

PUBLICLY SPEAKING A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP) is set to roar its way into the 20s. The HACP is engaged in long-term community revitalization plans in the East End, North Side, and elsewhere throughout the city. We will double down on our commitment to improving and expanding affordable housing options for those in search of a place to call home and we will continue to ensure that self-sufficiency programs are accessible to any HACP resident seeking to improve their quality of life.

As we move into the new decade, we look forward to making more progress on our developments throughout the city. Having completed new phases of Cornerstone Village and Sandstone

Quarry in 2019, we have set on advancing new housing developments in Homewood, the Hill District and Northview Heights. Our upcoming development activities aren't limited to new communities: we are committed to maintaining modern facilities for our residents, which is why we will be modernizing several housing communities and community assets such as the Bedford Hope Center.

Looking back, we are very proud of what we accomplished in the second half of 2019. We continued our work to narrow the digital divide by expanding our mobile lab program, giving residents the opportunity to learn the skills they need in an increasingly online world. That effort included connecting residents with health resources online and promoting healthy living in our communities by making it easier to access health information digitally.

We also hosted our first Board of Commissioners Strategic Planning Workshop, which was very successful. Suggestions included insight into areas that the Board wants to focus on to include continual enhancement of our resident initiatives. Our efforts to promote strong communities and improve quality of life for our residents did not stop there. Northview Heights residents celebrated their collaborative art project that preserved the community's cultural heritage by showcasing stories from their neighbors. The finished product, an interactive documentary, and the event to celebrate it strengthened their sense of community and brought them closer together.

Clean Slate turned "21" in 2019, and we were thrilled to commemorate the 21 continuous years of youth programming by hosting a Black-Tie Dinner and Benefit. Thanks to the generous donations of sponsors like Gateway Health Plan, the University of Pittsburgh, and the Heinz Endowments, we raised over \$80,000 for the Clean Slate E3 scholarship program.

The year of 2020 has many things to be excited about, from our development and modernization efforts to the Centennial Anniversary of the Negro League – which will be hosted in Pittsburgh by our partners at The Josh Gibson Foundation. While we look back on the past year with pride, we look forward to the year and decade ahead, determined as ever to improve our residents' lives. The HACP will continue to invest in the families and individuals who call our communities not just houses or units, but homes.

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Caster D. Binion Executive Director

Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh Winter 2020

IN THIS ISSUE

Cornerstone Village Opens As HACP, Larimer Community, and Development Partners Celebrate Larimer Choice Progress 2

HACP Celebrates 21 Years of Clean Slate Youth Programming At Benefit Dinner 4

ROSS Program: Resident Opportunities and Self Sufficiency.....11

Free Driver's Education12



Cornerstone Village Opens As HACP, Larimer Community, and Development Partners Celebrate Larimer Choice Progress

It was a beautiful day in the neighborhood on October 8, 2019,

when community members and city leaders came together to celebrate the opening of Phase II of the Larimer Choice Initiative, named Cornerstone Village with music, food and trolley tours.

With 150 mixed-income units in 12 buildings, Cornerstone Village brings the Larimer Choice Initiative closer to completion, crossing the halfway point. Launched in 2014 following the award of a \$30 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Larimer Choice initiative aims to implement a residentdriven redevelopment of the Larimer community. The holistic development plan also addresses issues such as affordable housing, recreation space, economic opportunity, education, public safety, and health and wellness.

A key element of the Larimer Choice initiative is that it is resident and community-driven. HACP Executive Director Caster D. Binion touted this, saying "we had mothers and

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husbands and cousins coming out, volunteering, and spending hundreds of hours to give input on what the next generation is going to inherit."

Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto also noted the collaborative nature of the Larimer Choice Initiative, saying that "this is a model every neighborhood now wants." He went on to applaud the determined community members who pressured various levels of government to support the initiative.

