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A VEGETABLE GARDEN

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FAST FACTS

1,620 public housing residents and Section 8 participants took part in the Plan to Preserve Public Housing phone survey.

The Murphy Houses Community Center (Bronx) made the largest donation of food at NYCHA's annual toy drive – 169 cans.

Work on Federalized Developments Progresses



The Rutgers Houses (Manhattan) roof is shown in the middle of its makeover as part of the renovations being made at the 21 developments that were federalized in 2010.

Find Out How to Ensure Your Development Gets Its Fair Share

By Heidi Morales

The 21 developments that were federalized in 2010 to address funding deficits for the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) are starting to see some of the positive results coming out of the historic plan. Construc-

tion and rehabilitation work has begun at all 21 developments, much to the delight of residents.

Susan Lee, a resident at Rutgers Houses in Manhattan for 48 years, said she and her neighbors have dealt with leaky roofs and flooding situations in their own apartments for years. The long-term fix – replacing the worn down roofs – was not feasible financially until now. "Since the roofs have been replaced I haven't heard complaints about any leaky roofs," said the 86-year old Mrs. Lee,

a former Resident Association president and Resident Watch member since 1968. "At first tenants were a little impatient and they were exposed to some difficulties while repairs were being done, but now since the repairs, they are more at ease."

In March 2010, NYCHA completed the federalization of 21 developments that no longer received funding from the City or State. Funds to maintain the *continued on page 2*

Inaugural NYCHA Resident Training Academy Graduates Go to Work

By Eric Deutsch

The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) recently celebrated the graduation of more than three dozen residents from the NYCHA Resident Training Academy – the first residents to graduate from the innovative program. The partnership between the Authority

and Robin Hood trains residents to become either Caretakers with NYCHA or construction workers with NYCHA contractors. The one-year pilot project, which will train up to 150 residents, is funded by Robin Hood.

"The program did more than prepare us for just jobs, it also prepared

us to be more social and interactive," said Lewis Bailey of Ocean Bay Houses in Queens, who plans to be certified in a union and perform construction work. "It's a blessing and I feel like being in the first class blazes a trail for other residents."

NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea told the graduates that the Authority is committed to providing residents with tools and opportunities that can lead to economic success.

"Economic *continued on page 2*



NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea (center) and Vice Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr. (far left) stand with some of the graduates of the first class of the NYCHA Resident Training Academy on December 21, 2010.

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Work on Federalized Developments Progresses

developments were drawn from NYCHA's operating budget, which created deficits for the Authority. Federalization, also called the Mixed Finance Transaction, was approved by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). For the 21 developments to be qualified to receive annual federal subsidies, NYCHA transferred ownership of the developments to two separate limited liability companies, with NYCHA as the managing member. With this transaction,

NYCHA is able to preserve public housing and ensure fiscal stability, two of the objectives of the Plan to Preserve Public Housing, which will set the Authority's vision for the next five years. "Federalization will allow NYCHA to receive more than \$400 million in public and private funding to revitalize and make needed capital improvements at these developments through 2012," said Carlos Laboy, Managing Director for Mixed Finance Asset Management. "This includes brickwork,

roof repairs, heating upgrades and elevator modernization."

The landmark transaction already has qualified more than 11,000 apartments for an ongoing annual subsidy from HUD of \$65 to \$75 million for costs associated with the operations and capital needs of the developments. NYCHA is taking the steps necessary to ensure compliance with HUD and federal Internal Revenue Service (IRS) rules required by this transaction. To do that, the Authority needs the cooperation of its most important allies – its residents.

Residents living in Amsterdam Addition, Castle Hill, Marble Hill, Manhattanville, Chelsea and Rutgers recently received letters asking them to complete and return several documents, which are vital to NYCHA's efforts to receive the financing that will be used to maintain and improve the developments for the long-term. Residents are encouraged to reach out to their Management Office as soon as possible if they need any assistance in filling out the documents, if they have any questions or if they have not received them.

For her part, Susan Lee is working actively to ensure Rutgers Houses residents send in their forms. "We are very happy," said Mrs. Lee. "We are trying to get everybody to fill out those forms, so we, NYCHA, can get the money."

◀ continued from page 1

Inaugural NYCHA Resident Training Academy Graduates Go to Work

empowerment is a critical component of strengthening NYCHA families and NYCHA communities. When a resident is employed in work that pays a good wage, he or she has a greater ability to care for their family," said Chairman Rhea. "In fact, empowering NYCHA residents through educational opportunities, workforce training and stable jobs that pay livable wages can benefit the entire City."

