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Housing Coalition Headlines

Community Housing Coalition of Madison County, NC

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Chris Brown, Executive Director
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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Management Musings

By Chris Brown, Executive Director

October has been a great month for receiving much needed funds for operations and programs. Thank you to the Madison County Community Foundation for their recent grant award to CHC providing us with \$1,590 in support from the Madison County Unrestricted Endowment and \$660 in support from the Howard J. Blanche Elam Runion Endowment. These grant dollars go towards supporting our Neighbors Helping Neighbors program. Thank you again to the Madison County Community Foundation and all our staff and volunteers who are making Neighbors Helping Neighbors a huge success!

Bike & Build for a combined \$2000, including a competitive grant of \$1500 to Community Housing Coalition of Madison County, NC as part of the 2015 Bike & Build Grant Program. "It was a competitive year for applicants, but Bike & Build riders chose to fund your grant over many worthy applicants because our riders identified your project as having high potential to impact the affordable housing landscape in your community while involving young adults in these efforts." "In addition to our competitive grant program. Your organization has been chosen to receive an additional \$500 from our riders beyond your competitive award" - Justin Villere, Senior Director of Operations and Development, [Bike & Build](#). **Thanks again to hometown hero Maura Maloney for her part in this years Bike & Build success!**

"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.



Thank you to everyone who helped make Incarcerated for Housing Sake 2015 a success.

We did not quite meet our goal. Joaquin probably had something to do with that, but \$5,000 will greatly help CHC keep lights on and phones being answered! Be on the lookout for a final tally once all bail has been received and our incarcerated have been released. See how you can still [contribute](#)

[below.](#)

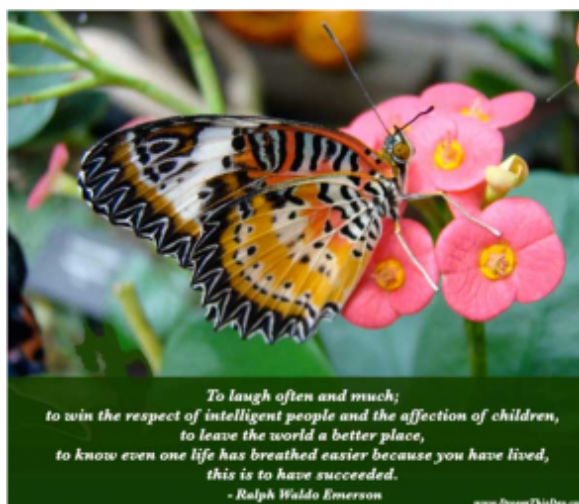


Students and festival donated for photo opps with the old police car

We are sad to announce that our Volunteer Coordinator, June Trevor will be leaving CHC. CHC has grown at an exponential rate over the last 2 plus years. We are now making significant headway at meeting our mission. This largely is happening thanks to awareness that CHC has cultivated about the empowering giving & receiving experience that volunteerism creates. CHC and the many Madison County neighbors that have benefited, both givers and receivers alike, have June Trevor to thank for this! June, you will be greatly missed, but your legacy will be present for the future years of CHC. Thank you!

Splinters from the Board

How Growing Up in Madison County Led Me to the CHC
By Jennifer Woodruff



When it comes to community, it is more of a lifestyle, for me, than a concept. It is who I have been, who I am now and who I continue to be.

Having been born and raised and still living here in Madison County has caused me to be so completely shaped by the people of this community. I have reached the point in life where my community has

saturated me and have a strong desire to give back. I am my own person, of course, yet I've allowed myself to be molded by the community the way a forest is molded by the weather and the trees mold the surrounding plants and animals.

