

## *Johnston Centre Open House is a Rousing Success!*



The Huntington WV Housing Authority (HHA) held an Open House, Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, in its new Administration Building, the Johnston Centre. The event began at 1:30 P.M. when the Executive Director William Dotson welcomed the guests and recognized individuals who worked to make the project a reality.

After nearly three years of hard work performed by the HHA's Force Account (Modernization Department) Staff and Step-up Program Trainees (under the guidance and instruction of Former Director of Operations, John Rowe; Current Director of Development, Larry Ellis; Capital Funds Program Coordinator, Mike

Powers; Head Mechanic, Mark Wells; and Mechanics Mark Byrd, Mike Murphy, and Mitchell Turner) the Johnston Centre is completely rehabilitated.

The HHA had long ago outgrown its 1940 administrative facility in Northcott Court. Thus, the Huntington WV Housing Authority Board of Commissioners envisioned a facility that not only met current needs but also would meet the needs of the future. That vision came together in the Johnston Centre.

The project was funded by Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Architect Firm was Adkins Design, Inc. of Charleston, WV. The Architect, Larry Adkins, and Interior Designer, Linn Olena, worked with the Directors to design the offices and furnishings.

As in all projects of this magnitude, the project would not have been a success without the support of all the staff who completed necessary paperwork, accounts, and records; assisted with the move to Johnston Center; and decorated offices and selected plants.

The halls are adorned with images from the past on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor; images of the present on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor; and images of the future, awards, and certificates on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. The custom made frames were made by craftsman Tim Dorcas, the Housing Authority Woodshop Instructor, supported by students of the Huntington School of Fine Woodworking. The images were selected and/or photographed and matted by administrative staff.

Approximately 50 people attended the Open House. Some visitors were actual students at Johnston many years ago. Refreshments were provided as visitors browsed old newspaper clippings, photographs, HHA brochures, and Cabell County Youth Empowerment Program activities that were displayed in the Auditorium. Resident members of the Resident Advisory Board (RAB) volunteered their time and gave tours. Everyone seemed pleased with his or her tour of the new facility.



## **WANT TO OWN A HOME?**

HHA can make that possible through the R.O.S.S. Homeownership Supportive Services Program. This special program is set up for current and former Section 8 Housing, Public Housing, and Jobs Training Participants. Counseling services can be made available to you.

### **ENROLLMENT CRITERIA:**

- \*Annual income of \$10,300
- \*Be in good standing with HHA
- \*Have good credit/debt history
- \*Attend Homeownership Classes
- \*Save at least \$500 for down payment/closing costs

### **CONTACT:**

Brett Brownfield, Certified Homeownership Counselor  
Douglass Centre Room 204  
1448 Tenth Avenue  
Huntington, WV 25701  
(304)529-3900

E-mail: [bbrownfield1@verizon.net](mailto:bbrownfield1@verizon.net)



## **EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE TO HHA RESIDENTS AND STAFF**

The Huntington Housing Authority is pleased to once again inform staff and residents of three educational scholarships available to them.

Jennings Randolph and SERC-NAHRO Scholarships Available to public housing residents - **\$1,000.**

Laura Rossmeier Professional Development Scholarship – available to HHA Employees - **\$500.**

Russell Bibbee Memorial Scholarship – HHA

Employee's Dependant - **\$1,000.**

If you are interested in applying for any of these scholarships, please see your housing manager or social worker for more information and application kit.

**Deadline for applications is February 28, 2005.**

## **SENIOR NEWS**

Thea Johnson, Public Housing Service Coordinator

I would like to thank all of our seniors and HHA staff for warmly welcoming me and making my first few months as the new Senior Service Coordinator so successful. It is a pleasure working with all of you, and I am looking forward to spending time getting to know everyone and assisting you all in any way that I can. I plan to spend at least one day each week visiting each building, so please feel free to stop and say hello. My schedule is posted in the office window or door of each building. If you have questions or concerns that you would like to discuss with me, feel free to call me at 523-2291, or have

the manager of your building get in touch with me at any time. I will be happy to come and meet with you.