Though housing was central to the development, Cornerstone Villages added more than new housing units: it also features tot lots, picnic benches, bike racks, walking

> The Larimer Choice Neighborhood Initiative revitalized the community according to residents' needs, resulting in a modern and sustainable community.



HACP and its partners cut the ribbon for Larimer Phase II, expanding housing opportunity and improving quality of life in the Larimer community.

access to the East Liberty Transit Center, and access to rich social services and economic opportunities that are facilitated by Urban Strategies, Inc. On top of all that, the HACP and its partners were committed to sustainable development. Every building was built following the Enterprise Green Community criteria, making Cornerstone Village a model for both community-led and sustainable development.

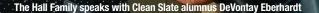
Residents couldn't be happier with the progress the HACP and its partners have made in the redevelopment: Audrey Griffin, a former Homewood resident, said, "this is the first time I've lived in an apartment where I feel like it was worth the wait. I feel a sense of relief."

The HACP and its partners will continue to work to give more residents that sense of relief. Phase I of the Larimer Choice Initiative added 85 new units, and debuted in 2016. Phase III of the Larimer Choice Initiative has begun, and will continue into 2020. Once completed, the Larimer Choice Initiative will have added more than 300 new units to the neighborhood, including 35 units in the refurbished Larimer School.

The Urban Redevelopment Authority has also begun construction of the Liberty Green Park as part of this collaborative initiative. Located at the corner of Larimer Avenue and Station Street, Liberty Green Park will add over three acres of green public space to the Larimer and East Liberty neighborhoods, providing opportunities for outdoor play while further adding to the neighborhood's identity as a Green community.



Mayor Bill Peduto touted the Larimer Choice Neighborhood Initiative as an example other cities should look to replicate.



HACP Celebrates 21 Years of Clean Slate Youth Programming At Benefit Dinner

Twenty-first birthdays are always something to celebrate, and Clean Slate's birthday was no exception. In October 2019, the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP) and Clean Slate E3, HACP's nonprofit affiliate, hosted a black-tie benefit dinner to celebrate the work the Clean Slate program has done over the past two decades. Pittsburgh's Grand Hall at the Priory Hotel in the Northside served as the perfect venue to reflect on the achievements and accomplishments of 21 years of programming.

From the red carpet event to reflective videos to the keynote speech from WNBA star Swin Cash, the evening focused on how Clean Slate has made a difference in the lives of young public housing residents across the city. Over the years, Clean Slate has put forth a wide variety of programs for HACP youth, including drug prevention campaigns, STEAM workshops, and a scholarship program that has disbursed \$225,000 since 2009.

Markeya Lowry, a former Clean Slate participant, said that Clean Slate "was an awesome opportunity for young adults to get exposed to the professional sector of life, as well as give the opportunity to do something positive with our lives."

"We're very proud of the work we've done," said HACP Executive Director and Clean Slate E3 President Caster D. Binion, "Clean Slate has impacted so many residents' lives, and it was incredible to be able to celebrate both Clean Slate's work and those residents at one event."

Former Clean Slate participants and current scholarship recipients attended the event, giving guests the opportunity to take a moment and recognize them.

"It was wonderful that so many Street Team members and scholarship recipients were able to make it tonight," said Michelle Sandidge, Chief Community Affairs Officer of the HACP, "Clean Slate wouldn't be here today without the youth who participated in its programs. We're very happy that we were able to recognize them."

The event also featured a memorial for Officer Calvin Hall, who worked in two HACP communities prior to his tragic death in 2019. Officer Hall's family attended the event, and a short video was presented to honor his life and announce the Officer Hall Memorial Scholarship.

The HACP and Clean Slate E3 want to thank its many sponsors, including Gateway Health, the University of Pittsburgh, the Heinz Endowments, OSA Global, Comcast, Fox Rothschild, LLP, Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh, Highmark, Mistick Construction, Catalyst Communities, LLC, 84 Lumber, PNC, The Buhl Foundation, and ONE Northside.

