Moving Forward

Opportunities
As construction begins in the home ownership phase of the HOPE VI initiative, we will be working closely with our contractors and subcontractors to identify employment opportunities. Once jobs have been identified, you will receive a HOPE VI Employment Bulletin. The bulletin will list job openings, qualifications, and where to apply. It is crucial that you register with the Durham Job Link Center, if you are not already registered. Also customized construction training will be provided to residents if needed. Please contact the Relocation Specialist for more information @ 683-8596.

Construction Update
The revitalization efforts have produced 143 rental units. Main Street Town-homes, a 43-rental site, is 100% occupied. The latest rental phases, Calvert Place (75 rental units) - the picture is located in the right column, and Morning Glory Senior Village (25 rental units), received their certificates of occupancy on December 30, 2005. Lease-up of the units began in March 2006. The HOPE VI revitalization initiative will produce a total of 415 rental and homeownership units (275 rental and 140 home-ownership units). This effort will de-concentrate poverty through the creation of a mixed income community. It will also stabilize and revitalize the surrounding neighborhood, mitigate the distress in the neighborhood surrounding the Few Gardens site the distress in the neighborhood surrounding the Few Gardens site, and reposition the neighborhood to provide a good quality of life for residents. Contact Pam Daye at 667-9907 for more information.

Calvert A

Welcome

The Durham Housing Authority would like to welcome all the families who have made an investment in the HOPE VI Program of Durham Housing Authority and the City of Durham who have and are in the process of moving back to the revitalized area. At this time 46 other families have expressed a desire to return as well. Applications are available at 705 East Main St. and are going fast. If you are interested contact Pam Daye, Main Street Town homes Housing Manager at 667-9907. Feel free to visit the office as well. The HOPE VI Program and the Community Builders are on the move. There will be 25 units at the Morning Glory Senior Village and 75 units at Calvert Place. This is a great opportunity.
Congratulations!!

Hats off to Keshia Gray, Pauline McCauley and Pamela McNeil. Keshia enrolled at Durham Technical Community College, DTCC, earning her GED. Pauline and Pamela attended the Adult High School, ADHS, program at DTCC and earned their High School Diploma. Keshia, Pauline and Pamela will be recognized in a graduation ceremony to be held at Cameron Indoor Stadium on Friday, May 19, 2006 at 3:00 pm. These ladies are former Few Gardens residents/HOPE VI clients. “Thank you HOPE VI for all the support” says Pauline. Keshia and Pauline have both applied to attend Durham Technical Community College in the fall to further their education. Keep up the good work ladies. (Please see Pauline McCauley’s poem on Page 4.)

Continue to Celebrate Life!!

Give Your Best

A HUD Resident Assessment Survey, usually distributed each year to a random number of public housing residents, showed there is concern about who we are, where we live and how we live. The Durham Housing Authority has recently earned a higher score for 2005 regarding those five areas:

- Maintenance & Repair
- Services
- Communication
- Safety

It could not have happened without you. THANK YOU.

Core Group Meetings

Core group meetings are scheduled for first Monday’s at 5:30 pm at 533 East Main St. Except for some local, state and federal holidays. Participate in the Core Group Meetings to find out what’s going, find out how you can contribute to this newsletter by a poem, short story, or other means. This is another opportunity for us to reach out to one another. See you then!!

A Step Forward

There were quite a few children who earned their spot on the Honor Roll during the school year of 2004–2005. Keep up the good work and know that there should be some new names on the list for this year. Please keep it in mind.

Time On Your Hands?

The summer break is coming up and some of us will have a little time on our hands. Visit the library. Did you know with a library card you have access to movies and DVD’s for 7 days. There is also a children’s section with videos, there is a CD section for all types of music and last but not least—books!

There are books and videos on subjects about careers, exercise, science and recipes. If there are books and videos that you are looking for and can’t find, the librarians will help you and direct you to the computer system and show you how to help yourself. Of course there is always that fun activity of exercise. Please fit this into your schedule.

There is so much to see! Have Fun
Home Ownership

Phase II of the Home Ownership Program began on Tuesday, February 21, 2006 scheduled to end on May 16, 2006. If you are interested in becoming a home owner please contact:

Alfred Saunders
HOPE VI Homeownership Coordinator
683-1551 ext. 365

Currently there are 9 HOPE VI clients (former Few Gardens residents) enrolled in the Program.

There is on average 30 persons participating in the weekly classes. A few of the instructors are from: North Carolina Cooperative Extension, BB&T, Durham County Commissioner, Fonville Morrissey the City of Durham’s Community Housing and Development, Nichols and Satterfield Attorney, Carefree Home Inspections. Information covers budgeting, saving money, how to keep track of the money you spend, etc. The speakers are experienced and lively. Come and enjoy the classes. You never know you could be sitting next to your next door neighbor.

Contact the Homeownership Coordinator for Phase II.

See you then!

HOPE VI Staff

**Director—Terrance Gerald** 683-1551 Ext 294

CSS Management

CSS Manager—Shannon Pittman 683-8596 Ext 226
Case Manager—Valaria Brown 683-8596 ext 227
Case Manager—Montrice Brown 683-8596 ext 224
Case Manager—Felecia Markham 683-8596 ext 224
Relocation Specialist—Brenda Tillman 683-8596 ext 233

**Homeownership**

Homeownership Coordinator—Alfred Saunders 683-1551 ext 365

Program Services

Program Services Coordinator—Jayreza Jarvis 683-8596 ext 232

**We are here to assist you!**

Program Services

There are many partners the HOPE VI Program and the Durham Housing Authority are working with nine of which are very committed to serving our customers. We appreciate the support of NCCU, Academics & Sports, Office of Undergraduate & Student Affairs, Good work, Coordinated Council for Senior Citizens, Employment Security Commission, the Durham Center of NC Cooperative Extension and the Durham County Department of Social Services. Program Services and staff are always reaching out to look for and develop new relationships because no one agency can meet every need. Please contact the Program Services Coordinator to find out more information.

Never Give Up on You!

Lift each other up!
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S CORNER

The Durham Housing Authority (DHA) is a place of change and growth in 2006. Although we have experienced some serious difficulties in the recent past, we are now under new management and moving forward to meet the needs of the Durham Community. We are rebuilding the agency to be one of high function and strict accountability.

Your involvement in your own community is the key to making Durham, NC a better place. It all starts with you and your neighborhood in improving and sustaining a safe and decent quality of life, but the most important work is the everyday caring of neighbor helping neighbor that only residents themselves can deliver.

When each of us makes a commitment to help a neighbor at least once, each and every day, we are making a commitment to ourselves for a stronger community. It’s almost impossible to put a value on how much a good neighbor can help in times of need, whether it’s cleaning up after a neighborhood cookout or after a bad storm.

When we work together for our common interests and, like geese in formation, continue flying forward in the same direction, we can move ahead in a more secure and stable way.

The DHA is committed to provide excellent customer service. Let us hear from you. We welcome your feedback and suggestions.

Harrison Shannon

Geese Fly Together Executive Director