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Housing Coalition Headlines

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 Jake Owen, Repair Needs Assessor
 Mike Ray, Bookkeeper

Contact

13 S. Main St, Suite 304
 (physical)
 P.O. Box 1166
 (mailing)
 Marshall, NC 28753

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Management Musings

By Christopher Brown, Executive Director

As I look out the office window and see the colors of the surrounding hillsides change, I'm reminded that, for some folks, the leaves falling can be likened to sands falling in an hourglass. Time is slowly running down to get our homes prepared for colder weather. Fortunately for some of us, our homes are better built or more easily maintained than others. Imagine if you had to stuff blankets down a hole in your floor because you didn't have the tools or resources necessary to fix it. This is just one of many problems CHC clients face this winter, and though we're trying to grow extra pairs of hands at CHC, we can't reach everyone. Consider taking a nice autumn stroll to your next-door neighbor and seeing if y'all could work together on each other's winter prep task list. It's amazing how much more work you can get done as a team.

The last month of CHC's fiscal year approaches, and I'm busy with lining up and closing out CHC's 2016 financials, along with looking ahead and trying to strategize what's going to make CHC fiscally successful in 2017. Please keep your creative and supportive vibes flowing towards CHC in the coming months. Myself, the FUNdraising Committee, and the CHC Board of Directors are working to create an annual signature fundraising event that will be fun, productive, and reflective of our mission that we hope to premier in the Spring of 2017. As you all may have noticed, there was no Incarcerate for Housing's Sake shenanigans this year. Though we couldn't make the event happen like in previous years, myself and the board will sincerely miss all the fun it brought, along with hanging with our

828-649-1200

EmailCHC@
chcmadisoncountync.orgWeb Pagewww.chcmadisoncountync.
orgFind us on [Facebook!](#) Search "CHC Madison" then go to our page and "like" us.Who We AreCHC 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.

friends and neighbors at MHU during the Heritage and Bascom festivals.

Speaking of the CHC Board of Directors, consider joining the ranks! It's a great way to support CHC and the community of Madison. Some of the goals the CHC board will be diligently working on in 2016-17 include:

- Building the Capacity of the board, both in membership numbers and by working to develop a new strategic plan
- Developing a sound Outreach strategy that reaches all hollers and coves of Madison County, and also spreads awareness of CHC's important work in neighboring counties Buncombe, Yancey, Cocke and Greene
- Creating a Fund Development plan that outlines how to continue to grow CHC's financial sustainability.

All these and more are activities that the current CHC BOD are working on, but more boots are always needed. To inquire about how to become one of the heroes on the CHC board, or if you know someone who'd be interested, reach out to us at (828) 649-1200 or email us at CHC@chcmadisoncountync.org.

Finally, if you've not contributed yet to the Autumn Appeal Letter, please consider helping CHC continue through this crunch time of winter preparations. Every tax-deductible donation counts!!

Splinters from the Board

By Jennifer Flynn

As fall creeps in we wait for what this winter will bring. In my own home, I know that cooking pots of soup, drinking herbal teas, and wearing sweaters and fuzzy slippers are things I look forward to. As Chris suggests above, however, some fall dreams are full of nightmarish dread of winter. If you have some skills you can share, or even a budget to buy \$20 of caulk and weather stripping, consider how a little time and money gifted might make your neighbors' winter dreams a little cozier. Here are some ideas of ways you could offer your neighbor support for just a bit of respite from the biting cold we can expect.

- Caulk gaps in windows and doors
- Help stack wood and collect tinder
- Apply adequate weather stripping around doorways
- Insulate in floor spaces and attics (Blown insulation is relatively easy to install in attic spaces with a rented hopper blower)
- Clear gutters of leaves (See Closing Thoughts on composting tips)
- Offer to clear walkways of snow when it hits
- Ask if your neighbor has adequate water in case of frozen pipes or power loss
- Help insulate pipes and water heaters
- Check for gaps between flooring and walls and stuff with insulation if necessary
- Build a cold frame for your gardening neighbors who might need the assistance
- Ask if pets have warm spaces to go if they are kept outdoors
- Make door cozies to obstruct drafts at the bottom of doors
- Share a large pot of soup and a cup of tea on cold nights!

Simply letting your neighbor know you are willing to help can do wonders for your and their mood and bring a little more peace of mind for those anxious about the colder weather.