In total, the black-tie benefit dinner raised over \$80,000 from sponsorships, dinner tickets, and a raffle. All of the funds raised will go towards the Clean Slate E3 scholarship program, ensuring that the program can continue expanding educational opportunities for years to come.

For more information about Clean Slate E3 or to make a contribution toward the Clean Slate E3 Scholarship Fund, visit us online at: https://hacp.org/programs-services/ scholarship-fund/.

Attention graduating high school seniors:



Clean Slate E3 is accepting applications for its 2020 scholarships!

Visit bit.ly/cleanslatescholarship for more information.

412 Food Rescue and HACP Bring Baby Food to Northview Heights and Allegheny Dwellings



The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP) and 412 Food Rescue kicked off 2020 by hosting a Baby Food Giveaway at both the Northview Heights and Allegheny Dwellings public housing communities. Riverbend Foods donated over 2,300 jars of baby food, as well as over 600 pounds of potatoes for families to take. Open to everyone who needed it, the event provided HACP residents and their neighbors with high-quality baby food for free.

Passing out the baby food was a team effort. From HACP employees to Pittsburgh Bureau of Police officers to the local Boy Scout troop to the YMCA, people came together to expand access to baby food. "We're happy to help, it's what we do," said one volunteer from the Boy Scouts. Baby food is an often overlooked necessity that can become very expensive very quickly. The HACP is determined to provide residents and low-income families with the resources they need to live happy, healthy lives. The HACP will continue to develop and implement programs and partnerships like this to achieve that goal.

Riverbend Foods donated over 2,300 jars of baby food, as well as over 600 pounds of potatoes for families to take.



Community members and Pittsburgh Bureau of Police officers spent the day handing out baby food to residents at Northview Heights



Riverbend Foods provided enough baby food and potatoes for everyone who needed it.



Allegheny Dwellings residents were excited to take advantage of the Baby Food Giveaway.

Lyft Expands Access to Fresh Food for Bedford Dwellings Residents





Lyft's partnership with HACP for its Grocery Access Program expanded access to fresh groceries for Bedford Dwellings residents.

Bedford Dwellings residents and community leaders celebrate the launch of Lyft's Grocery Access Program with fresh produce.

Pittsburgh is littered with food deserts—all across the city, there are neighborhoods and communities that do not have quick and easy access to fresh food and grocery stores. These barriers to grocery access make it difficult for many HACP residents to eat healthy and get the groceries they need.

That's why Lyft and the HACP have partnered to implement the new Grocery Access Program to make sure HACP residents can get to the grocery store. Currently, Lyft is piloting this newly designed program in Bedford Dwellings and the Allegheny County Housing Authority community Prospect Terrace. The effort is part of Lyft City Works, a national effort to improve transportation access and equity in cities nationwide, including Pittsburgh.

For only \$5 per round-trip, Bedford Dwellings residents can use Lyft to get to local Giant Eagle locations. This gives residents a direct line to grocery access, and at a price that's cheaper than a round-trip bus ticket.

"I'm very excited for this program to come to my residents," said Bedford Dwellings Tenant Council President Gail Felton, "this is a big deal for seniors who take the bus with their one bag every day. Now they can go directly and go shopping."

Before the Lyft Grocery Access program came to Bedford Dwellings, the only way to access fresh food was the bus. While the bus goes right through Bedford Dwellings, it does not take residents directly to the store and bus routes have many stops. This limited what residents could purchase at the grocery store, as Ms. Felton said, "your ice cream melts and your frozen meat thaws before you get home."

Lyft's Grocery Access Program means no more melted ice cream and no more thawed meat for Bedford Dwellings residents. It means more food options. It means more access to fresh and healthy food.

Since its launch, dozens of residents have used the service, making over 200 trips to local Giant Eagles to shop for fresh produce, frozen meat, and all the other food items they can't access easily in their community. For now, Lyft's Grocery Access Program is only operating in Bedford Dwellings, but the HACP hopes it can expand this opportunity to its other communities.

