



"Building Community"

Coming Soon! Job Club

Does your career need an upgrade? Are you unemployed or underemployed? Are you looking to expand your knowledge and your network? Are you a team player and a leader? Are you ready for new opportunities?

CHA-Tech is developing The Job Club, a network for Residents that want to use their skills to seek and development new work opportunities. The Job Club is for highly motivate individuals who want to share what they know and find new ways to increase their income. Adults, teens and seniors are all welcome. For more information, send your resume to

BuildingBLOCK.CHA@gmail.com.

VITA Tax Assistance

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) will return to CHA in 2012 to train Residents to be tax preparers! In 2011 The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) helped our Residents prepare more than 100 tax returns and get \$65,000 back to community members. More information coming soon!

Family Self Sufficiency

Taking the next steps toward homeownership

Are you working? Are you unemployed but want to get back into the workforce? Do you need additional training or new skills? Are you disabled? Do you have a future goal of owning your own home?

Enroll in the CHA's Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Program now!

FSS helps participants set goals for education, training and employment. Participants can also receive referrals to a network of resources based on their individual development plan.

As participants in The FSS program, Residents have the opportunity to build savings accounts as their income increases. Upon successful completion of The FSS program, savings can be used toward the down payment or closing costs on your new home.

Are you ready to take the next steps toward self sufficiency and homeownership? Talk to your Occupancy Specialist about enrolling in The FSS Program today!



Resident Voices

We can succeed

The saying goes, if at first you don't succeed, try again. We all can be witnesses to the truth in that statement. In spite of the disability one may have, success is a definite possibility.

Whether we realize it or not, success is an investment of effort and determination. There are many aspects of life in which we want to succeed. It must be reminded that success will not come to us, but we have to work hard each and every day to achieve it.

In order to succeed we must challenge ourselves. Without facing these struggles and overcoming them, life will be a harder road to travel.

So rise up from depression and sadness. Meet the challenges of life head on and remember that it is very possible to succeed at whatever goal you set for yourself.

Mrs. Lena Bryant-Powell
Edgmont Apartments



CHA Resident Shakiyl Smith and District Attorney Jack Whelan. The DA recently visited Smith to discuss seeking justice.

In this issue

CHA Tech offers much for residents
Page 2

Fathers talking - Young fatherhood
Page 3

Job Club, VITA coming soon!
Page 4

Next steps toward owning a home
Page 4

Building BLOCK

Building Community

October 2012

Big idea coming to Ruth L. Bennett

CHA and partners envision an outdoor theater at Bennett



CHA Resident Iris Ellis (center) and WEHL Program Coordinator Beth St. Clair (left), talk with Karen Hicks of Hicks Foundation about an upcoming community project. More information about The Andrew L. Hicks, Jr. Foundation coming soon. This will be an opportunity for CHA high school students.

Sustainability committee sees bright future for CHA

The CHA Sustainability Committee met October 25, 2012 at The Booker T. Washington Community Center to discuss current programs, developing partnerships and exciting new projects.

The Sustainability Committee is a group of stakeholders and partners committed to the long-term growth, stability and productivity of the CHA.

A new supermarket, a new daycare center and a December 1st community service project were discussed at the recent meeting.

The Committee meets periodically, follows a set agenda and talks about the latest CHA initiatives.

Members of the press, local civic leaders, educators and business owners frequently attend the meetings in order to get important information and provide valuable input to CHA management and developers.

The Public Housing Authorities Directors Association (PHADA) is accepting applications for its 2013 Scholarships. PHADA will award three scholarships to high school seniors living in public or assisted housing. The deadline is January 28, 2013. Get the application at <http://www.phada.org/scholarship> or call 610-876-5561.



The CHA and Resident leadership of the past two decades mourns the passing of US Senator Arlen Specter.

Sen. Specter's efforts on behalf of the CHA were instrumental in its turnaround. The CHA has lost a great friend.

Quick Quotes

"The only disability in life is a bad attitude."

- Scott Hamilton

CHA Tech: At a Glance

Promoting lifelong learning and leadership



In 2008, The Chester Housing Authority was awarded a HUD Neighborhood Networks grant that funded multi-service technology centers at the Ruth L. Bennett, William Penn and Chatham Estates. Each center has comfortable, well-lit computer labs, wireless internet and large-screen televisions for training. CHA Tech has offered Residents opportunities in bike repair, cooking, exercise computers, gardening, tax preparation and much more. Call 610-876-5561 for more information.



1111 Avenue of the States
Chester, Pennsylvania 19013
(610) 876-5561
www.chesterha.org
BuildingBLOCK.CHA@gmail.com

Our Mission:

Building BLOCK is the official newsletter of The Chester Housing Authority. It is printed for the CHA Residents, staff and supporters. The CHA reserves the right to refuse content deemed inappropriate for its Residents and other readers.

Follow **Building BLOCK** now on

facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/ChaBuildingBlock>



Coming Soon!
CHA content on YouTube

A FREE Cyber Charter High School for PA Students



ACT Academy: High School Your Way

Welcome to ACT Academy, where students set the pace. Our exciting cyber high school blends real-time, online instruction with face-to-face interaction and independent work. ACT Academy is the ideal alternative for students in grades 9 through 12 needing more challenges, more assistance, or flexible schedules.

ACT Academy 101: Discover the Advantages of Our Tuition-Free Cyber School

- ◆ Free public cyber charter high school
- ◆ Free laptop and printer plus internet subsidy
- ◆ Work at your own pace with support
- ◆ Highly interactive with teachers, counselors and classmates
- ◆ Community change/leadership development model

ENROLL TODAY!

www.actacademycharter.org
855-ACT-6838 · 267-297-6231



Residents make choice for homeownership

Sheila Washington (standing) encourages Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP) participants to enroll in The Family Self-Sufficiency Program ("FSS"). At the June 23rd Parade of Homes, Ms. Washington explained how the FSS Program helped her save for a down payment on a house. In 2010, she became a homeowner at Wellington Heights with mortgage subsidy from the HCVP Homeownership Program. Since the Parade of Homes in June, nine HCVP families have come in to determine their eligibility.

Navy veteran Gerald McKellar pictured in the white hat is currently in the home buying process. A full listing of more than 20 families that have graduated to homeownership over the past few years will be in the next issue and on our website.

Fathers Are Talking...

Young fatherhood can be tough

Jon Whittington

Becoming a father at a young age will change your life forever. I know because I became a father at a young age and it really changed my life.

My plans changed in so many ways. The responsibility of having a little person depending on me and not knowing what to do or how to do it - man!!!! I wanted to run but there was no place to hide.

In a matter of a few months my life had one of the BIGGEST changes. Everything I wanted and hoped to do immediately changed. This was a time when I really needed to talk to my Dad.

Jon Whittington is a Resident of Ruth L. Bennett Homes and a member of Fathers Are Talking.

...Join the Conversation!



Plan on fighting the Flu?



You might end up like this...



Why not, get armed with a FLU SHOT!



Flu shots are covered by most insurance plans.
No appointment needed! Ask the pharmacist today!

CALL TODAY
484-816-0344

Free Delivery ~ Open Mon-Sat 9am-6pm

AVENUE PHARMACY
1111 Avenue of the States
Chester, PA 19013

"Family owned and operated..."

