

## HUD Presents Macon Housing Authority with \$57,000 Public Housing FSS Grant

### Inside This Issue

**Cover Story:** HUD Presents Macon Housing Authority with \$57,000 Public Housing FSS Grant - *continue to* ..... page 3

Macon Housing Authority's Family Self Sufficiency Program .....page 2

Macon Area Habitat for Humanity .....page 3

"Ask a Professional Counselor" .....page 4

Snap Shots ....page 5

Job Fair .....page 6

Family Investment Center .....page 6

Important Numbers .....back page



*By Amanda Smith*

**B**ob Young, Atlanta Regional Director of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), announced a \$57,990 grant check to the Macon Housing Authority recently to hire service coordinators who connect public housing residents with resources in the community to help them achieve economic independence.

Public housing has changed drastically over the years. In the late 1960s, early '70s, the focus began to change. What was intended as temporary housing turned into permanent housing as occupants were unable to move upward beyond a roof over their heads. Macon Housing Authority Executive Director John Hiscox has been on the job for 25 years, so he has witnessed these changes and seen the need for something more. Nowadays, things are looking brighter; much brighter. The Macon Housing Authority, through its Family Investment Center (located at Davis Homes in Macon), have taken public housing to a new level. Within the Family Investment Center are numerous organizations and services that help people advance them-

selves to higher levels. Agency partners and services available include the following:

- Adult Basic Education Center - Central Georgia Technical College
- After school program - Right touch/Nu Vision
- African Dance and Drumming - Sashei Dance Corp
- Community Care Program - Area Agency on Aging
- Evening computer classes at no charge
- Family Self Sufficiency program for employment goals
- Health care counseling, prescription assistance and physician referral - Community Health Works
- WINGS (Women Initiating New Goals for Success), a life skills program

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*Winter 2007 Edition*

Rhonda Green-Barnes, Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Coordinator, conducts orientation for residents joining the FSS program.



Family Self Sufficiency graduate, Harriet Myrick on left; Family Self Sufficiency Case Manager, Sharon Reese on right;



Family Self Sufficiency graduates

# Macon Housing Authority's Family Self Sufficiency Program

Macon Housing Authority (MHA) offers more than just affordable housing for its residents. Through various grants, the Authority is able to provide programs like on-site GED classes, home ownership, and entrepreneurial opportunities so residents can reach the goals they have set for themselves.

The Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) program is another opportunity available to eligible Public Housing residents. The FSS program is designed to assist residents in achieving economic independence by providing resources, support and incentives that enable participants to reach short-term goals that will eventually lead to the ultimate goal of becoming economically self sufficient.

### Sufficiency participant?

As a FSS participant, you will have access to resources, information, and training and education opportunities that will help you reach your individual goals.

You will have a FSS case-manager and other FIC agency support staff to encourage you and help you overcome obstacles that in the past have prevented you from reaching your goals.

You will have an opportunity to accumulate cash through an escrow savings account that will be yours once you have met your goals and fulfilled terms set forth in the FSS Contract of Participation.

### Where does the money come from that is deposited into the Escrow savings account and how is it calculated?

From funds obtained by MHA through HUD. Whenever you have a

rent increase, due to Earned Income, you will pay your portion of the rent increase toward the Contract rent, and MHA will credit part or the same amount to your escrow savings account. For example:

You currently pay \$50 rent to your landlord. You find a job that increases your rent to \$150. Your rent went up by \$100 due to earned income. You pay the landlord \$150 and MHA credits \$100 to your escrow savings account.

### When will I receive a final disbursement of my escrow funds?

When you have fulfilled all the terms set forth in the FSS Contract of Participation.

### How can I get more information?

Contact FSS case-managers at 752-5185



## Are you looking to own a decent and affordable house?

Macon Area Habitat for Humanity is opening its application process. If you are interested in learning more about owning a Habitat for Humanity house and are resident in Bibb Co., then please attend a public information meeting which will be held at the Glenwood Hills Baptist Church, 3225 Rice-Mill Road, Macon, 31206 on Saturday, April 14th, 2007 at 9:00 a.m.

**Macon Area Habitat for Humanity is an Equal Housing Opportunity provider**



- Monthly self-development workshops
- Leap Summer Youth Enrichment Camp (Leadership, Education, Arts Program)

"Having all of these services together in one place is a great help to our residents," said Hiscox. "It's much easier for a person to take advantage of all of our services when they can do it at one place."