Based on the program's success, Robin Hood will consider additional funding that will

train up to 1,000 residents for additional jobs, adding other provider partners and employment sectors, such as extermination services. A job as an exterminator is the ultimate goal of Milagros Colmenares of Castle Hill Houses in the Bronx, who has used the Training Academy to land a position as a Caretaker J with NYCHA. "I'm proud of myself and my classmates. I wanted a better paying, full-time job so I can better support my family," said Ms. Colmenares. "But this is just step one."



NYCHA Board Meetings

Notice hereby is given that the New York City Housing Authority's Board Meetings take place every other Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Board Room on the 12th floor of 250 Broadway, New York, New York (unless otherwise noted). The remaining meetings for Calendar Year 2011 are as follows:

January 5	May 11	September 14
January 19	May 25	September 28
February 2	June 7 (Tuesday)	October 12
February 16	June 22	October 26
March 2	July 6	November 9
March 16	July 20	November 23
March 30	August 3	December 7
April 13	August 17	December 21
April 27	August 31	

Any changes to the schedule above will be posted here and on NYCHA's website at nyc.gov/nycha to the extent practicable at a reasonable time before the meeting.

These meetings are open to the public. Pre-registration at least 45 minutes before the scheduled Board Meeting is required by all speakers. Comments are limited to the items on the Calendar. Speaking time will be limited to three minutes. The public comment period will conclude upon all speakers being heard or at the expiration of 30 minutes allotted by law for public comment, whichever occurs first.

Copies of the Calendar are available on NYCHA's website or can be picked up at the Office of the Secretary at 250 Broadway, 12th floor, New York, New York, no earlier than 3:00 p.m. on the Friday before the upcoming Wednesday Board Meeting. Copies of the Disposition are available on NYCHA's website or can be picked up at the Office of the Secretary no earlier than 3:00 p.m. on the Thursday after the Board Meeting.

Any person requiring a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the Board Meeting should contact the Office of the Secretary at (212) 306-6088 no later than five business days before the Board Meeting. For additional information, please visit NYCHA's website or call (212) 306-6088.

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Message from the Chairman

I want to share with you the many exciting and major initiatives that are underway in 2011. All of our efforts are part of NYCHA's comprehensive five-year vision – the Plan to Preserve Public Housing – which will launch in early summer. The Plan will serve as a vital roadmap to improving our current services, enhancing

residents' quality of life and tackling other challenges to ensure public housing is safe and secure in the future.

One of our priorities is to address the backlog of maintenance projects and reduce wait times for individual unit repair work. We may not get to everyone right away, but we want to make a concerted effort towards putting a dent in the work-order backlog. This includes putting \$8 million toward priority work-orders and focusing our capital program on building improvements such as roof and brickwork that will minimize future needs for maintenance work in your units. Residents in our 21 developments that are newly federalized will continue to see upgrading and modernizing of their surroundings with brick work, roof repairs and elevator upgrades scheduled to be completed at six of the developments in 2011.

The Safety and Security Task Force, a collaboration among NYCHA, NYPD, public housing residents and other stakeholders, continues to work to improve the long-term safety and well-being of NYCHA residents in New York City. We plan to install the first multi-layered access control at Mott Haven Houses, which includes replacing keys with electronic key tags, direct-call intercoms and more durable components to reduce the effects of vandalism. The Mott Haven upgrades are made possible through a grant from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). We will work with HUD and our elected officials to find creative ways to continue funding these important safety enhancements.

We will work with community-based organizations, sister City agencies, community colleges and businesses to help residents increase their earnings and

assets. We have projects underway to help our residents find jobs at NYCHA and with NYCHA vendors. In December, our NYCHA Training Academy graduated its first class of residents who now are eligible for jobs with NYCHA and our construction contractors. The Academy will continue to produce successful candidates moving forward.

This year youth living in NYCHA housing will have a number of exciting options that will help them grow. Our partnership with the Foundation For the Advancement of Women Now (FFAWN), which was founded by singer Mary J. Blige and music executive Steve Stoute, will begin its workshops soon for more than 80 girls to develop their self-esteem, share information on healthy living and learn ways to manage their money. We will continue to work with the Sylvia Center to provide healthy eating and nutrition workshops and the Hip Hop Theater Festival to inspire their interest in the arts. Mentoring USA will provide mentor training and program management to create a strong and lasting foundation for their lives.