Volunteer Corner

By Annie Jaradat, Volunteer Coordinator

What a busy and awesome time happening here at CHC. Fall is in the air and CHC is scrambling to help some of our neighbors with home repairs before the cold weather sets in. Our September 17 "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" Saturday workday was both incredibly beautiful and productive. This day was definitely an example of the difference that can be made when a community comes together to help out a fellow neighbor. We had an awesome hardworking crew from Printpack of Marshall, 3 fantastic Mars Hill University students, along with several other remarkable community volunteers. The neighbor being helped was right there working alongside of us. We also had two of our fabulous board members, Jennifer Flynn and Larry Burda sweating along with us throughout the day. The morale, work ethic, and problem solving skills of this group both excited and motivated me, as the Volunteer Coordinator of CHC. As we are all settling back into our routines after the summer, let us not forget that we still have neighbors who are need of our help.



CHC has two "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" Saturday workdays left for 2016. We have one on October 15 and one on November 12 with no groups signed up. If you can, let us get some groups together and finish out 2016 with an awesome turn out for these last two workdays. If your group, business, or organization would like to join us, please email me: volunteercoordinator@chcmadisoncountync.org or call 828-649-1200.

On another wonderful note, Katie and I were able to attend a Fall Regional Leadership Workshop, Staffing with Volunteers in Hendersonville on September 22. This workshop was put on and sponsored by Resourceful Communities. We were able to work together to strengthen our existing volunteer plan and identify some key strategies in recruiting, managing, and retaining volunteers. I am excited about this and in having a partnership Resourceful Communities who provide effective combination of direct support, skills building, and connections to resources that nurtures real change where it's needed the most.

Client & Grants Update

By Chris Watson, Client and Grants Coordinator

As I've mentioned before, one of the most important home repairs that CHC addresses is septic system failures. Often we are called in to try and completely replace old, failing systems that are resulting in raw sewage spilling on the ground and into local creeks and rivers. To further CHC's ability to repair and replace failing septic systems, **we are proud announce that we are working with Mountain Valleys Resource Conservation and Development.** Mountain Valleys RC&D helps people protect and develop their economic, natural, and social resources in ways that improve their area's economy, environment, and quality of life. Through this partnership, CHC and Mountain Valleys RC&D hope to combine the grant resources of the two agencies in a way that both address safe, healthy, and affordable housing, as well as protecting our precious water resources.

CHC will also be co-sponsoring a **community forum on energy efficiency with Appalachian Voices from 11am-2pm on October 19 at the Madison County Extension Center.** The purpose of the forum will be to educate the public about energy efficiency and working with the French Broad Electrical Membership Cooperative to develop an on-bill financing program to implement residential energy efficiency improvements. These on-bill financing programs allow families to reduce their energy usage and associated utility costs without the large upfront cost of installing insulation and sealing air leaks. The community forum is open to the public and we encourage

everyone to attend.

These are just two of the examples of how CHC works as a coalition to advocate for and address safe, healthy, and affordable housing in Madison County. We are very thankful to the individuals and agency's that help us further our mission and build a stronger community.

October Eats & Drinks for Housings Sake



How perfect that the month of October with its apple pies and Halloween treats will be the month that Sweet Monkey Bakery & Café partners with CHC in our restaurant fundraising campaign! **All month long, Sweet Monkey will donate 10% of its Thursday sales to support the safe housing work that CHC does.** Pastry chef and owner Hollie West will have her decadent sweet treats on display as always, but you can't stop there. Hollie's scratch-made bread and dough make her sandwiches and pizzas deliciously

memorable, and an ever-changing entrée menu offers seasonal and creative dishes to drool over.

Stop in at the downtown Marshall location for breakfast, lunch or dinner (open 9am-9pm Thursdays). The outdoor patio means your 4-legged friends can join too! If you're in Hot Springs, visit Sweet Monkey Too in the Hot Springs Campground store (serving breakfast & lunch, Thurs-Sun) and drop a donation in the CHC jar on display. Treat yourself to a sweet meal on Thursdays, and help CHC get the support it needs!

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

Leaves will soon start piling up, so it's getting time to clean out those gutters and bring forth our trusty rakes! To make fallen leaves easier to collect, consider raking them onto a plastic tarp. Then you can transport them (along with the leaves you've cleared from the gutters) to a compost bin. These are easily made from chicken wire and can sit in your backyard all year long. Flip the leaf pile every so often with a garden fork to aerate. The nutrient-rich humus, or "black gold," that results next year can nourish lawns, flower beds and shrub borders and help maintain moisture in the soil.





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

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