



Insider

The Quarterly Newsletter of Macon Housing Authority

SPECIAL EDITION!

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Big Win for Macon Housing Authority Public Housing Residents

We are delighted to announce a major new resource for residents of Macon Housing Authority public housing. For more than a year, the Resident Initiatives department worked on putting together two very competitive federal grant applications. Last August, after endless hours of collecting data, compiling information, analyzing, writing drafts, reviewing and so on, we submitted our grant applications for two ROSS grants.



Macon Housing Authority was awarded both grants, a total of **\$600,000!**

This money is to be spent over three years for operations and direct assistance for residents. Direct assistance may cover expenses such as childcare, transportation, education, savings senior services and others.

We'd like to encourage you today to let us know how we might use some of these funds to help you. The funds are limited, so take this moment to let us hear from you by filling out the enclosed survey. The surveys and requests for assistance will

Read on! You will find a Question/Answer section and a "Needs Assessment" survey. Please fill out the survey and return it to us. If you provide your name and contact information, we'll get in touch with you about the services you need to reach your goals.

Resident Volunteers

For Ms. Deborah Pitts, the hardship of a storm is just one more opportunity to serve her community. A

long-time resident and volunteer at Tindall Heights, Ms. Pitts had just moved to Anthony Homes when the "Mother's Day Tornado" struck down. (continued, pg 7...)



Volunteer, Deborah Pitts

Questions and Answers about the ROSS Grants

What is ROSS?

ROSS stands for Resident Opportunities and Self-Sufficiency. Housing authorities use ROSS grants to provide services to help public housing residents attain economic and housing self-sufficiency.

What does “direct assistance” mean?

Direct assistance means MHA will pay for certain goods or services to help you reach your goals of self-sufficiency, or for seniors, to help you stay in your home longer and enjoy a high quality of life.

What kinds of things will MHA pay for?

The Family Self-Sufficiency grant covers activities supporting your goal of economic self reliance, such as childcare, transportation, educational expenses or job training. The Seniors and Disabled grant could cover goods and services that help you live independently in your home, such as

Who qualifies to receive this direct assistance?

Macon Housing Authority public housing residents who are pursuing a goal of economic freedom are qualified for services which contribute to that goal. Those 62 or over or receiving Social Security disability may receive assistance through the Seniors and Disabled grant.



How can I let MHA know what my needs are?

Fill out the needs assessment survey in this newsletter. You may return it to the rental office or MHA’s main office, or by mail. PLEASE, remember to include your name and address if you would like us to contact you about your direct assistance needs.

Where does the money come from?

These are federal tax dollars, administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD is the same agency that funds the majority of MHA’s affordable housing expenses, such as rental and utilities subsidies.

When will the direct assistance be available?

We expect to receive the funds any day now! If you provide your name on the survey, we will contact you in the order the surveys are received.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

Please take this moment to fill out this survey. We know that financial assistance for certain services can make a lot of difference in reaching your goals. Is your greatest need childcare, transportation, job training, or something else? Let us know. If you have questions about the survey or need help filling it out, please call 752-5032.

1. Are you the Head of Household? Yes No

2. What is your age range?
 17 or younger 23-29 55-61
 18-22 30-54 62 or older

3. Do you have children living in your household? Yes No
a. If yes, how many? _____ What ages? _____

4. Are you a single parent? Yes No

5. Are you currently employed? Yes No *(If yes, go to 5a. If no, go to 5b.)*

5a. If you **are** currently employed...
 - a. What type of work do you do? _____
 - b. How many hours per week? _____
 - c. Is the employment seasonal/temporary? Yes No
 - d. Do advancement opportunities exist at your current job? Yes No Unsure
 - e. Are you seeking a second job or a change in career? Yes No
If yes, what type of job/career? _____
5b. If you **are not** currently employed...
 - a. Are you receiving SSI benefits? Yes, permanent Yes, temporary No
 - b. Are you receiving TANF? Yes No
 - b. Are you a student? Yes, full time Yes, part time No
If yes, what school and program? _____
When do you plan to graduate? _____
 - c. Are you currently seeking employment? Yes No
If yes, what type of job? _____

REMOVE THIS PORTION AND RETURN TO RENTAL OFFICE, MAIN OFFICE (2015 FELTON AVE) OR MAIL TO P.O. BOX 4928 / MACON, GA 31208

Needs Assessment Survey - RETURN THIS PORTION TO OFFICE OR BY MAIL

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6. Do you have any of the following educational goals for the future?