In partnership with Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ), we will break ground on a new HCZ K-12 school and community facility at St. Nicholas Houses in 2011. The 1,300-student charter school will provide after-school and weekend programming free of charge to residents and the surrounding community. HCZ is committed to hiring locally for 100 available positions and is working with NYCHA resident services to recruit for these new jobs. We also are working closely with local unions and HCZ to hire as many qualified residents as possible.

As part of our Green Agenda, we will continue to work with other City agencies, as well as the private sector and other housing authorities, to help us all achieve a low-carbon lifestyle, as we look for ways to contribute to greener surroundings. This includes adding more developments to the storm water pilot program to support Mayor Bloomberg's Green Infrastructure goal of reducing combined sewage overflow by 40 percent by 2030.

We have an ambitious agenda ahead of us this year – dozens of programs and initiatives are not even mentioned here. Working together with you all to achieve our common goals will make 2011 a year of success for public housing in New York City.

Green Living Leads to High Honors for NYCHA Developments

By Brent Grier

Love Your Block Grants Awarded in Four Boroughs

The enthusiasm of residents in five New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments to make their community more beautiful has paid off. Astoria Houses (Queens), Hope Gardens (Brooklyn), Ravenswood Houses (Queens), Samuel Apartments (Manhattan) and Soundview Houses (Bronx) all received a \$500 "Love Your Block" grant from the Citizens Committee for New York City, in partnership with the Mayor's Office.

The grants are available to community groups that strive to beautify their block, such as by planting trees, removing graffiti and clearing vacant lots. They also include expedited support from City agencies such as the Departments of Parks and Recreation, Sanitation and Transportation.

The Uptown Harlem Resident Green Committee representing Samuel Apartments received a grant for tree guards, and like the other winners, will host events this Spring and Summer to promote their project. "We're going to install crafted tree guards along West 144th Street between Seventh and Lenox Avenues thanks to the grant," said Cheryl

Minor, who chairs the committee. Tree guards are needed to protect the health of NYCHA's trees, especially newly planted trees that can be subject to damage and vandalism.

Castle Hill Upgrades Bring National Recognition

Green initiatives at Castle Hill Houses in the Bronx make it a modern marvel in public housing. NYCHA is the first housing authority ever to win an "Energy Project of the Year" award from the Association of Energy Engineers (AEE) based



Upper Harlem Resident Green Committee Chair Cheryl Minor and Co-Chair Channie Allen plant bulbs on Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Boulevard with the Friends of Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Boulevard Committee.

on several heating and lighting upgrades at Castle Hill. AEE selected NYCHA's energy management project in a regional judging that included several states. To receive consideration, the project had to be operational for at least six months and proven to bring down installation costs and operating savings.

In efforts to improve residents' comfort and quality of life, NYCHA installed upgraded climate controls and lighting systems in 2010. The project includes Wireless Energy Modules in each apartment that monitor apartment temperatures, voltage and demand. The new, efficient lighting in common areas provides added safety for residents. The project also created green construction jobs for residents through NYCHA's Resident Employment Services program.

"This award is very special. We were competing against big companies and this represents the fact that we are doing the right thing," said Commissioner Margarita López, NYCHA's Environmental Coordinator. "This is a pilot program that if it continues to go well, we will replicate it across other developments. Every penny that we don't spend on energy, we can use on maximizing services like maintenance and safety for residents."

THE NYCHA NOT WANTED LIST

In this issue we continue publishing the names of individuals who have been excluded permanently from our public housing developments. The purpose of this list is to keep residents informed of NYCHA's ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers in public housing and to allow for the peaceful and safe use of our facilities. What follows is a partial list of the people excluded after hearings were held on May 19 and 26 and June 2, 2010.

Prohibited as of May 19, 2010

Frances Benjamin case 3484/10 formerly associated with the 3rd fl., 380 Williams Avenue, Unity Plaza Houses, Brooklyn

Christopher Bonds case 3574/10 formerly associated with the 5th fl., 51-32 Beach Channel Drive, Ocean Bay Apts. Houses, Brooklyn

Kasheem El, a/k/a Michael Suber case 3573/10 formerly associated with the 2nd fl., 414 Sutter Avenue, Van Dyke Houses, Brooklyn

Michael Keller case 3259/10 formerly associated with the 14th fl., 182 East 98th Street, Washington/Lexington Houses, Manhattan

Nelson Nieves case 1723/10 formerly associated with the 13th fl., 1875 Third Avenue, Washington/Lexington Houses, Manhattan

Carlos Sutton case 3346/10 formerly associated with the 10th fl., 2250 West 11th Street, Marlboro Houses, Brooklyn

