North Carolina is now the 9th most populous state in the country, according to the UNC Carolina Population Center. Can you believe it?? Our state is growing fast!! We reached 10 million residents in 2015, and Madison County alone looks to grow by an estimated 10-25% by the year 2035, according to the Center's report.

While I'm happy that more and more people are discovering the beauties of our wonderful state of North Carolina, I'm aware that with population growth comes extra housing challenges. This includes the increasing need (and competition) for affordable housing that is not substandard. It's now becoming more important than ever to ensure that Madison County's aging and low-income population has a roof over their heads and can afford necessary repairs so that their quality of life doesn't deteriorate. The need is growing for CHC to step in and make sure our community of hard-working individuals and aging or disabled neighbors is thriving with the support of CHC staff, volunteers and generous donors.

With these projected numbers in mind, it's a good thing CHC is able to welcome a new member to our team to help with all the additional work and growth that CHC hopes to achieve in 2016!! Katie Hart, a resident of Marshall for the last three years, has started as our new Administrative Assistant this March. Her office, organizational and writing & editing skills will come in handy and be much appreciated!! You can read more about her and what experience she brings to the table in her own introduction further down in this newsletter.

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.

On another note, some of you may have noticed that CHC was at the first ever "ExpoMadison" at Mars Hill University last month. The gymnasium was filled with booths representing all the amazing organizations and businesses that Madison County has to offer. It was a fantastic opportunity for CHC to network with the community of inspired individuals both behind those booths, and with those who came out to learn more. We also connected and shared ideas with other nonprofits that were there. All in all, the takeaway was encouraging. My seven and a half-year-old daughter, Áine, had a blast visiting all the different booths (along with my wife, Dana) and "interviewing" each one with questions (she is a VERY curious young lady). When she stopped back at CHC's booth, and people learned she was with me, well, let's just say, we won brownie points!!

Splinters from the Board



By Larry Burda

In preparing to write this Splinter article, I developed writers block and searched my mind for an appropriate subject without much success. So decided to think of things from my past and went

back to my childhood of the first ten years of my life on the Great Plains in Nebraska. We lived in a wood frame home that was constructed in the early 1900's, that according to an elder neighbor replaced the sod house that was on the farm. Many of these sod homes were replaced and by the time I was born in 1940 few remained and those that did were just heaps of dirt. Bear with me and I will get to why I selected this topic for this article.

The wood frame home was a two story with no bathroom or running water. We carried our water from the wind mill to the house in buckets. The kitchen sink had a sink with the waste water going down the pipe and out into a 55 gallon barrel buried in the ground about 40 feet from the house. Being that no electricity was available until 1949, our water was heated in a wood cook stove that had a water reservoir on the right side of the stove. Heat for the stove was provided by corn cobs that burned quickly, but were plentiful due the fact that my father raised approximately 180 acres of corn each year. The other source of heat was an oil stove in the living room so only the kitchen and living room were heated. The upstairs bedrooms (2) and the first level bedroom, pantry and stairway had no heat. Therefore my parents, sister, and I slept in the first level bedroom.

The winters were brutally cold and mid summer temperatures in July were in the high 90's and low 100's. The wind on the plains blows most all the time making trees grow at an angle with few trees available to break the wind or provide wood. When heating water in the summer in the cook stove and cooking meals, the temperature in the kitchen would become almost unbearable. In the winter, the fire could not be kept in the cook stove and the water in our water bucket would freeze. In the winter when the blizzards would hit, the wind would blow snow around the windows and doors, even when my father tried to seal all the cracks in the walls, around the windows and doors.

My parents sold the farm in 1950 and we moved to Boulder, Colorado where they purchased a single level three bedroom home in the city. It had a central heating system, central water system, in door rest room and electricity. I have told my daughters that I thought I had died and gone to heaven.

In Madison County, we have some homes that are in the condition similar to the one I spent the first ten years of my life. Back in the 1940's all of us lived in the environment that we consider today as rather primitive. That background has prompted my participation in CHC to assist people in improving their living conditions and provide them with a safe and healthy living environment. Doing so can hopefully make them feel like I did when my parents moved and resulted in making us warm and having a healthy environment. That

is our objective at CHC.

Volunteer Corner

By Annie Jaradat

WOW! Can I say that time flies when you are having fun? It has been a very busy time on the CHC frontlines, with lots of great things happening. I would like to say that I am thoroughly enjoying my internship with CHC and that I learn something new each and every day. It is such a wonderful experience to actually see from within, the work and care CHC puts into promoting and facilitating healthy, safe, and affordable housing through advocacy, education, and resource development within Madison County.