- Earn a GED
- Earn a technical diploma or certificate
- Earn an Associate's degree
- Earn a Bachelor's degree or higher
- Other:

7. Do you have any of the following employment goals for the future?

- Get job skills or apprenticeship training
- Gain employment (a first or second job)
- Maintain existing employment
- Increase salary through a promotion or job change
- Other: _____

8. What types of assistance might help you reach the educational or employment goals checked above?

- Financial aid towards tuition, books and fees
- Assistance in finding and applying for scholarships
- Classes to help me prepare for college
- Planning assistance to help me balance school with the rest of my life
- Career counseling to help me choose the best degree or training program for my interests and strengths
- Career counseling to help me find a job (prepare resumes, find job postings, make contacts, interview skills)
- Volunteer opportunities to make me more employable by gaining job skills, resume builders, character references
- An internship or apprenticeship (If so, what type of work? _____)
- Childcare or financial assistance for childcare expenses
- Financial assistance for transportation
- A personal advisor to help me set and meet my goals
- Other: _____

9. Do you have any of the following personal goals for the future?

- Become a homeowner
- Learn more parenting skills
- Learn more interpersonal skills
- Get on top of my health issues
- Become a leader in my community
- Become financially independent from public assistance or family and friends
- Other: _____

10. What types of assistance might help you reach the personal goals checked above?

- Budgeting and credit classes; debt management
- First-time homebuyer classes and counseling
- Parenting classes and/or other parenting resources
- Family or individual counseling
- Counseling for survivors of domestic violence and/or sexual assault
- Access to health care and health care counseling
- Leadership opportunities and training
- The opportunity to help build my own home
- A personal advisor to help me set and meet my goals
- Other: _____

11. Would you be interested in any of the following volunteer opportunities?

- After-school children's programs
- Increasing security in my neighborhood
- Improving my community through the Resident Association
- Helping build houses for low-income first-time homebuyers
- Delivering meals to homebound seniors
- Visiting with or providing other services for seniors
- Teaching a skill I possess (such as knitting, hairstyling, basic home repair, etc.)
- Office work
- Other: _____

If you currently volunteer, please tell us where and what type of work:

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12. What other types of assistance might you need?

- A mentor to help me find opportunities and recognize my strengths
- Recreational opportunities (for adults and/or children)
- Tutoring (for parents, adult students and/or children)
- Food stamps
- Other: _____

The following question is ONLY for seniors 62 and older or those on Social Security disability.

13. What types of assistance might you need to help you remain in your home?

- Cooking or meals delivery
- Cleaning assistance
- Financial assistance for healthcare costs
- Transportation for doctor's appointments
- Transportation for shopping
- Other: _____

Thank you for sharing this valuable information! We look forward to meeting you soon to discuss your goals and learn how we can help you meet them. **Please tell us:**

Your Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Primary Phone: _____ (Please indicate if): Home Cell Message

Secondary Phone: _____ (Please indicate if): Home Cell Message

Email Address: _____

Preferred means of contact:

- By Phone
- By Email
- By Mail
- Through another person. Name: _____

How can we reach this person?

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mail: _____

Resident Volunteers Make a World of Difference Communities gain from the time given by fellow residents

Residents and staff alike are blessed to have among us many committed volunteers who give largely of themselves to make their community a better place. We honor and thank each one of you – you know who you are. You guide your neighbors to resources and services. You serve on committees and resident associations. With your positive, giving attitude, you give light and hope to others.

While we couldn't possibly do justice in this one small article to every individual who has so faithfully served, we'd like to recognize a few of you here.

“A hungry man is an angry man.” ~ English proverb

The neighborhoods of Pendleton, Murphey, Felton and Davis Homes are offering free lunch this summer through July 18, thanks to these committed volunteers. (See back page for listing of sites.)



Starla King



Tiji Griffin



Willie Mullen



Vondell Powell



Stephanie Huston



Annie Jones



Danielle Vervin

“The only safe ship in a storm is leadership.” ~ Faye Wattleton

(Pitts, continued from pg 1...)

