

# Charleston-Kanawha Housing Highlights

June 2007

## Garden Wins Award



The Carroll Terrace Community Garden was recognized with an Award of Excellence from SERC-NAHRO, the South Eastern Regional Council of the National Association of Housing & Redevelopment Officials.

Charleston-Kanawha Housing's Executive Director, Mark Taylor, accepted the award during the SERC Awards Gala in Tunica Mississippi on Tuesday June 26, 2007.

The Garden has been featured in the 2007 East End Garden Showcase which is a tour sponsored by volunteers from Charleston's East End Main Street group.

## S8 FSS Graduates Two

Elijah Casto & Sherri Brock received their FSS completion certificates and escrow checks at the Board of Commissioners meeting on June 18, 2007.

Mr. Elijah Casto began the Family Self-Sufficiency program through Kanawha County Housing in December of 2000. Elijah has been employed with Stanley Steemer since August 2006 and has been assistance free for over three years.

Ms. Sherri Brock began the Family Self-Sufficiency program in June of 2002. She met the goals that she set for herself: improving her credit rating, working at a bank and owning her own home. Sherri has been employed with United Bank since September 2003.



## Homeownership Month

Charleston-Kanawha Housing Authority recognized two new Section 8 homeowners on June 18, 2007: Sherri Brock and Shawn McCarty. June is National Homeownership Month, an initiative of the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). There are various trainings and events held throughout the month to promote and educate families about homeownership.



Sherri Brock (pictured above) completed Charleston-Kanawha Housing's Family Self-Sufficiency Program in June. She met all of her goals including purchasing her own home. Ms. Brock stated that she "would like to be able to afford her own home and be self sufficient so that she would have only herself to depend on."

Sherri has been employed with United Bank since September 2003 as a Customer Service Representative and over the years she has worked to improve her credit. On May 1, 2007 she closed on her new home in Dunbar and is living the American Dream of homeownership with her two children.



Shawn McCarty (pictured above) was a Kanawha County Housing participant when she started taking homeownership counseling classes in 2006 at RCCR. Once Charleston Housing and Kanawha County Housing merged, Ms. McCarty was able to take advantage of the homeownership program available to all Charleston-Kanawha Housing Section 8 participants. On April 20, 2007 Shawn was able to accomplish what she had only been able to dream of, buying her own home. She and her son now reside in

## Faces at Charleston-Kanawha Housing

Adam Higginbotham was hired as the Purchasing Agent on June 11, 2007. Adam previously held the position of Relocation Coordinator for Charleston-Kanawha Housing and constructed a draft relocation plan for the coordination of residents that will be affected by future redevelopment in Washington Manor and Littlepage Terrace.



Adam has a degree from Marshall University in Political Science and English and received his Master of Business Administration from Liberty University in Virginia in December, 2006. Adam has been a Supervisor at Union Stamping and Assembly and was an instructor in Osaka, Japan teaching English to Japanese

## Redevelopment Update



Construction on Phase One of a five phase redevelopment plan for new affordable housing in the City of Charleston is moving along. The units pictured above on Patrick Street are starting to attract attention and the groundwork has been done for the new townhomes to be built on Central Avenue and Griffin Drive.

Forty-four new townhomes are currently being constructed on three separate sites. Sixteen units in Orchard Manor, eight by Jarrett Terrace and twenty units on Patrick Street replacing a vacant deteriorating restaurant.

## Resident Comment Line



We Want to Hear from You!

348-1096

All calls are welcome

## Housekeeping Grant Awarded

Charleston-Kanawha Housing Authority has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation for a Good Housekeeping Program.



Funding will be used to implement a Good Housekeeping program to educate residents on the importance of keeping a clean home. Residents residing in Charleston-Kanawha Housing properties who are in danger of losing their assistance will receive cleaning supplies and literature during a one-on-one session with a housekeeping coach.

Charleston-Kanawha Housing will hire a housekeeping coach to meet with residents identified as having housekeeping issues that could result in eviction. The coach will meet with residents in their home, perform an initial evaluation, talk with the resident about problem areas and how to fix them and present them with a housekeeping kit which will include a mop, broom, bucket, dustpan, all-purpose cleaner, dishwashing liquid, sponges, etc. The housekeeping coach will evaluate the progress of the resident before the follow-up inspection by management to make sure that all issues have been properly remedied.

Charleston Kanawha Housing will recruit model tenants to work as housekeeping coaches in developments outside of their own. The coaches will receive \$15.00 per hour and will be given a maximum of four hours per case. This includes the initial evaluation, coaching session and follow-up evaluation.

The Goals of the Good Housekeeping Program are:

- To educate residents of Charleston-Kanawha Housing on the importance of a clean home and thus improve the marketability/satisfaction of the developments.
- To reduce the risk of residents being evicted from their apartment due to poor housekeeping issues.
- To reduce the risk of residents being denied housing assistance based on a poor landlord reference regarding housekeeping.