

Greensboro Celebrates “Housing America Month”

The Greensboro Cultural Center at Festival Park was the site of Greensboro’s celebration of Housing America Month.

Greensboro Housing Authority (GHA) in partnership with The African American Atelier hosted an art gallery and reception featuring posters created by children in Greensboro’s affordable housing for the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials’ (NAHRO) annual “What Home Means to Me” contest.

Thirty-one posters greeted those attending the week-long gallery and included winners at the local and regional levels.

The gallery opening included remarks by Yvonne Johnson, Greensboro’s mayor pro tem; LouMecia Koonce, assistant gallery manager for The African American Atelier; Darlene Glenn-McClinton, visual arts professor with North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University; Sabrina Abney, GHA’s client service coordinator; and Tina Akers Brown, president and chief executive officer for GHA, who was presented a proclamation, signed by Greensboro Mayor Robbie Perkins, declaring



PROCLAMATION: Greensboro Mayor Pro Tem Yvonne Johnson (left) presents the City of Greensboro Proclamation to Tina Akers Brown declaring October as “Housing America Month” in the city.

October as “Housing America Month” in Greensboro.

Many of the young artists and their families attended the celebration and received certificates for their participation.

Among the special guests attending the celebration was Representative Alma Adams of the NC General Assembly. Rep. Adams was a member of the faculty of Bennett College in Greensboro from 1972-2012 and served as professor of art, Director of the Art Gallery and manager of the college’s art collections.



RECOGNITION: Young artists (top) received recognition for their accomplishments during Greensboro’s “Housing America” Celebration. Representative Alma Adams (left) visited the opening night of the art gallery.

Middle Schooler Elected Mock Mayor

Middle School Student Christopher Harper of Ray Warren Homes was elected mayor of Greensboro recently in a "Mock Mayor Competition" designed to help youth get a better understanding of the political process.

The Kiser Middle School 8th grader campaigned for office and even participated in a mayoral debate. The competition was sponsored by The Sparrow's Nest through its "The 50 Chosen for Success" program, which helps prepare youth for college or career through educational, artistic and character-building exercises.

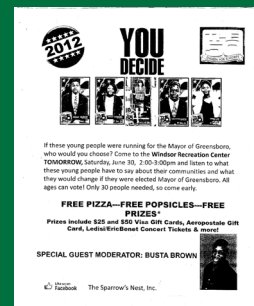
Harper ran on a platform of helping "the plight of the homeless."
"As I travel through the City, it

saddens me to see women and children not having shelter or a safe haven," he said during the debates.

"If elected, I will seek funding to revitalize some of the many abandoned buildings and turn them into shelter for those in need," he said.

Harper said he aspires "to hold many leadership positions."

The Sparrow's Nest, a non-profit organization headed by Marketing Strategist Evainna Ross, wants youth "to take what they've learned and educate their families and empower their communities."



GHA Can Help You Start Your Own Business

When Barbara Rankin, a 25-year resident of Smith Homes, got laid off from her job after 10 years of working at a day care center, she decided right then that it was time to open up her own business.

The next step was figuring out how to do it.

That was several months ago. Today, she's in the process of opening up her own day care center, thanks to a 10-week entrepreneurship class she attended through GHA's Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program.

"It was an excellent class," said Rankin, the mother of three grown children and grandmother to five more. "We got to meet with a lot of people who can help with a business, help get it open. It helps you learn your strengths and weaknesses, and your skills--and what to do to correct them if they're weak. I learned a lot about myself. A lot."

She said she and fellow residents Gustavo Smith, Carrie Black and Orlando Johnson learned financial concepts, banking skills, how to apply for business licenses and loans and even had to complete a business plan before graduating the REAL (Rural Entrepreneurship through Action Learning) Entrepreneurship



A BUSINESS OF HER OWN - Smith Homes resident Barbara Rankin is preparing to open a business of her own after completing the REAL Entrepreneurship Program through GHA's FSS program.

Program. She also learned how to use the internet to promote her business.

"I would recommend it to anyone who wants to open up a small business," she said. "I would advise people to figure out what they really want to do in life, and once you do that, work for it. Don't give up. There's going to be obstacles, but you can get through it. You can make it."

