



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO: CMHA CELEBRATES HOME OWNERSHIP MONTH IN JUNE

One of the components of the American Dream is homeownership. At CMHA, one of our missions is to assist families in our programs in achieving self-sufficiency, which improves their lives as well as future family members' lives moving forward. This month, we celebrate **National Homeownership Month**, and the empowerment it provides individuals and families when they achieve it.

Homeownership provides stability, financial security, and a key way to build generational wealth. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), a substantial partner with CMHA, states, "we'll continue to demonstrate the vital role homeownership plays in building strong communities and empowering individuals and families across the nation." You can check out additional resources HUD offers for homeownership on their website: https://www.hud.gov/program_offices

In addition to HUD's empowerment of families, here in Cincinnati, CMHA's Family Self-Sufficiency Program works with participants to develop goals and achieve those goals while building financial freedom. Please continue reading further as we share the story about one of our FSS participants who has achieved the ultimate goal of homeownership.

On another note, CMHA is looking at the ways in which we communicate with our participants, employees, and stakeholders. We are asking for you to complete a communication survey to help us communicate with you better. Visit the link at: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sv/WtkEuBw>

FSS Participants Achieve Success



“I went from homeless to no education to getting my education, getting into the housing, setting my goals, to now I run my daycare business and own the house.” This is Mary Hughes’ story about how the Family Self-Sufficiency program at Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority helped her meet some life goals and purchase her own home. Ms. Hughes shared how the Housing Choice Voucher program at CMHA helped her gain access to housing in an area where she wanted to live and connected her to the FSS program through their monthly newsletters. “The program's here to help you, so why not take an advantage of it and use the help that they're giving you to build a future? And I'm like, that's what I did,” explains Mary about why the program was successful for her. Visit CMHA social media to watch the video about Ms. Hughes.

FSS is a program designed by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department and administered through public housing agencies throughout the United States. It provides HCV participants and public housing residents a way to create achievable goals that will better them and their families, which will sustain them for the future. Their goals are often earning their high school diploma or a college degree to further their career, achieving gainful employment and moving up to increase their income, and purchasing a home for them and their family. The participants in the FSS programs sign a contract with the housing authority for five years to achieve their goals.

The program operates as the housing authority collects their rent, a portion of it goes into an interest-bearing escrow account, which collects the difference between the rent the family was paying when they started the program and the increased rent that they would be charged as their earned income grows.

FSS coordinators meet quarterly with participants to discuss their goals and provide trainings for them. CMHA FSS works closely with a number of partners who provide trainings and classes to assist participants obtaining economic self-sufficiency. Partners include Ohio Means Jobs, Cincinnati Works, Women Helping Women, Mental Health Board, Goodwill, EasterSeals, City Link, Legal Aid, and many more.

The EnVision Center Partners with Community Organizations to Assist CMHA Residents



The EnVision Center, located in Winton Terrace, Findlater Gardens, and Maple Towers, offers a number of services to residents of housing complexes. The Center opened in 2019 and welcomes residents for appointments as well as walk-in times. On average, the Center refers more than a thousand people for a multitude of services with partner organizations.

In addition to in-office meetings, The EnVision Center partners with organizations such as Produce Perks for food distribution, 513 Bus for assistance to residents, a monthly Re-Entry One Stop Shop program for residents of CMHA properties who have been released from jail, a CMHA BLITZ for recertification and rental assistance for residents in need, and an Ohio Needs Jobs Fair monthly.

Furthermore, other partners visit the sites regularly such as Cincinnati Cradle, Cincinnati Health Department, Aetna for Health Coverage, Veterans Affairs, Head Start, and many more.

For continued updates, visit our website and calendar to see which organizations will be at the different sites.

Upcoming events

- **Graduation event highlighting high school, college, or trade school - July 12**
- **Back to School Event in Winton Terrace - Aug 13 2 p.m.,-4 p.m.**



City West Homeownership Host a Groundbreaking For New Townhomes to be Built This Summer

A warm May afternoon brought together a gathering of the Cincinnati community for a special breaking of ground for a continuation of a project that began more than 20 years ago. Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority staff, City of Cincinnati partners, City West, LLC, West End community members, and local developers and realtors gathered to celebrate the continued growth in the West End. The new City West Homeownership residences will add to the neighborhood as well as a surgency of vitality.

Members of City West, LLC and CMHA staff breaking ground.



Mr. Greg Johnson and City of Cincinnati Mayor Aftab Pureval

CMHA CEO Mr. Greg Johnson kicked off the event with his welcome, “This journey started in 1998. It’s what persistence and change brings us here today. With 366 public housing units and the rest market value homes, this is truly going to be a mixed income neighborhood right here in the West End, and we’re proud to be partners in that.” The City West Apartments, currently in the West End neighborhood, arose from the Lincoln Court and Laurel Homes revitalization, and the use of Hope VI funding provided by the Housing and Urban Development. This development began building in 2002 and completed construction in 2006.

City West Homeownership (cont.)



Mayor Aftab Pureval proclaimed the event “a bold and exciting vision, particularly when it comes to our historically underinvested communities.” He continued with, “projects like this are a critical part of our collective work to build vibrancy, to build spaces where families can grow and thrive and enjoy a cohesive neighborhood.”

Jodi Funke, one of the three developers who formed the partnership of City West, LLC, spoke about her excitement for the continued growth of the neighborhood. “This development aims to bring back the vibrancy and sense of community the West End was once known for. We look forward to a future where diverse families can thrive, children can play safely, and neighbors can come together to create lasting memories.”

Construction of the first phase of the new townhomes will begin in July 2024 where eight will be built at the start with four of them being affordable homes. The following phases will continue over the next five years to complete the project at 69 homes.

John Cioffi of City West, LLC explained why West End and City West is the ideal place for their development, “It has its own unique flavor to it, and they’re proud of that. We just want to continue to be City West in the West End.”



NCRC Tours CMHA Properties for Grand Ideas

Pictured from l-r: Mark Theile, NAHRO President, Mrs. Reema Ruberg, CMHA COO, and Mr. Greg Johnson, CMHA CEO



National Community Reinvestment Coalition held their national conference in Cincinnati in May. Three CMHA employees from Development and Real Estate Construction presented during that conference. Gary Boeres, Director of Development, Joe Norton, Real Estate and Construction Director, and Shonda McMillan, Project Manager presented on CMHA's recent building and RAD projects throughout Hamilton County.

Additionally, Mr. Greg Johnson spoke during NCRC's Luncheon sharing information about Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority and the goal of investing \$ 1 billion into the agency's properties to upgrade the standard of living for Hamilton County residents across 105 neighborhoods.

Following the luncheon, a group of about 30 attendees toured three CMHA properties: Bennett Point, Park Eden, and West Union Square to see the tremendous strides CMHA has made and provided for its residents.

CMHA staff received a number of compliments and accolades for the outstanding work being done.





CMHA HR Holds Hiring Blitz in June

Marquita Flowers, CMHA Property Management Director, awaiting to talk with candidates

The CMHA Human Resources Department hosted a Career Fair in June to attract candidates for various open positions. This event provided CMHA the chance to connect with individuals seeking careers in the Affordable Housing Industry. Several onsite interviews were conducted, and multiple candidates were selected to advance in the recruitment process. Stay tuned for additional CMHA recruitment events that will be happening throughout the year!



CMHA