

Building families

published by **Interfaith Housing Alliance, Inc.**

Summer 2009

Designing New Mission Statement

“Interfaith Housing Alliance strengthens communities by providing housing opportunities for low & moderate income households.”

Drawing the word picture of the succinct new mission statement above has followed the arrival of Patricia A. Motter as the new president of Interfaith Housing Alliance. Strategic Planning exercises have also given new depth to the relationships between the Board of Directors and the staff.

While the work of IHA has not changed drastically, emphasis on certain areas may grow. The community will see an overall effort to continue response to the many towns and cities in our service area when asked to help find housing solutions for lower to moderate income families, seniors and individuals.

IHA encourages groups in Western Maryland and South Central Pennsylvania to help us find raw or partially developed land and/or existing improved real estate to maintain our mission to stabilize lives through housing solutions. The need for affordable senior and workforce housing has not abated.

Proud New Homeowner Benefits from Teamwork



Smiles go perfectly with getting the keys to your new home. Letter Carrier Sherman Hall, with encouragement from his proud mom, both above, now owns a townhouse in Monocacy Manor. This workforce housing development, built by Interfaith Housing Alliance with partial funding through the federal HOPE VI monies allotted to the City of Frederick, has involved a team of IHA, city, county and housing authority personnel, as well as several local financial institutions, to make for nine happy homeowners.

In addition to the postman above, these townhouses have been purchased by a nursing home care provider, a lab technician, a construction foreman, an employee of the public school system, a grocery store clerk, a bank human resource specialist and an employee of an title insurance company. Only two townhouses remain available.

Management Staff Serves the Food

Whether it's Thanksgiving, Christmas or Easter, the residents of Weinberg House can count on a special treat and a chance to socialize with each other, families and staff. Shown above are Shawn Wisner and Rebecca Broussard dishing up the Easter feast amid centerpieces of Easter lilies. These events are held in response to the universal request from within these 23 elderly housing units to recognize special times by sharing a meal.



USDA Self-Help Housing Continues in Shippensburg



Alliance accept the check from George Klaus, Area Director, and Frank Wetherhold, Housing Program Director, for the USDA.

IHA has been using the existing barn structure on the property as offices and set up on June 11 to hold the check signing ceremony. On hand were some of the new residents and future participants in the next team of builders, as well as several IHA Board Members and staff.

The program requires participants to commit to

Middle Springs Estates homeowners will soon have more new neighbors. This entire 37-lot subdivision features the efforts of families working to build their own and each other's homes through a partnership between the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Home Program and Interfaith Housing Alliance. Support for the program was recently infused by a new grant of \$xxx.xx from USDA to start another round of XX homes over the next x years.

Above, from left, Ron Morris, Homeownership Director, and Patricia Motter, CEO, of Interfaith Housing

completion of a course in homeownership financial counseling and 30-hours per week of work on the houses for each family on the team, producing 65% of all of the labor to build the houses. Each team can take from 9 to 12 months to finish their project. No one moves in until all of the houses for the team families are complete.

IHA has produced about 200 homes through this program in Western Maryland and south Central Pennsylvania. Eligibility for the program falls into low to moderate income ranges based on percentages of the median incomes for each area.



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Eggs to Dye and Hunt at Washington Ridge

Showing signs of spring, 18 of the 32 children of Washington Ridge Apartments in Frostburg colored and then hunted eggs. The older children opted to join with the 20 adults present and help with this event.

Resident Erica Aman, shown here with her son Logan Sisler, was in charge of the egg dyeing production line and helped keep it moving, assisting many of the children with their efforts. Outdoors other eggs filled with surprises were hidden for different age groups to find. Names were drawn for Easter basket prizes and a jelly bean jar required guessing how many to access the hidden gift certificate inside.

Families lingered past 6 p.m., just enjoying the fun of sharing time. Kudos to staff, families and sponsors for helping to make these special events come to fruition for the little ones, tweens and young adults.



Affordable Housing Council Plants Tree for Jim

Back in December, as Jim Upchurch was nearing his last days at the helm of Interfaith Housing Alliance, the Frederick Affordable Housing Council, enticed him to meet with them at Bell Court in Woodsboro. This senior housing complex was built by IHA, partnering with the county and the family who donated the land. The meeting was really about planting a lasting tribute to Jim in the form of a white dogwood tree. Shown above are from left, Margaret Nusbaum, director, Frederick County Citizen Services Division; Sheila Gregg and Jim Schmersahl, council members; Margie Lance, county housing staff; Jenny Short, county housing director; Staci Jones and Steve Fox, council members; Jim Upchurch, chair of the AHC; and Ann Dalrymple, council member.



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Citi Supports IHA Counseling Program

Ellen Prete of CitiMortgage, Frederick, left, brings a presentation check for \$5,000 to Barbara Hallowell as continued support to Interfaith Housing Alliance's Homeownership Counseling Program. Citi has been involved for several years with this program, which helps to prepare families for the realities and responsibilities of homeownership. Both organizations believe that the best way to address foreclosure issues is with a prevention effort.



Flowers of the Field in Transition . . . Candace Felton Goebel, former president of Interfaith Housing Alliance's Board of Directors, passed from this life on February 24, 2009. She brought to her work, both here and with other nonprofits, which she served, good thoughts and a good heart. She has been and will continue to be missed by those engaged in our mission.

NeighborWorks Week Focuses on Green

Interfaith Housing Alliance's theme color has always been green. With the emphasis on the environmental "green" for National NeighborWorks Week in early June, IHA focused on plantings for the Frederick complex known as Monocacy Woods Apartments. Shown above is one of many newly planted flower beds developed by staff and tenants for the event. Other areas were refreshed with new mulch.

As a charter member of NeighborWorks America, IHA joins the national effort each year to recognize that affordable housing

should offer residents a sense of pride of location by keeping the surroundings pleasant and attractive. Monocacy Woods has 71 family units.

NeighborWorks America is a national network of more than 230 community-based organizations in 50 states creating healthy communities through the work of

thousands of residents, business people, government officials and other partners.

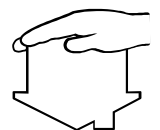


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