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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

This month we held our Annual Meeting of our Board of Directors. CHC is very fortunate to have a such a strong, committed and active board filled with both seasoned members and new members, folks born and bred in Madison, as well as those who weren't but still have Madison in their blood. All of our board members committed to another year of service, but we can use more input! Our board is listed on the left. Take a look. How many do you know? Would you be interested in adding your name to the list? If so, please talk with a board member, me, or other staff, and we'll fill you in on how you may be able to help.

This year our annual meeting was partnered with organizational coaching from WNC Nonprofit Pathways. CHC has grown by leaps and bound over the past 2 years, and the organizational coaching provide a fantastic opportunity for the board and staff to get on the same page as to the direction the agency is headed. Thanks to Judy Futch and Pathways for providing this important service, especially to small, growing, grass roots agencies like CHC. This coaching session opens the door to applying for and hopefully being awarded the capacity grant now available to us. A key step for CHC is then getting the help in implementing a strategic plan to lead CHC to a place of greater sustainability and effectiveness of mission.

This is the time of the year that CHC is a buzz of activity: our summer volunteer program is in full swing. And June is busy managing the groups contacting CHC for their service projects. We are interviewing our summer intern applicants and will be conducting orientation and training for this new crop of students. We are grateful to all of those who provide their service to CHC from the visiting groups to our interns, to our board, our volunteers and to our donors. We couldn't do it without all of you!

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.

## Splinters from the Board

By Lori Hagan Massey

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

Poor health (illness, injury and/or disability) can cause homelessness when people have insufficient income to afford housing. This may be the result of being unable to work or becoming bankrupted by medical bills. Living on the street or in homeless shelters exacerbates existing health problems and causes new ones. Chronic diseases, such as hypertension, asthma, diabetes, mental health problems and other ongoing conditions, are difficult to manage under stressful circumstances and may worsen. Acute problems such as infections, injuries, and pneumonia are difficult to heal when there is no place to rest and recuperate.

Living on the street or in shelters also brings the risk of communicable disease (such as STDs or TB) and violence (physical, sexual, and mental) because of crowded living conditions and the lack of privacy or security. Medications to manage health conditions are often stolen, lost, or compromised due to rain, heat, or other factors. When people have stable housing, they no longer need to prioritize finding a place to sleep each night and can spend more time managing their health, making time for doctors' appointments, and adhering to medical advice and directions. Housing also decreases the risk associated with further disease and violence. In many ways, housing itself can be considered a form of health care because it prevents new conditions from developing and existing conditions from worsening. ..."National Health Care for the Homeless"

You may think this topic has no relevance in Madison County! Think again! **This school year Madison County Schools had 22 homeless students!** Honestly, for those of us that make home visits like myself and the CHC assessment team, many of the folks we see are one catastrophe away from being homeless. However, there is hope! Because of donations from individuals like you we can continue to help overcome homelessness or the chance of homelessness right here at home. Will you consider making a donation today? Your donation is leveraged with volunteer labor, the homeowners' involvement or family involvement in the project. CHC is doing more with less! As mentioned above the ability to live in a safe environment reduces the risks for sickness, lowers the stress on the health care system and most of all allows someone to live a happy healthy life! If you have contributed in the past THANK YOU! If not, please consider [donating](#) today!

## Volunteer Corner

By June Trevor, CHC Volunteer Program Coordinator

**NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS IS ON A ROLL!**

**Our monthly Neighbors Helping Neighbors workdays keep attracting awesome volunteers to accomplish important work!**  
Thanks to all who participated in the Saturday, May 16th workday helping a neighbor in the



Marshall area clean out a room and tear up carpeting to pave the way for new flooring. Our crew included Delaney Goforth, Katherine Early, Nancy Dagley along with CHC crew leaders George Austin and Larry Burda providing excellent guidance. We also

thank volunteer videographer Paul Eggers for coming by to get some footage in preparation for a video he's creating to serve as a CHC community education piece.

**Still time to sign up for the June 20th workday!** We are so delighted that a team representing both branches of Wells Fargo is signed up for our next Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) workday on Saturday, June 20th. Others are welcome to join us! CHC provides site supervision, materials and water. 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](mailto:june@madisoncountync.org).