The Lyft Grocery Access Program is operating in Bedford Dwellings until February 29, 2020. Bedford Dwellings residents who are interested can still sign up to participate by visiting http://bit.ly/2JCrisX or by contacting Denise Chappel at Denise.Chappel@hacp.org.

Lyft has plans to expand the program to include service to additional communities, with ride options expanded to additional destinations, such as farmers' markets. For additional information about Lyft and their Grocery Access Program, visit: www.lyft.com/grocery-access.

National Network of Libraries of Medicine & HACP Bring Health Literacy Services to Residents Through Mobile Lab

The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh continues its efforts to bridge the digital divide. The HACP was recently awarded a grant from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine to expand its mobile lab program and increase health literacy.

The National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM) aims to improve public health by providing equal access to medical information, empowering individuals to make informed decisions about their health. By offering funding for projects that increase access to health information and support outreach, the NNLM is giving local communities the tools they need to improve public health.

The HACP plans to use the funds from the NNLM grant to expand the Mobile Lab program, which is currently operating in two locations. In addition to purchasing new laptops, the HACP will educate residents about the MedlinePlus website, which provides health information, videos, articles, and a glossary of terms.

Tess Wilson, Community Engagement Coordinator for the NNLM's Middle Atlantic Region (MAR) is the liaison for this project. "We are thrilled to support community-

based work that falls at the crucial intersection of digital literacy and health literacy," she notes. "Because of the robust nature of outreach programming offered by the HACP, an increasingly large number of our city's residents—many of them members of vulnerable or marginalized populations are receiving absolutely essential services like these.



This holistic approach to health literacy is a core value of both the NNLM and the All of Us Research Program, and we are proud to be part of outreach that prioritizes equitable access to health information."

"Knowing how to use a computer is an essential skill in the modern world. We are committed and determined to use funds from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine to buttress and strengthen our programs," said HACP Chief Community Affairs Officer Michelle Sandidge, "These programs are making a difference in our communities, and we plan to ensure residents have the skills and knowledge they need."

The newly-expanded Mobile Lab program will allow more HACP residents to learn how to access information in the digital world, teaching them basic digital literacy as well as how to find health information online. By improving digital literacy and health literacy, HACP is lifting residents up, giving them skills and tools to thrive in the digital age and make informed decisions about their health.

The HACP's continued efforts to bridge the digital divide are not limited to its expanded Mobile Lab program. In collaboration with EveryoneOn, Best Buy, Phase 4 Learning, and other stakeholders, the ConnectHomePGH coalition has created the Best Buy Teen Tech Center and the Bridges to Tech program. These initiatives provide an outlet for young people to explore the world of technology, bringing people together and exposing young people to opportunities in technology.

> For more information about ConnectHomePGH and its initiatives, contact Knowledge Build Hudson at knowledge.hudson@hacp.org



The HACP Mobile Lab helps residents gain digital skills and access health information online.



Your Lifestyle. Your Wellness. Your Choice.

Make the Best Decisions for You.



Health and Wellness Resources for you

General Health

MedlinePlus[®] is the place to start for quality health information in both English and Spanish. The site offers hundreds of health topics, drug information, interactive health check tools, surgery videos, and much more. MedlinePlus also provides easy-to-read and information in many other languages at the links below.

- medlineplus.gov
- medlineplus.gov/all_easytoread.html
- medlineplus.gov/languages/languages.html

HealthReach offers even more quality health information in many languages, including some audio and video resources.

• healthreach.nlm.nih.gov

Your Healthiest Self: Wellness Toolkits gives you ways to improve your well-being in different areas of your life.

• nih.gov/health-information/your-healthiest-self-wellnesstoolkits

Go4Life[®] is designed to help older adults remain fit and active.