It's definitely not just a roof over your head now. After getting into a residence, clients may then join the Family Self Sufficiency program. FSS (just one part of the Family Investment Center) assigns each client a case manager, who keeps the client informed of the various services that are available to them, assisting them through the process of attaining his/her goals. Once a client graduates from the FSS program, they are usually referred to the Macon Middle Georgia Housing Counseling Center, where a housing counselor will work with the client, covering all aspects of home purchase.

Gloria Harvey is a just one example of the success of the FSS program. When she moved to Macon with her seven children, she was unemployed and receiving



TANF. She joined the program in 1999, was employed by 2000, and has been moving upward ever since. Today, she is working with Steffone Wynn (Senior Homeownership Counselor) at the Middle Georgia Housing Counseling Center toward the purchase of her own home.

"It is so rewarding to help people, especially women, become self-sufficient and able to care for their children," said Hiscox. "To see a person gain self-worth and be proud of earning his/her own way is a blessed thing."

*Macon Housing Authority's doors stand open to welcome you at the Family Investment Center  
Call Rhonda Green-Barnes, Upward Mobility Coordinator (478) 752-5185*

*For a tour, appointments with the various agencies, or for more program information*

# "Ask a Professional Counselor"

In an effort to provide support to individuals and families in Macon Housing Authority's (MHA) Public Housing Program, Senior Citizen's Program, Homeownership Program, Section 8 Program and HOPE VI Program, the Family Counseling Center of Central Ga. will be providing information and answering questions in MHA's quarterly newsletter. The purpose of the information is to help individuals and families live a productive life.

Individuals and families with a question can fax (745-0881), email (kgfcc@aol.com) or mail (277 MLK Blvd. Suite 203/Macon, Ga. 31201) the question to the Family Counseling Center. The person with the question will not be named

in the newsletter.

Anyone interested in making an appointment with Family Counseling Center can call 745-2811. Through financial support from the City of Macon's Community Development Block Grant Program, there is no charge for the appointment for MHA participants.

The following information is being provided for this quarter's newsletter:

## Six Steps to a Healthier Family

Help! I'm a parent and I don't know what to do!" Have you ever heard that? More importantly, have you

ever heard those words coming from you? Parenting is the toughest job on earth that comes with no instructions. But a little patience and planning can go a long way towards stopping many problems in their tracks.

If you are a perfect parent, you can stop reading now—you will only be wasting your time. However, if you happen to fall into the category of "I could always use some parenting tips," these simple steps might be just what you are looking for to empower you to get rid of a lot of unnecessary parent/child conflict.

### 1. Be firm but fair.

Allow children to ask questions, disagree and be angry. At the same time, be clear about how



## CARE IMPROVEMENT PLUS

*Specialized care for Medicare beneficiaries*

**For more information:**

Hodges Financial Emporium

**1-478-335-2411**

(TTY: 1-866-766-8695)

[www.careimprovementplus.com](http://www.careimprovementplus.com)

### MEDICARE HEALTH PLAN

Medicare Advantage Part D Plan specifically designed for Medicare beneficiaries with:

- Diabetes
- Heart Failure
- End Stage Renal Disease
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

### PLAN FEATURES

- Personal Nursing Support
- Health Education
- Tools to Help You Monitor and Manage Your Health
- Open Access Provider Network— See Any Doctor That Accepts Medicare
- Medicare Part D Prescription Drugs Included

*Care Improvement Plus is a Medicare Advantage Special Needs Plan with a Medicare contract*

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# Snap Shots

these differences can be shared in a respectful way.

## 2. Ask for and give respect.

Appreciate your children's opinions. Recognize and approve each person's uniqueness. Love and accept each person even when you don't accept what they do. Help children see how respect works in relationships. And remember-criticizing your children and demeaning them with name-calling and cursing usually backfires against the parent.

## 3. Learn from mistakes.

Each family member can learn more from mistakes than successes. Allow for failure and be ready to forgive. Help your children be accountable for the consequences of their choices. And saying 'I'm sorry' to your children when you need to will increase your status in their eyes.

## 4. What you see is what you get.

Parents are not perfect. Let children see you as human. Let your kids know what's important to you by your words and actions.

