

President/CEO's Report

Housing Authority Of The City Of Orlando, Florida
 Vivian Bryant, Esq., President/CEO
 Ed Carson, Chair

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE DESK

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- PHADA Trustee Retreat
Austin, TX
March 1-4, 2012
- NAHRO Legislative Conference
Washington, DC
March 26-28, 2012
- PHADA 2012 Annual Convention and Exhibition
Seattle, WA
May 6-9, 2012
- PHADA Legislative Forum
Washington, DC
September 9-11, 2012

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VIVIAN BRYANT, ESQ.
 PRESIDENT/CEO

February marks the beginning of "Black History Month". It is the time set aside to recognize and promote the achievements of Black Americans and others of African descent. Each year the sitting president, announces a theme for Black History Month. The 2012 theme

pays tribute to the ways in which Black women have shaped the United States and its history.

When reading the stories of some of the famous African American women, I am struck by the fact that they were ordinary people who stepped out of themselves to do extraordinary things. All month, there will be events, shows, articles and events celebrating Black American women and others of African descent. Recently I attended a festival celebrating the life and works of Zora Neale Hurston. The following excerpt is taken from an article by Vicki Santillano.

"Zora was a boisterous writer who was part of the Harlem Renaissance, a social and cultural movement that explored the experiences of black people in America during the 1920s. She used her background in anthropology at Barnard College to write short stories and essays about African American folklore. Her most famous novel, Their Eyes Were Watching God, was published in 1937. Because some people disagreed with the way she wrote African American dialogue,

her works were not initially as popular as they later became. Now, there is no question of her influence on black female writers like Alice Walker, who wrote an essay about her in 1975."

As we celebrate highly recognized names and personalities, we must also remember those whose names may never appear in books, but are contributing every day to our community and our country. Many of the households that are a part of the Orlando Housing Authority are led by women. It is these women that we want to take the time to recognize also. They are working, assisting their families in completing high school and even college. It is these women who are accessing the resources offered in our Moving To Work Resource Center. If they didn't try, they may remain ordinary. Stepping out to return to work, complete a course, or advance on an entry level job are what makes them extraordinary.

As President/CEO of the Orlando Housing Authority, with the help of an outstanding staff, I am always looking for ways to help our residents transform from ordinary to exceptional. In addition to the services that are offered in our Resource Center, the Orlando Housing Authority has been awarded a grant that will assure that our residents not only go to work, but strive to own their own businesses.

We will work closely with the City of Orlando, Orange County and many other partners to ensure that our residents are given opportunities to excel as entrepreneurs. Take time this month to educate those around you how Black American women and others of African descent have helped to shape the United States of America.

Board of Commissioners' Meeting

The Orlando Housing Authority Board of Commissioners will hold its regular Board Meeting Thursday, February 16, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. at the OHA's Administration Building, Board Room, 390 N. Bumby Avenue, Orlando, FL 32803.

Orlando Housing Authority residents interested in attending the meeting who need transportation, and/or have special needs, please call the Community Affairs and Communications Department at (407) 895-3300, extension 6001.

HARBOR HOUSE

Dr. Monica Mendez from Harbor House of Central Florida facilitated a workshop for the Orlando Housing Authority's Moving-to-Work (MTW) Department Monday, December 19, 2011. The purpose of the workshop was to train employees on strategies of how to recognize and deal with domestic violence. According to Dr. Mendez, domestic violence is the number one increased crime nationwide. The goal of Harbor House is to empower attendees to recognize signs of domestic violence, get involved, and maybe even save a life. Attendees left the domestic violence workshop prepared to impact the lives of others.

IVEY LANE FINANCIAL CREDIT COUNSELING WORKSHOP

The Moving To Work Department/ROSS hosted a Tax Preparation and Financial Credit Counseling Workshop Wednesday, December 7, 2011 from 10:00.a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Ivey Lane Resource Center. Residents from various residential sites including Johnson Manor Apartments, Lorna Doone Apartments, Ivey Lane Homes and Lake Mann Homes participated in the workshop. Presenters from the United Way and CredAbility agencies provided information regarding credit repair and tax preparation.

THE CHOCOLATE NUTCRACKER



The Chocolate Nutcracker was held at the Bob Carr Performing Arts Centre December 2-3, 2011. The Orlando Housing Authority participants came from Lake Mann Homes and Murchison Terrace Apartments. *The Chocolate Nutcracker* is modern take on the holiday classic. The production is a multicultural theatrical dance adaptation of Tchaikovsky; it provides a variety of dance genres including ballet, tap, modern, jazz, gospel and hip-hop.



Commissioner Sheehan's Bike Give-Away



Commissioner Patty Sheehan (District 4) along with her partners: Wal-Mart, West Princeton Street location, Baker Barrios Architects, Urban Life Management Restaurant Group, Brasfield & Gorrie, GAI Consultants, Workscapes, Massey Communications, Orlando Fire Department and Orlando Police Department gave away bikes and helmets to the children in Reeves Terrace for Christmas. The event was held December 22, 2011 at Howard Middle School from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



Patty Sheehan

Baker Barrios Architects

partment and Orlando Police Department gave away bikes and helmets to the children in Reeves Terrace for Christmas. The event was held December 22, 2011 at Howard Middle School from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



RESIDENT ACTIVITIES

Holiday Brunch with Commissioner Tiffany Moore Russell

Orange County Commissioner Tiffany Moore Russell, District 6, held a Holiday Brunch for senior citizen residents. The brunch was held at the J. R. Smith Center from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., December 8, 2012. Residents were provided with brunch free of charge, as well as entertainment from various acts of the program.