• nia.nih.gov/health/exercise-physical-activity

HealthFinder.gov gives you a list of health care providers and organizations offering health services and support. Also provides health information by topic.

healthfinder.gov

HIV/AIDS Information

AIDSinfo® offers access to all things HIV/AIDS related including approved treatment guidelines, HIV treatment and prevention, clinical trials, and more.

Lifestyle

Healthy Eating offers more than 100 delicious heart healthy recipes including recipes from regional and multicultural cuisines.

• healthyeating.nhlbi.nih.gov

Nutrition.gov provides information to help you make healthful eating choices.

• nutrition.gov

CDC Healthy Living is a resource from the CDC organized by topics for staying healthy, life stages, and specific populations.

cdc.gov/healthyliving

BAM! Body and Mind is a resource from the CDC that will tell you everything you need to know about nutrition, physical activity, stress, safety, or disease. Designed for kids ages 9–12.

cdc.gov/bam

Finding Good Health Information

Be an Informed Consumer contains fact sheets and resources that can help you discuss health information with your health care provider.

nccih.nih.gov/health/decisions

Evaluating Internet Health Information Tutorial shows you how to evaluate health information found on the Web.

• medlineplus.gov/webeval/webeval.html

• aidsinfo.nih.gov

Northview Heights Residents Celebrate Cultural Heritage in Community Art Project

For the last two years, something special was happening at Northview Heights. A group of residents, motivated by a common drive to preserve their cultural heritage, came together to produce what's called an "interactive documentary:" an online platform showcasing interviews and stories from their neighbors.

The project started in the spring of 2017, when the National Endowment for the Arts provided the Office of Public Art (OPA) with enough funding to host a two-year residency for an artist. In collaboration with the United Somali Bantu of Greater Pittsburgh (USBGP), the OPA offered artist Lindsey Scherloum the opportunity to engage residents and create a piece of community art. The two-year project concluded last year.

Ms. Scherloum began by working with USBGP to develop and implement a community engagement strategy, building relationships with and developing an understanding of the community. After reaching out, a group of residents came together to work on the project. Both teenagers and adult residents, all women, jumped at the opportunity to do something for their community.

Residents took the lead in the second year. With the help of Ms. Scherloum, they developed an art project that would be both engaging and exploratory. A major goal of the residents was to make sure that the project would be accessible to everyone. Because literacy could often be a barrier for many residents, the resident group and Ms. Scherloum decided to create a video, audio, and photography-based project to document the community's stories.

Once they knew what they wanted to do, residents spent the summer talking to their neighbors, learning about each other's culture, whether it was shared or not, and strengthening community relationships. As the stories came together, patterns and connections were spotted. "It was really amazing to learn how overlapping and interconnecting all the stories are in the community," said Ms. Scherloum.

Two years after they started, Ms. Scherloum and her group of cultural archivists presented the fruits of their labor: a website filled with stories and experiences and history and culture. Anyone can access the website. It's meant both for people within the community to deepen their connection to their heritage and for people outside the community to foster a sense of understanding and cultural competence.

The debut itself was emblematic of the art project. One afternoon, the whole community came together in celebration. Kids played on the playground and competed in a friendly soccer showdown. At the center of it all was a makeshift outdoor movie theatre, complete with chairs and Somali food for concessions. Residents and guests gathered around the projector, protected from the glare of the sun by colorful tapestries, to watch and listen to the stories of their neighbors. In the words of one Northview Heights resident, "it's beautiful to see."

The Color of Strength: A Story of Migration in Pittsburgh is available online for everyone to enjoy. Visit: www. colorofstrength.com to learn more about the project and Northview Heights' cultural heritage.



Northview Heights residents share a laugh while enjoying the community celebration around them. (Photo Credit: Heather Mull)



Residents Hone Their Skills and Find Employment with the Section 3 Resident Employment Program

HACP's Section 3/Resident Employment Program recently concluded the end of another successful year of connecting residents with job placements and professional training opportunities. Events were held throughout the year, focusing on the four stages of employment: Getting the Interview, Writing a Stand Out Resume, Acing the Interview, and Making the Job a Career. Each event developed a different skill to ensure that HACP residents are as prepared for employment as possible.