Taquan Walston case 3503/10 formerly associated with the 2nd fl., 99 North Portland Avenue, Whitman Houses, Brooklyn

D'Sean Williams case 3488/10 formerly associated with the 6th fl., 5814 Farragut Road, Glenwood Houses, Brooklyn

Charles Wynn case 3376/10 formerly associated with the 13th fl., 3340 Bailey Avenue, Bailey Houses, Bronx

Prohibited as of May 26, 2010

Dennis Barral case 3647/10 formerly associated with the 8th fl., 310 East 113th Street, Jefferson Houses, Manhattan

Chris Brooks case 5986/10 formerly associated with the 2nd fl., 611 Blake Avenue, Unity Plaza Houses, Brooklyn

Michael Brooks case 3642/10 formerly associated with the 22nd fl., 7301 Sutter Avenue, Langston Hughes/Woodson Houses, Brooklyn

Esau Daniels case 3591/10 formerly associated with the 2nd fl., 108-46 159th Street, South Jamaica Houses, Queens

Jacqueline Duncan case 7891/09 formerly associated with the 2nd fl., 611 Blake Avenue, Unity Plaza Houses, Brooklyn

Francisco Fernandez case 7388/09 formerly associated with the 3rd fl., 710 Tinton Avenue, Adams Houses, Bronx

Richard Hill case 3600/10 formerly associated with the 18th fl., 1368 Webster Avenue, Butler Houses, Bronx

Albert Martinez case 3740/10 formerly associated with the 8th fl., 70 East 115th Street, Taft Houses, Manhattan

Jermaine Rainey case 3032/10 formerly associated with the 1st fl., 1120 East 229th Street, Edenwald Houses, Bronx

Charles Torres case 3648/10 formerly associated with the 3rd fl., 1680 Randall Avenue, Soundview Houses, Bronx

Rodney Veeney case 3697/10 formerly associated with the 4th fl., 30 Centre Mall, Red Hook West Houses, Brooklyn

Richard White case 7388/09 formerly associated with the 14th fl., 157 Belmont Avenue, Seth Low Houses, Brooklyn

Shawn Williams case 3589/10 formerly associated with the 2nd fl., 40-15 10th Street, Queens Bridge North Houses, Queens

Derek Young case 3588/10 formerly associated with the 15th fl., 180 Powell Street, Seth Low Houses, Brooklyn

Prohibited as of June 2, 2010

Steven Glisson case 3783/10 formerly associated with the 2nd fl., 1780 Watson Avenue, Bronxdale Houses, Bronx

Kendell Scott case 210/10 formerly associated with the 16th fl., 1734 Madison Avenue, Taft Houses, Manhattan

Comments? Questions? E-mail Journal@nycha.nyc.gov.

Plan to Preserve Public Housing: NYCHA Completes Groundbreaking Effort for Resident Input

The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) has completed an unprecedented effort to gather residents' ideas and opinions on their experiences living in public housing in New York City. To better understand the needs and expectations of NYCHA's diverse population, including Section 8 residents, the Authority ran focus groups and a phone survey, the most complete resident research effort undertaken by a public housing authority. The effort is a key part of the Plan to Preserve Public Housing, NYCHA's comprehensive five-year vision that will serve as a vital roadmap for addressing current services and quality of life concerns, as well as other challenges in the future.

NYCHA held 16 focus groups across all five boroughs, recruiting residents through several methods including random selection and whether they participate in associations or activities. NYCHA also worked with community-based organizations to find participants. The focus groups were made up of different demographics, including Resident Association leaders, residents who work for NYCHA and Section 8 participants; some focus groups were held in Spanish, Russian or Cantonese.

The focus groups were led by a research firm, so participants could feel comfortable speaking freely and remain anonymous. Residents discussed their experiences living in NYCHA or Section 8 housing. They talked about NYCHA's perceived strengths and weaknesses and programs and services available to NYCHA communities, and shared their opinions on ways that NYCHA can generate more revenue in the future to help balance its budget and improve frontline services.

The phone survey featured a wide-ranging questionnaire with 61 questions. More than 1,000 residents and more than 600 Section 8 participants, chosen at random, took part in the phone survey. The survey measured whether residents are satisfied with NYCHA, how NYCHA handles repairs and if they feel that NYCHA is a safe place to live and raise children. Topics also included how NYCHA manages emergencies, whether residents make use of available social services and what residents think the impression is that other New Yorkers have of NYCHA.