## 5. Real love includes limits.

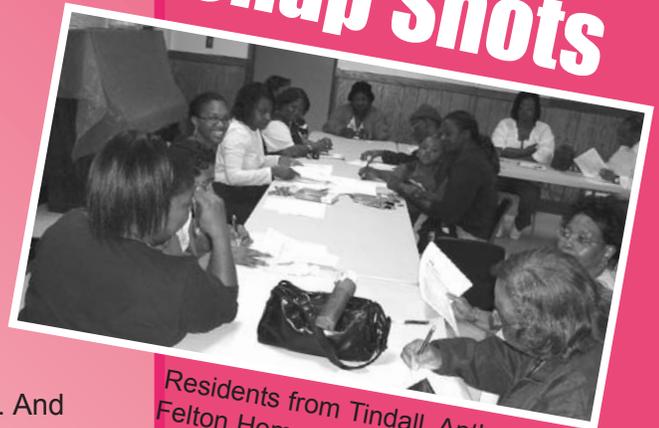
Healthy limits guide and nurture children. Parents and children feel more secure when love includes limits. Limits help children feel part of the family group. Tough love includes boundaries. And it works!

## 6. Talk and walk your values.

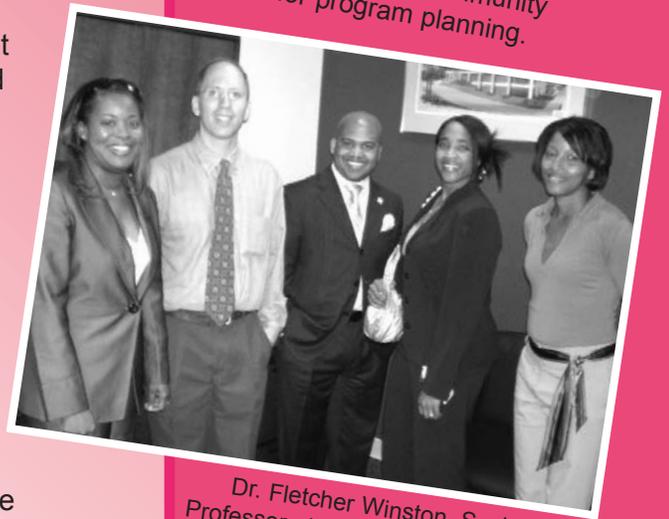
Beliefs are spoken more loudly by actions than words. Children learn independence, responsibility and decision making by watching their parents. Make sure that what they are watching and hearing match.

Parenting is a training mission-especially for parents. We should pick our battles wisely and try not to lose the war over an insignificant skirmish ("I want that room cleaned now!!"). A clean room feels real important, but communication trumps a clean room every time. The sooner parents learn that kids aren't perfect (and that parents aren't perfect either), the sooner the family can use its time and energy building healthy relationships. The goal of healthy parenting is not contented children, but responsible adults.

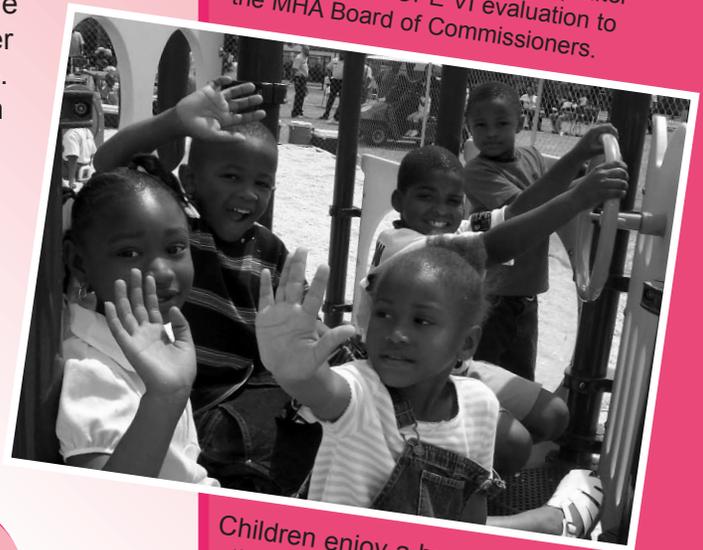
So the next time you hear someone say, "Help! I'm a parent!" and realize that it's you, slow down, take a deep breath (or several), and realize that you have another opportunity to parent in a different and better way. The changes you see in yourself and your kids just might have you saying "Wow! I'm a parent! And ain't it great!"