**Remaining workdays are:**  
**July 18**  
**August 22nd**



**September 12 (New Spring Church)**  
**October 17**  
**November 14**

## Bike and Build to Support CHC

Maura Moloney was born in China and raised in Hot Springs area. She is a true neighborhood hero of Madison County! When away from the quiet and seclusion of her home in the Spring Creek community and in the big town of Hot Springs she strive to be as involved as possible. She was part of the Marching Blackhawk Band, a competitor on the North Buncombe Track Team, a Girl Scout, and also an employee of the Hot Springs Resort and Spa. Maura personal mission statement for this summer: "By living with a sense of love and commitment to myself and others, I will challenge my balancing act to be able to grow as an individual, empower others, and make a positive impact." She is ready to go to work with this mission "Ready for the 3 C's: Challenge, Courage, and Change." On May 17 Maura will dip the wheel of her bicycle in the Atlantic Waters at Nags Head, NC then turn around and begin a long journey across the country in the name of safe and affordable housing. Maura will be riding with a supportive team organized by the [Bike and Build organization](#). (CHC has proudly received two previous grants from Bike and Build in support of getting young adults in Madison County involved in the process of creating safe and affordable housing.) If riding across the country on a bicycle was not an arduous enough journey in and of itself... Maura and her team will be working to build affordable housing on their "off" days. (You can check out her schedule here: <https://mauramoloney.wordpress.com/nc2sd-2015/>) Maura is planned to dip her wheel in the Pacific July 24 after 3,610 miles, many gallons of sweat and promoting a whole lot of awareness about the necessity of safe and affordable housing for everyone!

To keep up with Maura go to her blog <https://mauramoloney.wordpress.com/>, you can also tune in to CHC's [Facebook page](#) where we will be posting updates on Maura's journey. To donate and help Maura reach her \$4500 goal in support of safe and affordable housing for all, please go to her bike and build page at: <http://bikeandbuild.org/rider/7694>. She has already raised \$3490 for the cause!

## Grant Update

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

We continue to leverage NCHFA Urgent Repair funds to address the urgent housing needs in the County. This month we have repaired the power and plumbing for a single-mother-to-be who hasn't had water or electricity for 6 months. We've removed three dead trees that were poised to fall on an elderly woman's home, repaired rotten flooring in a home with 4 small children, and repaired a failing septic system for an elderly couple. Several of these repairs were made in conjunction with our volunteer program. We are also in the process of hiring a contractor to complete a bathroom modification and roofing repairs for an elderly couple utilizing HOME Rural Rehab grant funds. This couple was served by Neighbors Helping Neighbors in April to address water drainage issues and Independent Living built a beautiful new wheelchair ramp.

The ability for us to react to urgent situations with a variety of tools including hired contractors, skilled volunteers, partner organizations, and clients willing to help themselves is what makes my job so exciting and enjoyable!

## Donation Box & ReClaim Madison

**We had our first Reclaim Madison yard sale on May 9th, during which we raised almost \$300!** Big thanks to all our volunteers who helped the sale be a huge success. In addition to raising money, we had many great conversations about CHC and Reclaim that brought new awareness to the mission of our agency and excitement about our new venture. We are continuing to collect building materials, furniture, working appliances, tools and such for use in our repair program and another planned sale in the fall. If you have materials to donate or would like more information, please call the office and ask to speak to Chris Watson - 649-1200.

Though \$300 doesn't seem like a huge gain in our financial stability, every little bit helps. **We continue to seek financial contributions to support our general operating costs, which are NOT funded by grants.** 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

Our fiscal year's end approaching and we are actively working on next year's budget preparation. It's also budget time for the county and NC General Assembly. Consider a donation to CHC in your fiscal budgeting.

We've witnessed a trend of the state cuts in funding programs that support CHC and rural housing initiatives. And so this trend is, unfortunately, continuing. From the NC Housing Coalition:

Housing appropriations have dropped considerably in NC over the last decade. For decades, local communities that received Community Development Block Grant Funds from the Department of Commerce were able to invest those funds in local housing efforts. Budget decisions over the last two years have taken that option away. That means many small and rural communities no longer have the ability to jump-start local investment in affordable housing. Local government funds are often the yeast that helps affordable housing development rise. The state low income housing tax credit was allowed to sunset last December and there are no provisions to replace it in the current budget negotiations. That means that tens of millions of dollars are gone that were mostly invested in rural communities and used to create lower rents in urban communities. The NC Housing Trust Fund has seen its funding remain flat or decrease over time. We expect the same to continue in this year's budget.

**Don't let your donation do the same as the state. Consider becoming a [sustaining coalition member](#) today!**



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