

Community Housing Network, Inc.

Promoting Inclusive Communities Through Affordable Housing



Edition Seventeen



Fall, 2008

Network News

Message from Marc: Investing in the Future

"Particularly during times of scarce resources and increasingly competing priorities, it is important that we remember to bring a positive focus by allocating resources not only toward current challenges, but to invest in the future."

Marc Craig, CHN
President & CEO

Please help CHN invest in the future's of the people we serve by making a year-end donation.

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Given the current economic climate, I think it is important to step back and take stock in some of the positive things happening around us. As 2008 draws to a close, I'd like to highlight some of the advances resulting from the resources that have been invested at CHN in the last year.

We were pleased to have recently received a vote of confidence from the Oakland County Taskforce on Homelessness and Affordable Housing regarding our Rapid Re-housing initiative. This is a new opportunity made available by HUD. If our application is funded, it will be one of only a few demonstration programs across the country designed to contain the high, and sometimes unrecognized, cost of homelessness in our community.

The Housing Resource Centers have evolved this past year with the employment of more peers, who have become our "shining stars". They have more effectively connected with callers to the HRC because they can best understand the challenges of those who seek our assistance. Our peers also made numerous presentations at conferences and

other venues this year. They spoke about their roles in the expanded HRC Call Centers, the Getting My Own Address Project, and the Homeless Housing Resource Centers (HHRC). The new HHRC promotes better community collaborations through Interagency Service Teams (IST) that will coordinate with the respective service delivery systems in Oakland and Macomb counties.

In October we were honored when Senator Gilda Jacobs presented us with a pre-development grant from the very first funding round of the Michigan Housing and Community Development Fund. This grant opens the door to nearly one million dollars in federal funds by defraying application costs for the HUD Section 811 program.

These and other initiatives underscore the need to make strategic investments to end homelessness and build stronger communities. Particularly during times of scarce resources and increasingly competing priorities, it is important that we remember to bring a positive focus by not only allocating resources toward current challenges, but to invest in the future.

Not Too Late to Adopt-A-Family

It's not too late to help a family in our Housing Programs to have a good holiday this year. The truth is that many of the children in these families may have no holiday at all without your generosity. The 2008 Community Housing Network Adopt-A-Family Program is off to a good start but we still need your help.

A few years ago we discovered, even though we were able to give people a home, their apartments often remained bare. Our families lived without items like bedding, lamps, towels, personal care items, dishes, and warm winter clothing. That is how the Adopt-A-Family program began and why it continues to this day.

We are still looking for caring persons to "adopt" individuals and families by buying gifts for them from their Wish Lists. This year we have several single adults who have disabilities. Because they do not have family, they do not receive gifts. We are also in

need of cash donations, which will be used to provide for those who do not get adopted or have special needs. Gift cards and gas cards are always helpful and appreciated.

We are also looking to provide each of our families with non-perishable food, cleaning supplies, paper products, batteries, light bulbs and the needed items they cannot buy using food stamps. We have a great need for vacuum cleaners, microwaves, and DVD players. And we can always use winter coats, gloves, mittens, and boots.

All donated items can be dropped off at our Troy office no later than December 3rd between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. We also have evening hours to 7:00 p.m. on Dec 1st and 3rd; and Saturday hours on November 22nd from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Nov 29th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Contact Susan Savoy, CHN Adopt-A-Family Coordinator at 248-928-0111 for more information.

Welcome New CHN Board Member Rosanne Crowley Koss

We are pleased to introduce Rosanne Crowley Koss, a new member of the Community Housing Network Board of Directors. Ms. Koss brings a great deal of experience with political activities and community involvement to CHN. She currently serves as President-Pro Tem of the Beverly Hills City Council and has served as liaison to the Zoning Board, Library Board, Southfield Township, the Public Safety Department, the Planning Board, the Personnel Committee and the Birmingham Public schools. She is a delegate to the Southeastern Michigan Council of

Government (SEMCOG) and serves on the Community Education Central Advisory Board (CECAC).

She has also worked with the Michigan Supreme Court as a Legal Assistant to Justice Boyle, and served as an administrative assistant to the Director of Lakeshore Legal Services.

The management and staff of Community Housing Network look forward to Rosanne's active participation as a member of the Board of Directors.

Home Run For Homelessness Event Successful

The eighth annual Home Run for Homelessness event, co-sponsored by CHN and the HOMES Coalition, brought a record 260 persons to Andiaimo's Ristorante on the evening of September 23rd.

Silent auction tables were filled with unique gifts and baskets of goodies that were bid on by competing guests. After a delicious dinner, Master of Ceremonies, Ed Foxworth, held everyone's attention by sharing the moving success stories of our special guests; individuals with disabilities who had improved their lives and living situations with the assistance of Community Housing Network. Auctioneer, Matt Holiday, energized the crowd during the live auction, which included jewelry items and a variety of vacation

packages. Rinaldo played his accordion and kept the excitement going with his music as the bidding wars came to a close.

Although our guest speaker, Mitch Albom, was not able to attend, he provided a DVD with his message in support of ending homelessness. Unfortunately, technical difficulties prevented the playing of his message. A copy of the DVD was mailed to each guest.

The event brought in proceeds of \$51,000 to support the work of CHN. Marc Craig, CHN President and CEO commented, "Every bit as exciting and important as raising money at the event, is that so many people attended who care about the work CHN is doing."



**John Scaccia, Left,
Jim Merritt, &
Marc Craig, Rt**



**Master of Ceremonies,
Ed Foxworth**



**Event Co-chairs,
Cindy Boudreau &
David Layne**

Doug's Story: From Homelessness to Home Owner

Doug is a kind and pleasant gentleman in his forties. If you met him you would clearly see what an engaging person he is and discover during your conversation that he has his life priorities straight. He is honest, hard working, and always pays his bills in advance. What you probably would not guess is that Doug was once homeless. This was prior to being diagnosed and treated for a mental illness through the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority. Since that time, Doug's life has come full circle. He received housing services

through Community Housing Network, which helped him find a safe and affordable place to live. With housing security, Doug was able to focus his energies on his job and getting well. He moved into his own condominium in October. The purchase was made possible through the CHN Home Buyer program with grants from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati and Oakland County HOME funds. Doug is now paying a mortgage instead of rent. Best of all, he has a home of his very own.



Doug enjoys his yard.



**Doug at his
new condo.**

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Community Housing Network, Inc., is a non-profit community organization dedicated to promoting inclusive communities through affordable housing.

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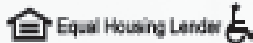
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Network News is designed and created by
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Providing affordable housing
to Michigan's low- and
moderate-income residents
for more than 40 years



online at: www.michigan.gov/mshda



We proudly work together
with the communities we serve

National City is proud to work with Community Housing Network in its affordable housing programs, community efforts, and in its Home Run for Homelessness.

We're proud to partner with outstanding organizations like the Community Housing Network team!

National City.

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