

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

- NAHRO Summer Conference
San Francisco, CA
July 29-31, 2012
- FAHRO Annual Convention and Trade Show
Lake Buena Vista, FL
August 7-10, 2012
- PHADA Legislative Forum
Washington, DC
September 9-11, 2012

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VIVIAN BRYANT, ESQ.
 PRESIDENT/CEO

my journey. To my surprise, I experienced the opposite. Sitting at a red light a few seconds longer allowed me to notice things on my route that I could not and did not see from the expressways. I realized that July marks and denotes that we are halfway through this year. As I reflected, it seems as if it has come so quickly, yet we have been able to accomplish so much. Now that we are midway through the year, now is a good time to plan and manage the months ahead. I am attempting to do these both personally and professionally. It seems as though managing time, projects and schedules become more and more difficult daily.

It seems as if it were yesterday that the Orlando Housing Authority (OHA) was granted the designation of a Moving To Work Agency. We have now completed our first year. During the initial year, the Resource Center was opened and is fully functional and operational. Helping residents obtain employment and increase earnings on jobs that they already have has been one of the goals. The walls and boards in the Resource Center are full of testimonials and stories of residents who have moved to self sufficiency with the help of the staff of the Resource Center.

Looking forward in the months ahead, the Orlando Housing Authority continues to explore how the agency can maximize our designation as a Moving To Work Agency to expand services to our residents. One of the ways the agency moves forward is inviting our partner agencies to help us strategize and set goals for the months

This month I adopted a new strategy. The purpose of roadways and expressways is to help us reach a destination hopefully with less traffic, stress and congestion. I have spent countless quarters and dollars doing just that. However, recently I decided to take "the long way home." My first thought is that I would be more frustrated and bothered by traffic lights and unnecessary stops in

and years ahead. The input of our partners and community stakeholders is invaluable and has assisted the OHA in achieving recognition both locally and federally.

I consider our planning days as "taking the long way home." It is a time to slow the pace, take a good look around and explore ideas and strategies that we may miss on the daily expressway route. It has been proven that taking time to slow down and manage busyness gives us a clear path to critical thinking. Taking time to relax actually increases productivity.

Admittedly, because of demands, I am not able to take the long way home every day. There are days that I must get to my destination faster. Achieving the goals that were set during my time of relaxation now require me to manage several meetings in one afternoon. The key, though, is remembering that at least a few days a week, I can slow down.

The Mayo Clinic states that relaxation not only reduces stress, it produces positive health benefits. Consider the following:

When faced with numerous responsibilities and tasks or the demands of an illness, relaxation techniques may take a back seat in your life. But that means you might miss out on the health benefits of relaxation.

Practicing relaxation techniques can reduce stress symptoms by:

- ◆ Slowing your heart and breathing rate
- ◆ Lowering blood pressure
- ◆ Reducing muscle tension and chronic pain
- ◆ Improving concentration
- ◆ Reducing anger and frustration
- ◆ Boosting confidence to handle problems

To get the most benefit, use relaxation techniques along with other positive coping methods, such as exercising, getting enough sleep, and reaching out to supportive family and friends.

As President/CEO of the Orlando Housing Authority, I anticipate that the second half of 2012 will be as productive and inspirational as the first.

Board of Commissioners' Meeting

The Orlando Housing Authority Board of Commissioners will hold its regular Board Meeting, Thursday, July 19, 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.

OHA'S 2nd Annual Father's Day Celebration

ORLANDO HOUSING AUTHORITY Hosts Father's Day Celebration

ORLANDO - The Orlando Housing Authority's Father's Day celebration, was held on Saturday, June 9, 2012, from 12 - 3 p.m. This event came as a result of President Obama's "Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative, Strong Fathers, Strong Families" which aims to foster healthy relationships between Fathers and Children. President Obama and The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development issued a call for public housing authorities nationwide to host Father's Day events.

The festivities included: Tony's downtown barbershop gave free haircuts; All fathers were awarded

with medals; Children enjoyed potato sack races, water slides and bounce houses; A representative from In-Charge Debt Solutions gave credit advice; Hard-n-Heavy Riders wowed with motorcycle stunts; Workforce of Central Florida staged a bus with representatives giving advice on finding jobs; and Gatorland showed off animals such as gators, tarantulas and scorpions.

Other sponsors/partners included: Carluchin Entertainment; Central Florida Urban League; DJ EK; Habitat for Humanity of Greater Orlando Area; Inner Courts Central Florida; St. Luke Lodge; and Tabernacle of the Enlightened COG.



HAPPY FATHERS DAY!

This is a copy of an article from the Orlando Times issued June 14, 2012

Alpha Kappa Alpha Community Service Activity



The Psi Theta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. hosted a community service project in the Ivey Lane community. It was held Saturday, June 9, 2012, from 10:00am - 12:00pm. The project involved painting Ivey Lane community signs, putting down mulch, flowers and ivies to beautify the Ivey Lane grounds. Residents believe that this type of revitalization will give the community a sense of pride.