PNRC: Twenty-Three Years and Going Strong

Greensboro Housing Authority residents, staff and commissioners joined the Police Department on Nov. 8 at the Claremont Courts Community Center to celebrate a program that has continued since 1989--the Police Neighborhood Resource Centers (PNRC).

Charlene Washington, a PNRC manager and Resident Council President, served as mistress of ceremony for the event and Deidre Sperling, GHA Property Manager, welcomed those attending the celebration.

Tina Akers Brown, Chief Executive Officer for GHA, and GPD Chief of Police Ken Miller were the key speakers. Ms. Brown thanked all who had the commitment and foresight 23 years ago to work together to establish an award-winning program that has brought together a strong and long-lasting partnership to reduce crime in Greensboro's public housing communities. Those who work to continue this partnership, including GPD PNRC Officers, PNRC staff, and GHA commissioners, residents and staff, were also recognized for their support and dedication to the 19 communities managed and operated by GHA.

PNRC offices are located in five of GHA's public housing communities--Hampton Homes, Smith Homes, Claremont Courts, Ray Warren Homes and Hickory Trails. PNRC Officers use bike patrols, foot patrols, and resident contact and involvement to work cooperatively in implementing crime reduction strategies for all GHA communities. Gateway Plaza, a senior community, is also part of the program, with officers keeping close watch on the residents.



ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: PNRC staff and officers join Greensboro Police Chief Ken Miller (far left) and GHA CEO Tina Akers Brown (far right) in celebrating 23 years of commitment and cooperation.

"Young Women in Charge" Offers Empowerment

GHA is partnering with the YWCA of Greensboro to offer a new youth development program for young women between the ages of 10 and 18.

Groups of fifth-graders, middle schoolers and high school students meet at Hampton Homes on Monday and Tuesday afternoons to address topics such as health and hygiene, healthy relationships and self-esteem, as well as participate in activities in the arts, music, dance and self-expression. Other activities include visits to area colleges and universities.

"*Young Women in CHARGE* promotes the development of young women who are Confident, Healthy, Assertive, Resourceful, Gifted and Empowered," said Hanna Dowling of the YWCA. "Participants coordinate and complete 20 hours of community service; projects allow participants to explore their communities, establish professional contacts, and develop skills and personal interests. The program also offers men-



toring to participants, and YWCA Greensboro would like to encourage GHA residents to consider serving as a mentor for these young women."

Currently, 33 young women are enrolled. For more information, please contact Dowling at (336)-273-3461.

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274-3491

Property Region II
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Abby Court
274-3236 • 297-2114

Property Region III
Smith Homes
273-3688

Property Region IV
Pear Leaf • Ray Warren,
Laurel Oaks • Silverbriar • Riverbitch • Foxworth
275-6995

Property Region V
Gateway Plaza • Hall Towers • Stoneridge
275-9892 • 272-7869

Housing Choice Voucher
Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) / Homeownership
303-3079 • 271-2546

Public Housing Family Self Sufficiency
303-3003 • 303-3009 • 303-3034

Client Services
370-4380

GHA Maintenance Emergencies
272-4137

Ambulance / Rescue / Fire / Police
911

Crime Stoppers
373-1000

Police Non-Emergency
373-2222

The mission of the Greensboro Housing Authority is to provide safe, quality, affordable housing to low-income, elderly, and the disabled in the Greensboro Community; to maintain a safe and secure community environment; and to encourage personal responsibility and upward mobility of residents while maintaining the fiscal integrity of the agency.

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WINNER: GHA employees John Staton (left), Nicole Carter, Janet Inmon and Tony Humphrey accept the "Outstanding Single Project" award from Randal Romie, a Greensboro Beautiful executive committee member.

GHA Wins Beautification Award For Claremont Work

Greensboro Beautiful has named GHA the winner of the 2012 "Outstanding Single Project" award for the transformation of Claremont Courts public housing community.

GHA officially opened a modernized Claremont Courts last spring, complete with a new Resource Center.

The Community has newly designed exterior facades, new heating and cooling systems and improved landscaping.

The new Center has meeting space, a kitchen, management and staff offices, plus space for a Police Neighborhood Resource Center.