The results of the focus groups and phone survey are being compiled and will be released later this year. The results will be summarized in a future issue of the *Journal*.

Social Services Department Kicks Off Workshop Series for Resident Leaders



NYCHA residents receive training on recognizing and preventing suicide at one of the Social Services Department's workshops for resident leaders.

The New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA) Social Services Department hosts an ongoing series of workshops for resident leaders that provide information and awareness about issues of common concern. Created at the suggestion of Manhattan South District Chair Rose Bergin, the workshops are part of the Social Services Department's communication strategy developed by the Resident Engagement

subcommittee of the NYCHA Safety and Security Task Force, which is pursuing and rolling out new policies and procedures that will improve the long-term safety and well-being of public housing residents in New York City. The first workshop in September focused on recognizing and preventing suicide. Thirty participants received information from the Samaritans of New York, a volunteer organization that

provides support to individuals and groups who are in crisis, have lost someone to suicide and/or are feeling suicidal. A second workshop, about depression, drew 58 resident leaders in December and featured presentations from Visiting Nurse Service of New York, a long-time partner of NYCHA. A large majority of attendees rated the workshops as excellent or good, with almost all saying they would use the information learned to help their family members, friends, colleagues and neighbors.

The Social Services Department plans to hold these informative workshops every three months. Future topics are scheduled to include elder and child abuse, mental illness and grandparents raising children. For more information, contact Social Services Department Deputy Director Pat Maloney at 212-306-3392.

HCZ and NYCHA are in the Zone

NYCHA Board Approves New Charter School

The plan by the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) and the Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ) to build a charter school at St. Nicholas Houses in Manhattan is proceeding toward opening in 2012. The new charter school, rebuilding of the connecting street and use of the facility for community activities will help revitalize the development and expand HCZ services to families throughout the area.

NYCHA's board voted in December to approve the development of the new K-12 school and community center building. The project is part of NYCHA's effort to meet President Obama's Choice Neighborhoods and Promise Neighborhoods challenge to housing authorities to integrate their residents with the larger community and link them to outside educational resources. The school building, to be funded by HCZ with assistance from the New York City School Construction Authority, also will be available for community programming, including the use of the gymnasium in evenings and on weekends.

"This project is about the future of NYCHA working with different partners such as the Harlem Children's Zone to create more education and employment opportunities for



The Harlem Children's Zone held a holiday tree lighting ceremony for St. Nicholas Houses residents and staff on December 7, 2010. Shown speaking to the crowd is New York City Councilwoman Inez Dickens.

our residents, while preserving public housing," said NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea. "We are committed to using these collaborative strategies to bring services to the residents of public housing and to open up developments to the larger community. This new school will be a win-win situation for St. Nicholas Houses."

NYCHA and HCZ actively are engaging residents and the surrounding community for their support of the project, which includes re-opening West 129th Street to through traffic at Frederick Douglas Boulevard to allow for buses and parents dropping off their kids to access the school. This includes wider sidewalks, new speed bumps and signage, and narrow entrances and exits from the street to ensure traffic moves slowly down the block. NYCHA sought the backing of Community Board

10 and its Land Use Committee for rebuilding West 129th Street, but the Board did not vote to support the change. However, it is important for the more than 30 children from the development who have been accepted into the school and their families to know that the board's opinion is advisory and the final decision will be made by the City Council.

When the school is completed, 1,300 students will benefit from a top-notch education, after-school and weekend programs for no cost at all.

"We are very excited to see this project move forward so that more children at St. Nicholas Houses can get a great education and there will be more services and jobs for the families there," said Harlem Children's Zone President and Chief Executive Officer Geoffrey Canada.

NYCHA, Habitat for Humanity, Bring Volunteers Together to "Brush with Kindness"

By Eric Deutsch

A number of New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) community centers will have fresh paint jobs over the next couple of months. The Brush with Kindness program brings public housing residents together with NYCHA employees and Habitat for Humanity volunteers to paint community centers throughout the city.

"We want residents to be enthusiastic and see that we're keeping up with the times," said Tyree Stanback, Resident Association President at Lafayette Gardens in Brooklyn, the first development to receive a new coat of paint in its community center. "We're offering them an opportunity to participate and take ownership of their community center. People are less likely to treat their surroundings poorly if they put it together."

Brush with Kindness is part of the Housing for Housing Initiative, a partnership among NYCHA, Habitat for Humanity NYC, Habitat for Humanity International and the NYCHA Haitian-American Employee Association. Housing for Housing supports the rebuilding efforts in Haiti by raising funds and having participants travel to Haiti to rebuild permanent housing for families struck by the devastating earthquake in 2010. The Brush with Kindness kickoff was held at the Lafayette Gardens Community Center on January 11, 2011, the day before the one-year anniversary of the earthquake.