Residents from Tindall, Anthony and Felton Homes work with the Out and Up, Inc. to complete a community survey and discuss community needs for program planning.



Dr. Fletcher Winston, Sociology Professor at Mercer University joins the HOPE VI CSS staff for a photo op after presenting the HOPE VI evaluation to the MHA Board of Commissioners.



Children enjoy a breezy day on the Moon Walk at the Tindall Heights Family Fun Day, an annual Cherry Blossom event.



# Job Fairs link Customers with Employers

Macon Housing Authority held its first on-site Job Fair on January 10, 2007 from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at the Family Investment Center at 905 Main Street (Davis Homes community). The Job Fair attracted twenty-two employers and more than 200 customers seeking employment opportunities. Family Self Sufficiency and HOPE VI Community and Supportive Services staff planned the event to help introduce public housing residents and others to employers with positions and/or training programs available for those serious about changing or advancing their economic status. Job Fair participants also were asked to complete a survey/evaluation upon leaving the event to help MHA staff plan and develop partnerships to offer services residents need or desire.

If you are a public housing resident and need assistance to continue your employment goals, we invite you to:

1. Join MHA's Family Self Sufficiency Program by calling 752-5185 (see page 2 for more information)
2. Visit the Macon Career Center-Department of Labor (Mercer University Dr.) on Tuesdays from 8:00 a.m. - 12 noon for a Self Sufficiency Case Manager to assist you.



*Macon Housing Authority extends our appreciation to the following employers for their participation in the Job Fair:*

- \* Bibb County Board of Education
- \* Lowe's Home Improvement Stores
- \* Labor Ready
- \* Express Personnel
- \* City of Macon Office of Workforce Development
- \* Kelly Services
- \* Chase Staffing
- \* Adecco
- \* Waffle House
- \* Family Care Solutions
- \* Macon-Bibb Co. Fire Department
- \* Job Corps
- \* Ga. Dept of Labor & Vocational Rehabilitation Services
- \* IKON
- \* Quality Care for Children
- \* Macon Housing Authority
- \* Central Georgia Technical College
- \* Senior Community Service Employment Program
- \* Community Health Works
- \* American Profession Institute
- \* Shaklee Health & Wellness



Mercer Education Opportunity Center for the Resume Writing classes held during the Fair



# 2007 Resident Association Meetings

*Your Resident Association Needs You! It's Your Meeting! Please Attend!*

## **Tindall Heights Community Center 4:00 pm**

April 19, 2007  
May 17, 2007  
June 21, 2007  
July 19, 2007  
August 16, 2007  
September 20, 2007  
October 18, 2007  
November 15, 2007  
December 20, 2007 4:00

## **Bowden Homes Community Center 4:00 p.m.**

April 17, 2007  
July 17, 2007  
October 16, 2007  
December 18, 2007

## **Murphey Homes Community Center 3:30 p.m.**

April 16, 2007  
July 16, 2007  
October 15, 2007

December 17, 2007

## **Pendleton Homes Community Center 4:00 p.m.**

April 18, 2007  
July 18, 2007  
October 17, 2007  
December 19, 2007

## **Felton Homes Community Center 5:00 p.m.**

April 19, 2007  
July 19, 2007  
October 18, 2007  
December 20, 2007

## **Davis & Mounts Homes Community Center 6:00 p.m.**

April 17, 2007  
July 17, 2007  
October 16, 2007  
December 18, 2007

## **Anthony Homes Community Center 1:00 p.m.**

April 10, 2007

July 10, 2007  
October 9, 2007  
December 11, 2007

## **McAfee Towers Community Center 4:00 p.m.**

April 17, 2007  
October 16, 2007  
December 18, 2007

## **Bloomfield @ Shakespear Community Center 5:00 p.m.**

April 12, 2007  
July 12, 2007  
October 11, 2007  
December 13, 2007

## **Inter-Neighborhood Resident Association 2:00 p.m.**

April 24, 2007 @ Murphey Homes  
July 24, 2007 @ Pendleton Homes  
October 23, 2007 @ Felton Homes

## Macon Housing Authority's Family Investment Center

905 MAIN STREET, MACON, GA 31217 478-752-5185



*The Macon Housing Authority's Family Investment Center (FIC) is a one-stop resource for families who are working their way towards economic independence. Services available at the FIC include: day care, health care, social services, family counseling, job training and educational programs.*