We have had so many things going on here at CHC it is hard to know where to start. On March 10, CHC attended the Career/Internship Fair at Mars Hill University and had lots of inquiries about our wonderful summer/other internship opportunities. CHC was also able to promote "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" Saturday workdays as well, hopefully we will gain some more volunteers from this exposure. CHC also attended the first annual Expo Madison on March 12, that was sponsored by the Madison Chamber and Mars Hill University, this was a community and business event showcasing the best of Madison County, North Carolina. We had lots of inquiries about CHC and our volunteer opportunities. Both of these events gave CHC a chance to mingle and network with the awesome people of Madison County.



Our "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" Saturday workdays are proving to be successful with positive outcomes for both clients and volunteers. On March 19, we had another amazing and productive "NHN" workday. I would like to

give a big shout out to the Madison County 4-H crew who worked hard and did an amazing job (Eve, Laura, Grace, Drew, and Landon) along with our other volunteers with their awesomeness (Dana, Aine, Quinn, Justin, David, Will & Colby). I would also like to thank our crew leaders for their guidance and expertise throughout that workday (Larry Burda, Jake Owen, George Austin, and Chris Brown). On this day we came together and made a difference in the life of one of our Madison County neighbors.



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

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 ~ 10 am to 3 pm)	Volunteers Signed Up
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

March has started off in a frenzy of major home renovation work here at CHC. We currently have 3 new roofs being installed. The homes that are receiving new roofs have had extensive repairs completed by volunteers in the past, but the roof replacements were beyond the skills of volunteers and required professional roofers. Ensuring a home has a safe, dry roof is one of the most important aspects of keeping a house in good condition. Upon completion of the roofing projects, these clients may receive follow up repairs from volunteers to repaint ceilings, repair interior water damage, or install gutters to further improve the home.

CHC has also hired a contractor to repair a basement wall that literally blew out, nearly causing a complete loss of the home. The family acted quickly to reinforce the walls and floor and after several meetings with engineers, contractors and the building inspector CHC is moving forward on a comprehensive plan to repair the walls and permanently divert the spring that caused the failure. This project will save an otherwise quality brick home.

CHC is funding most of these repairs through the HOME Investment Partnerships Program and is very grateful to the staff at Madison County and City of Asheville who work with us to administer this vital grant. These partnerships between CHC, local governments, contractors and volunteers what make us a true Community Housing Coalition!

Introducing Katie Hart

Greetings, CHC community! I am very excited to join the team as Administrative Assistant and become more involved in the wonderful community CHC has built in Madison County and beyond. I moved to Marshall over three years ago, after living most of my adult life in New York City, and I truly feel blessed to live here. The people in Madison are the friendliest people I've ever met (and I'm not just comparing to hustle-and-bustle New Yorkers).

After graduating from Fordham University with a BA in English, I worked as a subsidiary rights assistant for a major book publisher in Manhattan. Everyone in my family knew what they were getting for Christmas – MORE BOOKS!! I learned about contracts, selling reprint rights to foreign publishers, and being the point person for a busy department. Then I explored other fields: I wrote summaries of government compliance documents for a financial news website; became a legal secretary at a trust & estates law firm; then wrote and edited legal-related copy for another online publisher.

I'm thrilled to lend my writing/editing skills to this newsletter and other CHC communications, including grant applications for more funding. I also like to write short stories, poetry, fiction and memoir. It's a wonderful opportunity to be an assistant again and support the vision of someone managing a team – a.k.a. Executive Director Christopher Brown! I look forward to meeting the board members, volunteers, clients, and all members of the CHC community. My mission is to bring enthusiasm, positive energy, and whatever creative, genie-lamp-inspired support I can muster!!

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

As Spring trumpets its arrival with warmer days and colorful flowers poking out of the ground, it's a good time to remind ourselves to get back out into Nature! Whether it's preparing our garden for planting or taking walks through the woods, the lift in mood, creativity and feelings of well-being are undeniable. Often, especially in winter, we get stuck indoors in our homes, workplaces, cars, and in front of our computers. If you're looking to de-stress, maybe it's time to boost your daily intake of Nature. Even viewing nature scenes or tending a houseplant can have positive effects. So, as we welcome Spring this year, let's appreciate the renewal happening all around us and feel it invigorating us as well!!

On another note, we have a practical tip for storing tools. If you need something to keep all your gear, i.e. rakes, shovels, hoes, etc., in one place, try an old golf club bag. Maybe you or a friend has one lying around, or possibly you can find one at your local thrift store or a garage sale. It works great for organizing large, long-handled tools, and the pockets on it can hold smaller hand tools as well. It's a hole-in-one tool storage, folks!

Forward
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