Ms. Pitts called Walmart for donations to help others make it through the first few days after the storm. She and fellow volunteer Annie Walker (below) bagged and delivered hundreds of care packages containing toiletries and paper goods – needed items not covered by food stamps.

“You must do the things you think you cannot do.” ~ Eleanor Roosevelt



Whatever the call may be, Annie Walker is ready to answer. As one of nine volunteers on the Resident Advisory Committee for the Tindall Heights HOPE

VI project, Annie has walked innumerable miles and knocked on countless doors to keep her neighbors informed about the monumental changes in store for Tindall Heights. She is quietly and respectfully outspoken and bold, a masterful mix of the best leadership qualities.

Latasha Harrison: Beating the Odds

By Rhonda Green-Barnes

Since she joined the WINGS program in February, Latasha Harrison has been on a fast track to completing her goals.

A resident of Davis Homes, Latasha is serious about ending the cycle of welfare that has plagued her family for generations. When she joined WINGS (Women Initiating New Goals for Success), Latasha said she did it for her children. “Seeing a smile on my children’s faces because their mother has herself together will put a smile on my face.”

Since graduating from WINGS, Latasha has been recognized for her outstanding involvement in the lives of her five beautiful children, winning the Parent of the Year Award for the Macon-Bibb Head Start Program. Mercer University Education Opportunity Center honored her as Adult Learner of the Year.

Congratulations Latasha, you are well on your way and we celebrate you for aspiring to beat the odds!

(For more information about WINGS and other programs, call 752-5145 or 752-5032.)



Important Numbers



Central Office.....	752-5000
Executive Director.....	752-5071
Maintenance (24 hrs).....	752-5115
Housing Management.....	752-5030
Security Coordinator.....	752-5031
HOPE VI.....	752-5078
Team Watch.....	752-5036
Resident Initiatives.....	752-5032
Inter-Neighborhood Resident Association.....	742-9160
Tindall Heights.....	752-5002
Bowden Homes.....	752-5003
Murphey Homes.....	752-5004
Pendleton Homes.....	752-5005
Felton Homes.....	752-5006
Davis Homes.....	752-5008
Anthony Homes.....	752-5010
McAfee Towers.....	752-5011
Scattered Sites.....	752-5021

Neighborhood Outreach Programs

Aunt Maggie's Kitchen Table (at Anthony Homes).....	781-9289
DFCS Child Care Centers at Anthony Homes.....	788-0819
at Murphey Homes.....	751-6414
Economic Opportunity Council at Anthony Homes.....	738-3251
Meals on Wheels.....	745-9140
WIC.....	752-1731
Community Health Works	752-5013
Family Counseling Center	752-5177
Family Investment Center	752-5185
Family Self Sufficiency.....	752-5097
Violence Intervention and Prevention, Inc.....	752-

Summer Lunch Sites

(Visit www.decal.state.ga.us/Nutrition/NutritionServicesMain.aspx and click on "Find a SFSP Sponsor/Site," or call 478-621-6305.)

Family Investment Center	905 Main St (Davis Homes)	752-5185
Felton Homes	2035 Felton Ave	752-5032
Murphey Homes	900 A St	752-5032
Pendleton Homes	3401 Houston Ave	752-5032
Bloomfield Center	4115 Lions Place	781-6000
Booker T Washington Center	391 Monroe St	742-7431
Freedom Park	3301 Roff Ave	751-9248

Disaster Assistance

Available Now

If you suffered any damages or losses as a result of the "Mother's Day Tornado," you may be eligible to receive compensation from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Even if you do not own your home, you may recover losses such as days missed from work or damage to a car. (They do not pay to replace spoiled groceries due to a loss of electricity.)

Call 1-800-621-3362 to apply by phone or to get a list of nearby locations, or apply online at www.fema.gov.

HOPE for Tindall Heights

Tindall Heights has been a hub of activity lately. Enthusiasm about a future revitalized Tindall Heights neighborhood is seen in packed planning meetings and other events.

Later this month MHA will apply for a federal HOPE VI grant to bring \$20 million to the revitalization project. Essential to the project are committed local partners, including the City of Macon, local banks, social service agencies and others.

The revitalization will involve partial or total demolition of the existing buildings, to be replaced with houses, apartments, high-rise senior housing and some commercial areas. The project will extend down Felton Avenue to Anthony Street, where the existing Armory will be renovated to function as a community center.