When I moved back to Marshall from being in Asheville for 8 years and then California for 3 years before that, I was immediately comfortable moving back home. I began seeing friends and reestablishing connections. I had known about the Community Housing Coalition for several years and having been involved in the building industry for the past decade, I knew that the one thing I really wanted was to be on the Board of Directors for the CHC. I kept the intention and every time I would see someone I knew who was involved, I would shout out "please let them know I want to be on the Board!!! Just ask me!!!" So finally, Larry Burda and Christopher Brown asked me to be on the Board and I gladly accepted. Speaking of community, I have known Larry Burda and his wife for the past 30 years, from going to the same wonderful church and growing up with their three daughters playing soccer and going to high school with them and my father worked in their hardware store in Mars Hill. We have overlapped in numerous ways, just like so many other families in the area.

When I see all my friends here (which span over 3 or 4 generations), I feel happy and grateful. I usually don't need to do more than exchange hugs, have a short conversation, and then go about our day. But sometimes, there is business to attend to, or sitting down together for a meal, or discussing an idea or project, or having a deep friendship conversation, or in the case of the CHC, to rally the troops to take action and help make Madison County a safer, healthier place, starting with it's buildings and structures.

And that's what community is about. The evolution of a community is made up of the evolution of its participants. My personal evolution is short, but it feels like a type of grand circle. I'm living back in the farmhouse I grew up in, growing food in the garden I used to help my mom and dad tend to and raising chickens in the same chicken coop. Life has had its ups and downs, but I am happy and honored to be part of such an important organization helping my beautiful county and sweet community.

Volunteer Corner

By June Trevor, CHC Volunteer Program Coordinator

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS (NHN) NEWS:

A Fall Family Affair! October 17th NHN Workday



Thanks to all the volunteers who traveled to Spring Creek on a gorgeous fall morning to help a neighbor with the construction of a woodshed, chimney cleaning, yardwork and other tasks. This workday proved to be a family affair involving volunteers of all ages! Big thanks to Katherine Early, Annie Jaradat

and her sons David and Justin Cross, fifteen members of the Roper family (!), Steve Honeycutt and the Watson/Walsh family for contributing your time and many talents to these needed projects. Special thanks to the CHC advance crew, Chris Watson and Jake Owen, and Jake's son Ben Owen for framing in the woodshed on Friday prior to the workday.



Due to scheduling issues and staff availability, CHC will NOT be holding an NHH workday on Saturday, November 14. Please consider signing up for one of our 2016 NHH workdays listed in the next section!

Neighbors Will Keep Helping Neighbors in 2016!

We invite local groups and individuals to sign up for these NHH workdays in the coming year. CHC provides supervision, tools and materials. New and former volunteers, and all skill levels, are welcomed. Volunteer groups who helped in 2015 can certainly sign up again!

Workday participation can be a great teambuilding activity for your staff, student group or youth group. All workdays are on a Saturday from 10 AM to 3 PM. Project details and directions to worksites are sent during the week prior to the workday. Volunteers just bring a bag lunch and a commitment to help a neighbor for five hours. Call June Trevor or email june@chcmadisoncountync.org if you want to sign yourself or your group up for any of the following dates:

February 27
 March 19
 April 16
 May 14
 June 11
 July 16
 August 27
 September 17
 October 15
 November 12

Local Volunteers Making A Difference This Fall!

A big THANKS in advance to:

- Tommy Justus and Mars Hill Baptist Church for helping a neighbor in the Marshall area with framing in some underpinning late in October. The group will donate both time and materials for this task.
- Lyle Petersen who will assist CHC assessor Jake Owen on October 26-27th with the installation of three windows, purchased by one of our Summer Program groups, Highland Presbyterian, for a client who Highland served this summer. We love combining nonlocal and local resources to get these types of improvements completed!

My Fond Farewell to Our CHC Family

At the end of November, I will be leaving my position as Volunteer Program Coordinator with the Community Housing Coalition. This departure also marks my retirement from a 39-year career in community organizing/nonprofit program development work. When hired at CHC in November 2012 as its first Volunteer Coordinator, I was charged with implementing a Local Volunteer Program designed to complement our active Summer Program and expand CHCs capacity to respond year-round to home repair needs.