"Today we celebrate the power of communities coming together and, person by person, transforming their neighborhoods to ensure that the foundation for strong families and strong futures will endure," said NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea.

"Together we will make NYCHA better and we will make housing better for others as well," said New *continued on page 7*



The computer room at the Lafayette Gardens Community Center in Brooklyn offers a bright atmosphere for residents after receiving a new coat of paint as part of Brush with Kindness, a joint effort between NYCHA and Habitat for Humanity.



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Hugh Spence, Deputy General Manager for Community Operations, Retires

Hugh Spence, a name well-known to many NYCHA residents, has retired after serving for 33 years at the New York City Housing Authority. Mr. Spence was the Deputy General Manager for Community Operations, and started as a Director of several NYCHA-operated community centers. He also served in numerous other positions, including Director of Citywide Programs and Contract Management and Chief of the Division of Tenant Programs.

Mr. Spence believes the services Community Operations provides are critical resources. "If not for the vision of social scientists at the turn of the century who conceived the concept of public housing, public housing as we know it may have

followed a very different mission," he said. "NYCHA, from its inception, was built on the premise of managing our precious properties as more than just a landlord. I do not believe any other environment would have allowed me to give of myself, mind, body and spirit, to a

population of New Yorkers who are so vital to the success of this city."

As he begins his retirement, Mr. Spence is looking forward to spending more quality time with his friends and family, perfecting his gardening and wine-making skills and travelling.



Former NYCHA Deputy General Manager for Community Operations Hugh Spence throws out the first pitch at NYCHA's Staten Island Yankees Day in 2009.



Townhomes Still Available for Purchase at Markham Gardens

Through the redevelopment of the former Markham Gardens public housing site, 15 new and energy-efficient two-family townhomes still are available for purchase by income-eligible NYCHA residents. The townhomes are on Broadway near Richmond Terrace in Staten Island, and include a three-bedroom unit for the purchaser and a one-bedroom unit that can be rented to assist the purchaser with mortgage payments. The full purchase price is \$445,000, but with subsidies, the actual price of the homes is \$299,000. Depending on the income of the purchaser, there is the possibility of additional down payment and closing cost support. A minimum family income of \$50,700 is required to qualify for a mortgage.

An open house is scheduled for Saturday, February 12, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more details, call 718-422-8080 or visit NHS of Staten Island online at www.nhsnyc.org/en/find-a-home and click on "Affordable Homes Marketed by NHS" and then click on "Read More" for Markham Gardens.

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Resident Stars Shine at Ninth Annual Holiday Concert

More than 100 New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents showed off their talents at the Authority's Ninth Annual Holiday Concert on December 10, 2010. The festivities were kicked off by the NYCHA Symphony Orchestra performing an Overture and Hanukah music. Guest vocalist Cheryl Freeman followed up by singing "Mary, Did You Know?" The NYCHA Dance Troupe then took the stage to perform a tribute to Kwanzaa. Next, the NYCHA Senior Chorus sang "Give Love on Christmas Day" and "Joy," followed by a performance of "Precious Lord" by Gary Samuels, Marck Tarlton and Ola Waymann. The NYCHA Youth Chorus then emerged to sing "My Grown Up Christmas List" and "Joyful, Joyful." Another guest vocalist, José Guevara, strummed a Spanish medley on his guitar, "Pastores Venid/Peces En El Río" and "Navidad Que Viene." The concert came to a rousing close with the entire ensemble belting out "Put A Little Love In Your Heart" and "Lean on Me."

The annual concert provides an opportunity for talented residents to display their gifts at a professional venue, this year at City College of New York, in Aaron Davis Hall's Marian Anderson Theater. This year's concert theme, "Home for the Holidays," highlighted the principles of faith, hope and charity during the season of giving.



An ensemble of all of the night's performers closes out NYCHA's Ninth Annual Holiday Concert with a performance of "Put A Little Love in Your Heart" and "Lean on Me" on December 10, 2010.

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NYCHA, Habitat for Humanity, Bring Volunteers Together to "Brush with Kindness"

York City Councilwoman Rosie Mendez, Chair of the Council's Public Housing Committee.