FULL OF MYSELF GRADUATION



The "Full of Myself" Graduation Celebration was held at the Crowne Plaza Orlando Downtown Saturday, June 16, 2012 at 1:00 pm. The Graduation Celebration was the culminating event for more 70 young women engaged in a nine month journey to self-empowerment. Ivey Lane Homes was one of three sites facilitating the groups. Eighteen (18) young women from Ivey Lane Homes had the opportunity to participate in the program that met every Saturday for nine months.

The Graduation ceremony was filled with proud family, friends and supporters of the graduates. All with the expectations of the great things to come for these young women!

"Full of Myself" is a program developed/facilitated by Dr. Stephan Brown and Dr. Lauren Josephs of Visionary Vanguard Group, INC; funded by the US Department of Health & Human Services: Office on Women's Health.



Craft Day at the Villas



On Friday, May 28, 2012 from 2:30 p.m.-4:15 p.m. the 6th grade girls in Patricia Rice's Discovery Group from Central Florida Leadership Academy, did a service project for the seniors. The project was held at the Villas at Hampton Park Senior Living Facility. As part of the Central Florida Leadership Academy's commitment to performing service; they conducted a craft class. The girls assisted the seniors in making pillows and pom-pom magnets. At the end of the class, the residents were able to take home the arts and crafts they created. The residents enjoyed interacting with the students and look forward to the next craft day.

Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Quarterly Meeting



The Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Quarterly Meeting was held on June 27, 2012 from 10:00 am – 12 pm at the MTW Resource Center in Ivey Lane Homes. All MTW sites were invited to participate in the meeting and learn how employment history is the key to homeownership. Staff from Orange County Public School also attended the meeting to offer opportunities for bus operator and training programs. A total of 18 residents attended. The guest speakers were: CredAbility, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Orlando Area, and Orange County Public Schools Transportation.

Credibility discussed how to evaluate credit report, saving and budgeting, down payment assistance program, and maintaining job stability. Habitat for Humanity discussed qualification requirements for a Habitat home, and how affordable no-interest mortgages works.



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



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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.

FAIR HOUSING CORNER

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION

The Orlando Housing Authority (OHA) is committed to ensuring that its policies and procedures do not deny individuals with disabilities the opportunity to participate in, or benefit from, nor otherwise discriminate against individuals with disabilities, on the basis of disability, in connection with the operations of OHA’s programs, services and activities. Therefore, if an individual with a disability requires an accommodation such as an accessible feature or modification to an OHA policy, OHA will provide such accommodation unless doing so would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of the program; or an undue financial and administrative burden. In such a case, the OHA will make another accommodation that would not result in a financial or administrative burden.

The Reasonable Accommodation Policy applies to individuals with disabilities in the following programs provided by the OHA:

- ◆ Applicants of all Housing Choice Voucher and Moderate Rehabilitation Programs;
- ◆ Participants of the Housing Choice Voucher and Moderate Rehabilitation Programs;
- ◆ Participants in all other programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance that are conducted or sponsored by the OHA, its agents or contractors including all non-housing facilities and common areas owned or operated by the OHA.

Applicants, residents or individuals with disabilities who request a reasonable accommodation may do so by doing the following:

1. Request for a “Request for Reasonable Accommodation” Form, (“Request Form”). The Reasonable Accommodation Request Form includes various forms of reasonable accommodations as well as the general principles of reasonable accommodation. Individuals may submit their reasonable accommodation request in writing, orally, or by any other equally effective means of communication. However, the OHA will ensure that all reasonable accommodation requests will be reduced to writing. If needed as a reasonable accommodation, the OHA will assist the individual in completing the Request Form.
2. The reasonable accommodation request(s) will be forwarded to the Reasonable Accommodation Coordinator.
3. The Reasonable Accommodation Coordinator, or designee, will respond to the Participant’s Request within a reasonable time.
4. If additional information or documentation is required, the Reasonable Accommodation Coordinator or designee will notify the resident, in writing, of the need for the additional information or documentation. The Reasonable Accommodation Coordinator or designee will provide the resident with the “Request for Information or Verification Form”. The written notification should provide the participant with a reply date for submission of the outstanding information or documentation.
5. Within a reasonable time after receipt of the request and, if necessary, all supporting documentation, OHA will provide written notification to the resident of its decision to approve or deny the resident’s request(s). Upon request, the written notification will be provided in an alternate format
6. The determination of whether an accommodation is reasonable is an interactive process.
7. All recommendations that have been approved by the Reasonable Accommodation Coordinator will be forwarded to the appropriate department for implementation. All requests for reasonable accommodation that are approved will promptly be implemented or begin the process of implementation.