



CHA MISSION: **Who are the People in your Neighborhood: Putting a Face on Affordable Housing**

To lead, develop, and execute community-wide strategies that meet the broad range of housing needs for families who cannot otherwise attain conventional housing.

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With over 51 properties and 18,000 plus people served, the Charlotte Housing Authority provides families in the community a quality, safe, and affordable place to live. In this issue, get to know the people we serve at Southside Homes a little better as well as help us celebrate our clients' accomplishments and our partners' generosity. We are *Moving Forward*.

Ms. Jacqueline Pearson, Southside Homes

Ms. Jacqueline Pearson was born in Detroit, Michigan. While in Michigan, she attended Central High School. When she was 18, her family moved to Charlotte, NC to be closer to her mom's family and to fulfill her dad's duties in the United States Army. She has worked at McDonald's and as a Nursing Assistant. One of her favorite jobs was working at McDonald's Cafeteria where she enjoyed meeting the customers as well as eating the delicious food.

Ms. Pearson is currently the Vice-President of the Resident Association at Southside Homes. She said it is very rewarding to get to know and help the people in the community.

She is the proud mother of three children. She has two sons, 28 and 14, as well as a 13 year old daughter. She is very close with her children and enjoys going bowling and to the movies with them. They also sing in the choir at church. Her two youngest attend Ranson Middle School and go to afterschool at the Bethlehem Center. She says she is very impressed with the Center's program and is happy her children have the opportunity to attend. One thing that is very important to Ms. Pearson is making sure her children work hard in school and have a bright future.



Ms. Jacqueline Pearson



CHA Receives Donation

Irv Schwebel and Matthew Brown of Prudential Carolinas Realty presented a check for \$982 to President/CEO Charles Woodyard and Board Chair Joel Ford of the Charlotte Housing Authority (CHA) at the agency's monthly board meeting on October 19, 2010. The funds donated to CHA will go towards providing school supplies for children whose family receives assistance from the agency.

Left to Right: CHA President/CEO Charles Woodyard, Prudential Carolinas Realty Representatives Irv Schwebel and Matthew Brown, and CHA Board Chair Joel Ford



Joel Ford
Board Chairman



Will Miller
Vice Chairman



Rodney Moore



Lucille Puckett



Geraldine Sumter



Benjamin Hill



David Jones

Ms. Angela Moore, Southside Homes

Ms. Angela Moore was born and raised in Charlotte, NC. She is the proud mother of four children that range in age from 12 to 18 years. When talking about her life, Ms. Moore is matter of fact. She puts right on the table that she got pregnant at a very early age and with raising her children alone, could not finish school.

She said one thing people might be surprised to know about her is that she is a single mother by choice. "You see, the father of my children and I had different ideas of how life should be lived. I chose to leave with my children and take a different road because I wanted a better life for me and my kids."

She has a strength in her voice that makes you sit up, pay attention, and want to know more.

So I asked, "How did you get to Southside?"

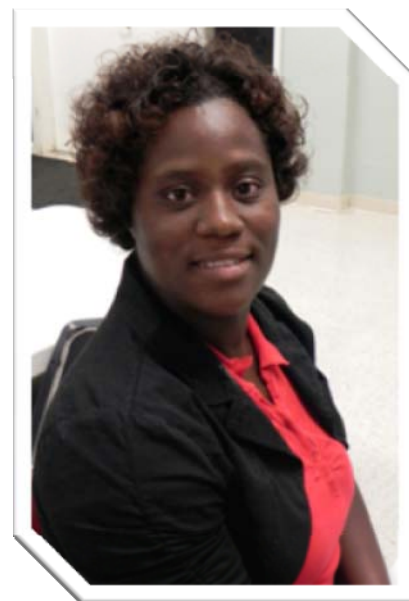
She then enlightens me that she actually lived in Southside five years ago but was able to move her family into an apartment community and be self-sufficient. Unfortunately, during her stay at the apartment community, mold was detected and she had to be relocated through City Relocation. Ms. Moore and her children lived in a motel for almost three months before she had the opportunity to move back to Southside Homes. She says it was a blessing because her current job as a team leader at a local pen company was also eliminated at the same time.

She is thankful to live in Southside right now because her rent is based on her income; however, she does not want to stay here forever. Her goal is to brush herself off and get back on her feet again to keep moving forward.

To do this, she understands that education is imperative. She is currently enrolled at CPCC to get her GED and hopes to one day have her own business. She is not sure what her business will be right now but she does have a license to be a floral arranger and loves to sing, decorate, and design. She is also focused on making sure her children receive a quality education. Her oldest child is in his last year at CMS and is working with the Charlotte Housing Authority Scholarship Fund to help determine his future.



Ms. Angela Moore leads Southside Resident meeting.



Ms. Angela Moore

She currently is the Resident Association President at Southside Homes. She says it is a lot of work but she loves it because she gets to help people in her community. She regularly attends church and loves having some time to herself to enjoy exercise classes at the YMCA on West Boulevard.