Since 2007, NYCHA and Habitat NYC volunteers have assisted in revitalizing public housing facilities. Brush with Kindness connects communities through simple acts of kindness so that families can live in safe and decent neighborhoods. The NYCHA/Habitat NYC partnership expanded in 2010 to include joint fundraising for the Haiti earthquake relief.

"We love to be joined by NYCHA residents and staff. We want it to be a true partnership, not just a handout from Habitat," said Habitat NYC Executive Director Joshua Lockwood.

The other community centers scheduled to be painted in the Bronx are Fort Independence, Gun Hill, Monterey and Sedgwick; in Manhattan, Baruch, Campos Plaza, De Hostos, East River, Manhattanville and Riis; in Queens, Astoria and South Jamaica; and in Staten Island, Mariners Harbor. For more information about the Housing for Housing Initiative, send an e-mail to housingforhousing@nycha.nyc.gov.

Comments? Questions? E-mail Journal@nycha.nyc.gov.

Bronx Seniors Take Strides to Fight Breast Cancer



A group of residents from the Soundview Houses Senior Center in the Bronx took to the pavement to help support breast cancer research in late 2010.

The seniors raised more than \$430 as part of the American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk in Orchard Beach. In addition to participating in the walk, they also sold pink ribbons that they made and brought with them whenever they went on trips throughout the year. Soundview Houses Senior Center Director Dennis Kandell assisted by driving them to the event.

SENIOR NEWS



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As the Sonia Sotomayor Community Center in the Bronx quickly filled up with children at NYCHA's toy drive on December 16, 2010, a highly energetic Mrs. Claus, making her first appearance at the annual event, kept young guests entertained with songs, holiday trivia and dancing.

“Sharing and Caring” at NYCHA’s Holiday Toy Drive

By Howard Silver

Nearly 700 NYCHA youth enjoyed music, dancing, food – and of course gifts – at the Authority’s annual “Season of Sharing” Toy Drive on December 16. The joyous occasion was held at the Sonia Sotomayor Community Center in the Bronx for young residents from all five boroughs. Children with faces as bright as holiday ornaments were greeted by Santa Claus’ helpers, and the festive atmosphere included

lap time with Santa himself.

“I’ll be asking Santa for a new football,” said Jaquel Owens, age 10, from Boulevard Houses (Brooklyn). “And I brought canned food for homeless people because if kids help too, there’s more food.”

The Toy Drive included a food drive for the Food Bank of New York City, which encouraged the children in attendance to contribute. “We think it’s important for the children to understand the joy of giv-

ing back as well as receiving, which helps them to develop a sense of responsibility,” said NYCHA Education Manager for Programs and Assessment D’Andra Van Heusen.

The food drive collected more than 1,000 cans of food. “I am proud of all of you because even though you care about getting a gift, you also care about helping other people,” NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea told the children.

The community center’s huge gymnasium was decked with banners and art work created by young residents throughout the year in community centers with Visual Arts staff, who carefully arranged the decorations. Ciara Shack, age nine, from East River Houses (Manhattan), proudly pointed out her artwork on one of the banners. “Seeing this makes me feel like I did a good job because kids will enjoy it,” she said. “This party is about girls and boys having a good time, sharing and caring.”

Deputy Mayor Stephen Goldsmith: Government Can Do More with Outside Help

New York City Deputy Mayor for Operations Stephen Goldsmith visited the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) on November 30, 2010, to discuss how government agencies can cope with inadequate financing and limited resources, a situation the Authority current faces. A former Mayor of Indianapolis, Deputy Mayor Goldsmith told NYCHA staff that public, private and nonprofit organizations can assist in the delivery of services once provided solely by government. “If there are not enough public resources to make government work, we must leverage the public value in a community,” he said. “We need to unlock the compassion and capacity of a community, and also unlock innovation inside the government.”