With events like Completing a Job Application, Make It Right: Resume Edition, Interview Role Play Activity, and Healthy Work Relationships & Work-Life Balance, the Section 3 Resident Employment Program provided engaging ways for residents to hone their professional skills. In addition to professional development workshops, dozens of residents participated in Section 3's Driver's Education program. As our Executive Director Caster D. Binion likes to say, "If you're an HACP resident and you want a job, come see us. We're ready to connect you with everything you need to make that happen."

2019 proved to be a great year for job-hunting HACP residents – more than 170 residents found new employment

through the Section 3 Resident Employment Program throughout the year. With competitive salaries up to \$51.50/ hr in a wide range of positions from porter to office assistant, these job placements will make a big difference in



those residents' lives. The HACP is deeply committed to improving residents' lives and helping them on their path to self-sufficiency. The HACP will continue to host and promote programs that further those goals in 2020.

For more information about the Section 3/Resident Employment Program or any of its programming, contact Lloyd C. Wilson, Jr. the Resident Employment Manager, at 412-643-2835, ext. 2835.

To view a listing of current employment opportunities, visit the Section 3 Program online at: https://hacp.org/programsservices/resident-employment.





ROSS Program

ROSS stands for: Resident Opportunities and Self Sufficiency

What is the ROSS Program?

ROSS is a self-sufficiency program for anyone who is not currently enrolled in the FSS Program who lives in the following family communities: Allegheny Dwellings, Arlington Heights, Bedford Dwellings, Homewood North, and Northview Heights. The ROSS Program Coordinators work with residents to overcome barriers, accomplish goals and bring community agencies on site to conduct various classes/ trainings.

A ROSS Service Coordinator is now available at your site!

Your Service Coordinator can connect you to organizations providing the following services including, but not limited to:

- Credit repair, banking and money management, financial literacy
- Real life issues, tax forms, leases, car and health insurance, utilities etc
- GED preparation, basic skills
- Job Training, job search
- Apprenticeship programs
- Skills assessment
- Applying for a job, how to complete an application
- Resume writing
- Interviewing techniques
- Professional clothing for new employment
- Case management services
- Mental health referrals
- Drug & Alcohol referrals
- Parenting classes
- Education
- Homeownership

Sign up for the ROSS Program by contacting Serena Williams or TaShawna Patterson at one of the following locations.

Days and times Ms. Williams is available are as follows:

Arlington Heights Property Management Office/ Community Room:

Wednesdays & Fridays, 12:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Bedford Hope Center:

Tuesdays, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Homewood North RSS Office:

Mondays, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

You can contact Ms. Williams at 412-961-1329, 412-643-2885 or email Serena.Williams@HACP.org

Days and times Ms. Patterson is available are as follows:

Allegheny Dwellings RSS Office/ Community Room:

Tuesdays, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Wednesdays, 9 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.

Northview Heights RSS Office:

Thursdays, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Wednesdays, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

You can contact Ms. Patterson at 412-961-1247, 412-643-2850 or email TaShawna.Patterson@HACP.org



Pittsburgh, PA 15219 8th Floor 200 Ross Street

Winter 2020

events, employment postings and more. 40 ADAH teation on the latest HACP us out on our website at www.hacp.org Authority of the City of Pittsburgh. Check Prisuo & Views is publiched by the Housing

Executive Director

Caster D. Binion

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Housing Authority

Customer Service Hotline 412-456-5111

HACP's Driver Education program will provide 12 hours behind the wheel, an instructor, transportation to lessons, and a vehicle for lessons.

For more information, call Lloyd C. Wilson, Jr. at 412-643-2835 ext. 2835

Are you an HACP resident over the age of 19 with a driver's permit? If so, you are eligible!

Free Driver's Education