I would like to say a big thank you to Home Instead Senior Care for coordinating with community volunteers and merchants to provide Christmas gifts to all of our seniors in the high rises. Senior Gift Trees were placed in several local businesses, and many kind and generous people donated their time and gifts to make Christmas special for our seniors. Thanks to managers Diane Bailey and Debbie Cox, as well as Beth Chaddock from Home Instead Senior Care, for helping me to distribute these gifts during Christmas week.

I know that many of us are struggling financially to make ends meet, especially following the holiday season. I would like to remind everyone that if you are having difficulty paying for your medications, the Prescription Assistance program is available to assist you. The increasing cost of prescriptions is quite a burden to many of us, so Catherine Hetzler kindly comes to each of the buildings every other week to assist anyone in applying for this program. I am encouraging you all to take advantage of this service.

If you do not know when Catherine is coming to your building, or if you have any other questions or concerns about this program, please call me at my office, or contact the Prescription Assistance program directly at 736-6393.

Progress is being made on the health clinics in our buildings. Renovations at Fairfield Tower are nearly complete, and construction at Riverview East will begin shortly.

We are looking forward to having convenient and accessible health care services through the clinics located inside these buildings very soon.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENTS REMINDER!!!!**

Shelly Adkins, LSW, Community Services Coordinator

As you may already know, all residents over the age of 18 are required to meet the community service requirements. To comply with Federal Guidelines mandating Community Service requirements, of the Admission and Continued Occupancy Policy, please note the following:

In accordance with Federal Regulation and your Lease, all adult members of a household must complete 8 hours of Community Service each month. Any one over the age of 18 or under the age of 62 who is not a student or is not employed must complete these 8 hours per month. Please be aware that failure to meet this requirement is a serious violation of your lease and could result in termination of your lease.

Many of you will be hearing from me in the coming weeks regarding your status. If you are unsure of your status, please feel free to contact me. If you have any community service time to make up, please begin doing so immediately. If you have anything to turn in you may do so by contacting me. Please note that you must use the Community Service form that is available in your manager's office and have a representative from the location of your service sign and date the form as well as provide contact information for such persons. Please return these forms to me. If for some reason you believe you are unable to complete your Community Service requirement due to physical or mental disabilities, you must contact me immediately.

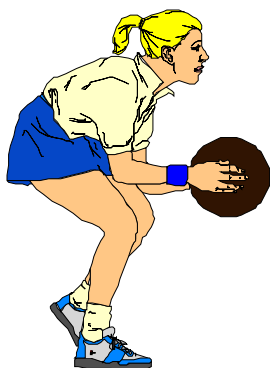
Please, do not save up all your hours to complete at one time or to turn in at one time. I will be monitoring your progress on a monthly basis and will contact you accordingly. However, formal reviews will be made no later than thirty days before your scheduled annual re-certification date and determination will be made of your status at that time. Any time owed by you will be carried over into the next year and added to your requirement for that year.

If you have any questions you may contact me at the following numbers.

Mornings - 529-1129 Pager - 690-9466

Voice Mail - 526-4436 ext. 144

## **Marvin Z. Grey Family Center News**



The Sports Center now has a Girl's Basketball Team. The girls practice each Monday and Thursday with their coach Craig Mestel. If you are between the ages of 8 to 13 and would enjoy playing other girl's teams then come to the Sport Center for more information.

The youth who played on the kick ball team need to contact David Walker at the sport center. We would like all the youth that played before to come and let us know that you are still interested in playing.

We are also interested in starting a Wiffle ball and Dodgeball teams. Please contact Sockie or David at the Sport Center, if you are interested.

The center is open from 11:30 AM to 8:00 PM. The staff's lunch break is from 3:00 to 4:00 PM.