Resound Ministries Hosted the Ivey Lane Christmas Party

Resound Ministries of Orlando hosted the Ivey Lane Homes Christmas Party at the Ivey Lane Home Apartment grounds Wednesday, December 14, 2012 from 2:30pm to 5:30pm. The children at Ivey Lane Homes enjoyed fun activities that included face painting, drawing, balloon animals, DJ music, musical acts, donated toys, food, candy and a bounce house. The event was a success and the children enjoyed themselves.

Omega Apartments Angel Tree Holiday Celebration

The Omega Apartments Resident Association held an Angel Tree celebration and provided gifts for children in their community December 17, 2011. The children and parents enjoyed the holiday festivities and look forward to having the event next year.

Lake Mann Toy Drive

The Lake Mann Reunion, Inc. hosted the Lake Mann Toy Drive and Give Away which took place at the Gilbert McQueen Park Saturday, December 10, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The residents from the Lake Mann Homes Apartments attended this free event; they received information and souvenirs from community-based organizations. The children from Lake Mann Homes received toys and bicycles that were donated by the surrounding communities. The event included music by DJ Merc and musical acts that included Brothers For Life, Ebonee and a Michael Jackson Impersonator. The residents were also treated to a free out-door barbecue that day.

Murchison Terrace Toy Give-Away

The Murchison Terrace Resident Association held a toy giveaway for children ages 0-10 in their neighborhood Thursday, December 29, 2011 from 3:00-6:00 p.m. The children received all types of educational toys such as puzzles, games, and coloring books. The parents and children were very appreciated the gifts.





ORLANDO HOUSING AUTHORITY



390 N. BUMBY AVE
ORLANDO, FL 32803
Telephone: (407) 895-3300
Fax: (407) 895-0820
TDD: (407) 894-9891
Relay #: 711

HUD's Mission Statement: To promote adequate and affordable housing, economic opportunity and a suitable living environment free from discrimination.

Orlando Housing Authority Mission Statement: To offer a choice of safe and affordable housing options and opportunities for economic independence for residents of Orlando and Orange County.

FREE Tax Preparation Assistance

Date: February 9, 2012
Time: 1:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Location: The Landings (Neighborhood Network Center)
1190 Conley Street Orlando, FL 32805

Trained volunteers will help you file your 2011 taxes. Be sure to bring the following:

- ◆ ID
- ◆ Social Security Card
- ◆ Tax Forms from previous year
- ◆ W2 Forms from employer and or forms for self-employment

For additional information please call the Orlando Housing Authority Neighborhood Network Center at (407) 304-3600 Ext: 6130

Offered by:
**CFE Federal Credit Union and
The Orlando Housing Authority**

Preparación de Declaración de Impuestos GRATIS

Fecha: 9 de Febrero de 2012
Hora: 1:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Lugar: The Landings (Neighborhood Network Center)
1190 Conley Street Orlando, FL 32805

Voluntarios capacitados le ayudarán a llenar su declaración de impuestos del 2011.

Asegúrese de traer:

- ◆ ID (targeta de identificación)
- ◆ Tarjeta de seguro social
- ◆ Formularios de impuestos del año anterior
- ◆ Formularios W-2 de patrono y/o formas de autoempleo

Para obtener información adicional llame a la Autoridad de Vivienda de Orlando Neighborhood Network Center al (407) 304-3600 Ext. 6130

Traído a ustedes por:
**CFE Federal Credit Union
y la Autoridad de Vivienda de Orlando**

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We loss a co-worker, friend, mother, grandmother, etc. with the death of Ms. Sandra Stephens-Foster. Who of us knew she was married? The song below was sung by Ms. Sandra the last time she sang at a team-building. The words are so appropriate.

God is Sovereign
Sovereign, Sovereign
The Lord my God is Sovereign
He can do whatever He wants to do
He can do whatever He wants to do
When He wants to
God can do whatever He wants to do,
How He wants to
BecauseHe's sovereign, God is God
Who am I, to question His wisdom (I am nothing)
Who am I, to question God's judgment (I am nothing)
Who am I, to be offended by His ways
By word He allows to be
I must realize that my God is (sovereign)
The Lord is (sovereign)
Sovereign (The Lord my God is sovereign)
He is sovereign

We will miss your smile, your laugh and your swagger!!

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT Earned Income Tax Credit

When clients/residents complete their annual recertification, as part of the annual recertification they are required to provide a copy of the latest income tax return filed with the IRS. They provide a copy of their 1040EZ, 1040A or 1040. Or they may send a 4506-T Form (Request for Transcript of Tax Return) to the IRS to provide OHA written verification of the latest tax return filed.

Additionally, the HUD EIV system provides OHA with information regarding SS, SSI, SSD benefits and wages. This information is reviewed as part of the annual recertification.

That information is compared to information the client/resident has provided to OHA regarding their annual income. Any discrepancies can result in termination of assistance. If it is noted that a client has claimed income or dependents that has not been reported, the client/resident may lose their housing assistance and be required to repay OHA for overpayment of housing assistance.