She mentions the fact that a better life might take longer but she knows it will be worth it. You can feel the smile in her voice radiate through the phone. She is a proud mother of four on her way to a better tomorrow by living life the right way.

Ms. Deatrice Randle, Southside Homes

Ms. Randle was born in New Orleans, LA but moved to LaMarque, TX when she was 8 years old. While in LaMarque, she graduated from LaMarque High School and received an Associate's Degree in Television Communications from the local community college. She moved to Charlotte on January 1, 1988 unprepared for what she remembers as Charlotte's biggest snow storm. Ms. Randle roughed out the cold winter and attended UNCC where she earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English. She has one daughter, Angellika, who is 8 years old. Her daughter is in the third grade at Sedgfield Elementary where Ms. Randle currently is employed as a Teacher's Assistant.



Ms. Deatrice Randle and Daughter Angellika and some of her artwork.

She says people ask her all the time how she ended up in public housing. She said she had a job at Bank of America, a brand new home, new car, fiancé, and baby. Then 9/11 hit. She lost her job, as well as her fiancé lost his job. Her new car was totaled by a fallen frozen tree branch and her house was foreclosed. Her fiancé had started taking drugs and drinking as a mechanism to deal with not being able to provide for his family. She made the courageous decision to leave him. She took a safe job at CMS, which she currently holds, because it was a secure position. But in today's market, she now worries if that too could be taken away.

She found a place she could afford at Southside Homes. She says living at Southside provides her two additional things she loves: kids for her daughter to play with and some great neighbors. Here is what she said is why:

"Practically everyone here is a single mother and we all do our best to share what little we have and help each other out. Those of us who have cars try to give others a ride when needed. We watch each other's children when we are out on the porch and provide information to each other. I don't have to worry about Angellika when she is outside playing because the other kids and their mothers are watching her even when my back is turned for a minute."

One thing she said people might be surprised to know about her is that she is the author of two published books and is an artist. As for Ms. Randle's future, she is currently learning to Day Trade, wants to maintain a safe & secure job to provide for her daughter, and would love to sell her art.

Family Self-Sufficiency Graduation

The event was held on October 7, 2010 to celebrate 27 graduates of the Charlotte Housing Authority's Family Self-Sufficiency Program. The program helps families identify and remove the barriers that prohibit them from becoming financially independent and self-reliant. By having access to supportive services, such as educational and vocational training, families are able to transition from dependence on government benefits to a level of personal earnings that will allow them to provide for their own needs.



Family Self-Sufficiency Graduates

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www.youtube.com/user/CHAToday

With Every Heartbeat Is Life Program Recognition Ceremony



With Every Heart Beat is Life Instructors and Graduates

The event was held on October 13, 2010 to recognize and celebrate graduates of the Charlotte Housing Authority's With Every Heart Beat Is Life Program. The program is taught through an 11-week curriculum that is designed to be a fun and informative introduction to healthier eating habits, cardiovascular disease awareness, disease prevention, and motivation of increased physical activity. Through these activities, the program teaches CHA residents how to promote healthier living in their own communities.

The With Every Heart Beat Is Life Initiative is a partnership between U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development and The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute to address the disparities in cardio vascular health in housing authority residents and improve their quality of life. The Charlotte Housing Authority began offering this program at the beginning of 2010 and to date over 60 residents have completed the program.

A Letter From A With Every Heart Beat is Life Graduate

I am thankful for this class because I have learned how to take better care of myself and my son. I believe that this class has help to break the cycle of an unhealthy life style that has been going on in my family for generations. I want to share what I have learned with my friends so they, too, can feel as good as I do now.

Another reason why I am thankful is because I had two wonderful teachers. They always made me feel that they care and enjoy teaching all of us. Our teachers kept me interested by talking to me and not at me. Any question I had they never made me feel stupid. Oh, I can't forget to say that I am very thankful for all the healthy meals after class. They kept me from going to fast food restaurants.

My last reason that I am thankful is that this class will continue on. I believe that this class will help other low income families learn how to slow down obesity. Plus help my people to learn how eating better can save them from ending up sick and dying at young ages. Well thank you for allowing me the chance to start a better life.

Thank You. Ms. Orviece Douglas

Authority Employees and Section 8 Participants Speak To City Council



Unified Voice Participants at City Council Meeting

On September 27, 2010, Charlotte Housing Authority (CHA) Section 8 participants and CHA employees gathered at the City Council Public Forum to dispel myths in the community that Section 8 participants bring crime into neighborhoods and decrease property value. The initiative is the Unified Voice Campaign.

CHA President/CEO Charles Woodyard and CHA Housing Specialist Carolyn Canady spoke to the City Council about the misperceptions in the community. Some key facts presented about the Section 8 program were: criminal background checks are done on participants and household members 16 years of age and older; *Good Neighbor* training is provided; only 5% of the 4,600 plus vouchers in the first quarter of the year had a reported violation; and just 1% of the vouchers were terminated in the first quarter.