

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 2013 National Conference
 Cleveland, OH
 October 24-26, 2013
- HDLI Conference
 Cleveland, OH
 October 25, 2013
- PHADA 2014 Commissioners' Conference
 Orlando, FL
 January 12-15, 2014



VIVIAN BRYANT, ESQ.
 PRESIDENT/CEO

How often do we catch ourselves saying things like: "I can't because I don't know how, I'm not smart enough, I'm not good enough, or I don't have the resources?" We sell ourselves short because we play those tapes over and over in our minds. We fall into the trap of comparing ourselves to others and their talents.

Not everyone is destined to be the president, a hero, a famous actor, or a brilliant artist or musician. But neither are we supposed to sell ourselves short, settle for less than we are capable of and play small in life.

We all have gifts and talents to share with others. "But I don't have any talents" you might argue. The key to finding them is to ask yourself where your passion lies. What excites you, what brings a smile to your lips? What brings you peace? What makes you

giggle and laugh out loud? What brings tears of joy to your eyes? Nothing is too small that answers these questions.

"Life is so much more satisfying when we are serving others and not just thinking about ourselves." We are here to share with those around us, not to wait for others to give to us or make us happy.

Sometimes, it's the smile we give to others; the kind word we offer to a stranger; holding open the door for someone; letting someone over in traffic; or just having kind thoughts for others. We all have something to offer the world and each other.

The opportunity to discover our hidden talents and help others is now as we look to a future of fewer resources to accomplish our mission. Look around and ask "What can I do to help" and even if it is something you have never done before, take on the challenge and give it your best. You just might discover one of those hidden talents and in the process discover the joy of serving others.

"There is no passion to be found playing small, in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living."

—Nelson Mandela 11th President of South Africa

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Board of Commissioners' Meeting

The Orlando Housing Authority Board of Commissioners will hold its Board Meeting, Thursday, September 19, 2013 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 6100.

FAMILY FUN DAY

The Griffin Park Resident Association held its annual Family Fun Day Thursday, August 1, 2013. The residents enjoyed a barbecue and had the opportunity to socialize. The children at Griffin Park enjoyed playing in a 27 feet tall water slide and a bounce house. They also enjoyed popcorn, cotton candy, water, juices, hamburgers and hot dogs. The event was a success as the residents and the children enjoyed a fun day together.



GRIFFIN PARK APARTMENTS

FOOD GIVE-AWAY AT IVEY LANE HOMES

On Monday, July 8, 2013, Universal Orlando Community Outreach in conjunction with the Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida with the assistance of the Orlando Housing Authority Ivey Lane staff and Ivey Lane resident volunteers provided 100 boxes of food to the Ivey Lane Homes community. Residents lined up as early as 9:45 a.m. to obtain a ticket which allowed them to pick up a food box at 11:00 a.m. at the Ivey Lane Moving To Work Resource Center. The event was a big success as the first 100 residents who attended the event, received a food box. The residents also received Universal Orlando bags with crayons and drawings for the Ivey Lane community children.



BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOR...

Being good neighbors is an important part of the social fiber that we should strive every day to work towards. Simply put, good neighbors are what make our communities GREAT!

National Good Neighbor Day is September 28th. The Day was created in the early 1970's by Becky Mattson from Lakeside, Montana. Ms. Mattson wanted to recognize the importance of good neighbors and started the effort to make it a National day. With the help of Congressman Mike Mansfield, Mattson succeeded in getting three presidents (Nixon, Ford and Carter) to issue proclamations, along with numerous governors. In 2003, the U.S. Senate passed a resolution, sponsored by Montana Senator Max Baucus, making September 28th, National Good Neighbor Day. Previously, this day was celebrated on the fourth Sunday of September. National Good Neighbor Day is simply a day set aside to recognize and appreciate your good neighbors. Hopefully one of those good neighbors is you!

— Source: The Niagra Carrier

What is a neighbor?

It is someone who might just smile and say hello

It might be that person with a helping hand

A person with a kind word and a hug when it is needed

Maybe someone with a hot meal when things are going tough

A person who is always considerate and respectful to others' space

A person who might have moved away but still stays in touch

A Neighbor can be just anybody...

We are all neighbors don't you think?



ORLANDO HOUSING AUTHORITY



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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.

FAIR HOUSING CORNER



The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced that new Equal Access regulations will be published this week and will take effect next month. Secretary Shaun Donovan announced the new rule Saturday at the Creating Change conference, which is hosted by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

This fair housing rule expands protections for LGBT people seeking housing that is financed or insured by HUD. The rule also prohibits owners and operators of HUD-funded housing or housing that HUD insures from inquiring about an applicant’s sexual orientation or gender identity, or denying housing based on an applicant’s LGBT status. The new rule also makes clear that the term “family” includes LGBT individuals and couples as eligible for HUD’s public housing and voucher programs – programs that collectively serve 5.5 million people.

The rule also prohibits lenders from considering a home-buyer’s sexual orientation or gender identity when determining eligibility for an FHA (Federal Housing Administration) backed mortgage. FHA guaranteed loans now account for over a third of all new home loans. This rule will ensure that FHA lenders only consider relevant factors when determining if the home-buyer qualifies for a loan. Secretary Donovan added Monday that “Particularly with FHA playing an elevated role in the housing market today, this represents a critical step in ensuring that LGBT Americans have fair access to the dream of responsible, sustainable homeownership.”

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- HUD Secretary Donovan

HRC was actively engaged with HUD throughout the development of this rule and remains committed to ensuring that it is successfully implemented and that LGBT renters and homebuyers are aware of these new protections.

If you believe that you have been the victim of housing discrimination based on your sexual orientation or gender identity, visit the HUD website or contact your local HUD office to file a complaint.

Sources: HRC.org
HUD Website