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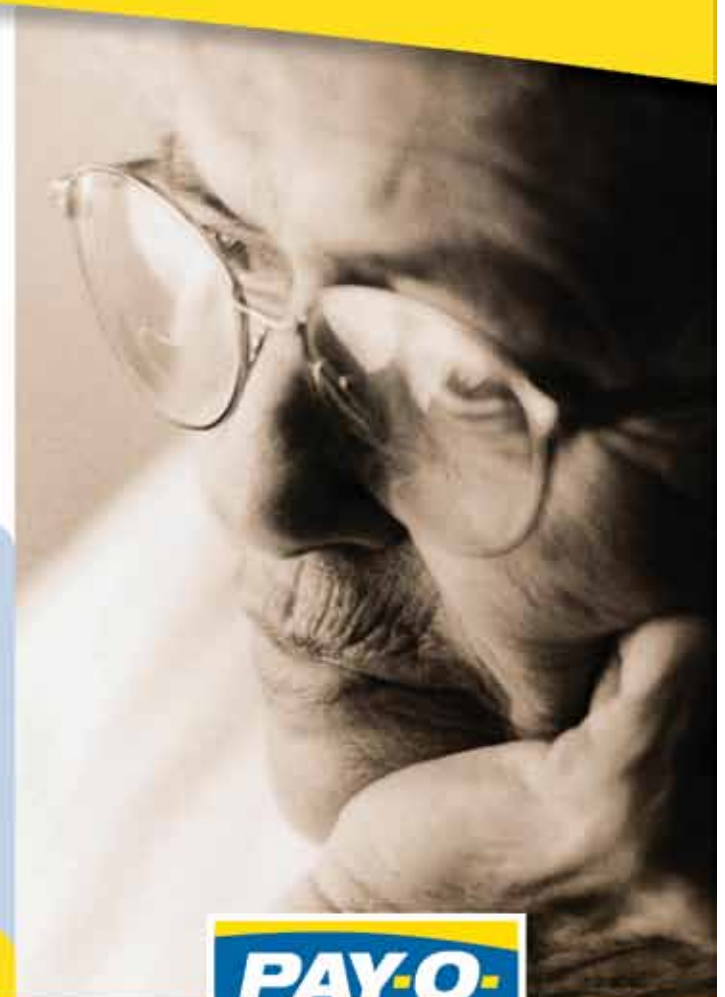
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Brooklyn South Honors RA Presidents; District COP Chair Rosia Wyche Retires

The Brooklyn South District honored the presidents of its Resident Associations on January 6, 2011, at their Presidents Award Dinner. District Chair Rosia Wyche received particular recognition, as she is retiring after serving for more than eight years as the Coney Island Houses' Resident Association President, and also for her service as the district's representative on the Citywide Council of Presidents.

"I always tell people that they need to be a part of the solution. To do that, you have to be hand in hand with the administration," said Ms. Wyche. "In my time, I've always spoke up and spoke out, like it or not. In my heart, I know I've done what I was supposed to do and that is to help."

NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea praised Ms. Wyche during the ceremony. "You have carried the voices of the residents of Coney Island Houses and Brooklyn South with you and been their advocate, as well as a champion for public housing. And you have done so with honor, with conviction and, always, with style."

Pictured above with Chairman Rhea, from left to right, are Shirley Aikens (Carey Gardens), Deborah Carter (Gravesend Houses), Pat Dale (Sheepshead Bay Houses), Wanda Feliciano (Unity Towers), Rosia Wyche (Coney Island Houses), Beverly Hill (Surfside East), Shelia Smalls (O'Dwyer Gardens), Victoria Lynch (Coney Island Site 8), Doris Zeno (Nostrand Houses) and Lillian Marshall (Red Hook West).

Hungry for Fresh, Homegrown Veggies? Look No Further than Downtown Brooklyn

Residents at Ingersoll Houses in Brooklyn are enjoying tomatoes, cantaloupes, bok choy and basil grown right in their front yard. Over the past two years, the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) and the Myrtle Avenue Revitalization Project Local Development Corporation (MARP) have partnered with residents to create the Ingersoll Garden of Eden on Myrtle Avenue. More than 20 residents tend to the garden, cultivating fresh food crops and flowers, which are sold at the Myrtle Avenue community-run Farm Stand. The Farm Stand is located adjacent to the Ingersoll Community Center every Thursday



from July-October.

The Ingersoll Garden of Eden and Farm Stand are part of a larger program, Myrtle Eats Fresh, which receives financial support from the Brooklyn Community Foundation and the New York Community Trust. MARP coordinates gathering supplies like lumber, soil and wood chips, buys garden tools, supplies and food plants, and provides staff support, organizing assistance and gardening expertise. Some residents also have been trained to conduct cooking demos using healthy, affordable foods and recipes. The chefs were hired by MARP to share their skills with their

neighbors at local markets and community events.

More NYCHA residents will benefit from MARP's efforts soon, as they plan to start working with residents at the nearby developments Farragut Houses and Whitman Houses to create similar community gardens. To learn more and get involved in MARP's Myrtle Eats Fresh program, contact Meredith Phillips Almeida, Director of Community Development, or Kassy Nystrom, Program Manager of Food Access Initiatives, at **718-230-1689**, or go to MARP's website www.myrtleavenue.org.

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