### **Agencies and Programs located within the Macon Housing Authority's Family Investment Center**

Family Self Sufficiency Program- (478) 752-5097  
Sashei African Dance Ensemble- (478) 461-7602  
Economic Opportunity Council- (478) 752-5194  
Family Counseling Center- (478) 752-5177  
Georgia Anger Management Center, Inc.- (478) 752-5153  
Head Start Program- (478) 745-0960  
Central Georgia Technical College Adult Basic Education- (478) 742-9442  
Mercer University Educational Opportunity Center- (478) 752-5253  
Community Health Works- (478) 752-5013  
Righttouch Nu Vision- (478) 228-1737

*Please call or stop by to learn more about the services available to you at the Family Investment Center. To schedule a tour of the FIC, please call coordinator, Rhonda Green-Barnes at (478) 752-5185*

# 24

# H O U R

## Emergency Maintenance

# 752-5115



## Important Numbers

|                                     |                 |                                |                 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>CENTRAL OFFICE</b> .....         | <b>752-5000</b> | <b>INTER-NEIGHBORHOOD</b>      |                 |
| <b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b> .....     | <b>752-5071</b> | <b>RESIDENT ASSOCIATION</b> .. | <b>742-9160</b> |
| <b>MAINTENANCE</b> .....            | <b>752-5115</b> | <b>TINDALL HEIGHTS</b> .....   | <b>752-5002</b> |
| <b>HOUSING MANAGEMENT</b> ..        | <b>752-5030</b> | <b>BOWDEN HOMES</b> .....      | <b>752-5003</b> |
| <b>SECURITY COORDINATOR</b> ..      | <b>752-5031</b> | <b>MURPHY HOMES</b> .....      | <b>752-5004</b> |
| <b>HOPE VI</b> .....                | <b>752-5078</b> | <b>PENDLETON HOMES</b> .....   | <b>752-5005</b> |
| <b>TEAM WATCH</b> .....             | <b>752-5036</b> | <b>FELTON HOMES</b> .....      | <b>752-5006</b> |
| <b>RESIDENT INITIATIVES</b> .....   | <b>752-5146</b> | <b>DAVIS HOMES</b> .....       | <b>752-5008</b> |
| <b>SOCIAL SERVICES</b> .....        | <b>752-5145</b> | <b>ANTHONY HOMES</b> .....     | <b>752-5010</b> |
| <b>RESIDENT ORGANIZATIONS</b> ..... | <b>752-5033</b> | <b>MCAFFEE TOWERS</b> .....    | <b>752-5011</b> |
|                                     |                 | <b>SCATTERED SITES</b> .....   | <b>752-5021</b> |

## Neighborhood Outreach Programs

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Aunt Maggie's Kitchen Table-Anthony Homes    | 781-9289 |
| DFCS-Child Care Center-Anthony Homes         | 788-0819 |
| DFCS-Child Care Center-Murphy Homes          | 751-6414 |
| Economic Opportunity Council-Anthony Homes   | 738-3251 |
| Family Self Sufficiency Program-Murphy Homes | 741-3844 |
| Head Start-Felton Homes                      | 743-4502 |
| Head Start-Murphy Homes                      | 742-4291 |
| Head Start-Pendleton Homes                   | 788-7891 |
| HOPE VI Community & Supportive Services      | 752-5078 |
| Inter-Neighborhood Resident Assoc. -Felton   | 742-9160 |
| Meals on Wheels                              | 745-9140 |
| Women's, Infants & Children-WIC              | 752-1732 |

|                                 |                        |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Adult Learning Center</i>    | 742-9442               |
| <i>Community Health Works</i>   | 752-5013/3798 752-3733 |
| <i>Family Counseling</i>        | 752-5177               |
| <i>Family Investment Center</i> | 752-5185               |

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| <i>Family Self Sufficiency Case Coordinator</i> | 752-5097 |
| <i>FIC-Computer Class</i>                       | 752-5185 |
| <i>Mercer Education Opportunity</i>             | 301-2383 |
| <i>Righttouch, Inc.</i>                         | 752-5253 |
| <i>Sashei African Dance Class</i>               | 461-7602 |

**MACON HOUSING AUTHORITY**  
**P.O. Box 4928**  
**2015 Felton Avenue**  
**Macon, Georgia 31208**

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