While creating a local volunteer pool from scratch was a challenge at first, I can report that over the last three years, cumulatively, local volunteer participation has included over 230 volunteers, including 16 local groups (representing approximately 200 volunteers) and 35 individual volunteers not affiliated with groups. Paired with the average 20 nonlocal groups that do repairs in June and July, this ever-growing local volunteer workforce has broadened and deepened our ability to positively impact clients' homes and lives.

It has been gratifying to be part of a growing, grassroots-driven organization that is activating innovative strategies to sustain existing local housing. Special thanks to ALL of the hardworking volunteers

who have contributed their time in some way to help our neighbors live in safer homes: the generous Summer Program groups, our dedicated local regular volunteers, the many enthusiastic Neighbors Helping Neighbors workday participants, the amazing interns, other "in-house" volunteers who have helped with important office tasks and all of the highly committed members of our Board of Directors. And I couldn't have done my job without the consistent support and sage advice of the CHC staff team: Chris Brown, Chris Watson, Jake Owen, George Austin and Mike Ray.

But I'm around for another month, so contact me with any volunteer interests or needs! After my departure, please continue to call the CHC office at 828-649-1200 regarding volunteer opportunities. CHC will keep newsletter readers posted about who will assume the volunteer management role.

Grant Update

By Chris Watson, Client and Grants Coordinator

The Community Housing Coalition of Madison County has recently been awarded three operating grants!

The first is from the Fanny Landwirth Foundation of Ponte Vedra, Florida. This small family foundation supports local non-profits in the mid-Florida and Western NC areas. The Fanny Landwirth Foundation awarded \$10,000 to cover operating expenses associated with local volunteer programs for the next 12 months.

The Community Foundation of Madison County awarded CHC a \$2,250 grant in late September in support of Neighbors Helping Neighbors and held a grants presentation during a cocktail reception at Wolf Laurel Country Club on October 22nd, from 5:00-7:00.

This week, CHC was notified of a \$2000 grant from Bike and Build to support youth and young adults in volunteer housing repair projects.

All three grants were awarded based on the success of our collaboration between the local volunteer repair program Neighbors Helping Neighbors and our HOME and URP program grant funding. The benefits of leveraging program grant dollars with volunteer labor continues to be an acclaimed model for assisting our neighbors in Madison County and we sincerely thank all of you who have donated your time to support CHC and/or contribute to a repair project for one of our clients.

Donation Box

As mentioned above, we did not quite meet our fundraising goal through Incarcerate for Housing's Sake. Please consider making your donation now to help us meet a \$5000 shortfall from the event to help us cover our general operating expenses so that we can continue to do our good work.



Financial contributions to further support our work are welcome throughout the year. 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

Winter temps are being felt. Please don't forget your neighbors who are challenge by substandard housing and heating systems. Offer your help if you are able. Here's some tips to help save on those rising utility cost. Share this info with your neighbors who might be struggling with heating prices:

Turn down your thermostat to 68 degrees. For every degree you lower your heat in the 60-degree to 70-degree range, you'll save up to 5 percent on heating costs. Wear warm clothing like a sweater and set your thermostat to 68 degrees or lower during the day and evening, health permitting. Set the thermostat back to 55 degrees or off at night or when leaving home for an extended time, saving 5-20 percent of your heating costs (heat pumps should only be set back 2 degrees to prevent unneeded use of backup strip heating).

Replace or clean furnace filters as recommended. Dirty filters restrict airflow and increase energy use. Now is also the time for a furnace "tune-up." Keeping your furnace clean, lubricated and properly adjusted will reduce energy use, saving up to 5 percent of heating costs.

Reduce hot water temperature. Set your water heater to the "normal" setting or 120-degrees Fahrenheit, unless the owner's manual for your dishwasher requires a higher setting. Savings are 7-11 percent of water heating costs.



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