

News & Views

PUBLICLY SPEAKING

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The summer season at the HACP has been filled with an abundance of celebrations and milestones, including ribbon cuttings commemorating the completion of significant affordable housing initiatives at both Cornerstone Village in Larimer and Cedarwood Homes in Fairywood, along with a groundbreaking at Standard on Fifth in Uptown.

I am very proud to announce the Larimer/East Liberty Choice Neighborhoods community redevelopment – the number one Choice Neighborhood Initiative in the nation – is now officially complete. On June 20, we embarked on a celebration in Larimer that brought together federal,

state, and local officials, HACP staff, members of the community, Mayor Ed Gainey, and representatives from the Urban Redevelopment Association of Pittsburgh and McCormack Baron in marking the culmination of the four-phase endeavor.

This summer hasn't just been about celebrating our most recent community developments – HACP residents have experienced some important milestones as well. On May 16, HACP staff and residents gathered in the community room at Murray Towers to celebrate Ms. Emma Alper upon reaching her 100th birthday. Ms. Alper has lived at Murray Towers since she emigrated to the U.S. from Russia in 1993. She is the embodiment of a strong and courageous woman, and the HACP staff is happy to honor her milestone.

As the HACP continues to provide support and opportunities for our youth to reach their full potential, we are happy to share that the Sarah Heinz House recently became a community partner and service provider within the Northview Heights community, bringing STEAM education to our youth in an exciting after-school program twice a week.

The HACP is also helping residents pave the way to brighter futures with an innovative partnership with the Master Builders' Association of Western Pennsylvania (MBA) and our workforce development initiatives. This union, along with the anticipated 2025 launch of our W.O.W. CyberBus 2.0, will provide residents with a one-stop shop leading them to income sustainable building union trade positions.

As we continue to lay down a foundation for the future, the HACP has also partnered with Pittsburgh Public Schools to create a new Carpentry Co-Op Program. This program, led by Misty Clark, teaches students the ins and outs of carpentry through real-world experience to benefit them before entering the carpenters' union.

I am excited to share these continued developments and accomplishments with our residents, stakeholders and partners as we keep striving to be a place to live and a path to launch.

Caster D. Binion
Executive Director

Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh
Summer 2024

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HACP officials were joined by HUD officials, developers, the Larimer Consensus Group, and members of the Larimer community during a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Cornerstone Village in June.

HUD officials, developers and Larimer community join HACP in celebrating culmination of Cornerstone Village development

June's heat wave didn't deter hundreds of officials, stakeholders, and Larimer residents from celebrating the completion of Cornerstone Village, the first significant housing development in the neighborhood in generations.

HACP staff was joined by HUD officials, Mayor Ed Gainey, developers McCormack Baron Salazar, and officials with the URA of Pittsburgh, and the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, along with local, state, and federal officials on June 20 to mark the end of a decade of planning, proposals, investment, and development for the four-phase endeavor.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on site, along with apartment, auditorium, and trolley tours, tours of the state-of-the-art Steel City Squash Larimer Education & Squash Complex, Rain Poetry demonstrations, and tours of the HACP W.O.W. CyberBus.

Cornerstone Village was possible thanks to a \$30 million HUD Choice Neighborhoods Initiative grant, and the tireless efforts of our partners with HACP's development arm, Allies & Ross Management and Development Corporation, along with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing, Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh, TAI+LEE architects, PC and Michael Baker International, Mistick Construction, McCormack Baron Companies, the Larimer Consensus Group, and the Larimer community.

"Over \$400 million has been invested into this neighborhood. That's leverage; that's bang for your buck," Matthew Heckles, Regional Administrator of the HUD Mid-Atlantic Region 3, said during the ribbon-cutting ceremony. "I've been all over the country, and there are very few places that are doing this work as well as you're doing here in Pittsburgh."

HACP Executive Director Caster D. Binion thanked every person who has been involved in the development, whether it was from Day One or the very end.

"This Choice is what affordable housing is supposed to look like," he said. "This is the number one Choice in the nation; it is an example of what comprehensive, collaborative redevelopment efforts can look like. Together with community stakeholders and our development partners, we truly transformed Larimer to address the community's needs."

Cornerstone Village comprises 334 units of mixed-income housing, including the redeveloped Larimer Elementary School that sat vacant for four decades along Larimer Avenue.

“Over \$400 million has been invested into this neighborhood. That’s leverage; that’s bang for your buck.”

— Matthew Heckles, Regional Administrator of the HUD Mid-Atlantic Region 3

“Things that take this long, there’s a reason they take this long, because it’s not easy work,” said HUD Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Public and Indian Housing Richard Monocchio. “What’s been done here, doubling the number of apartments and homes, creating a mixed-income community, and the amenities are amazing. Housing policy is at the top of our list at HUD. We understand that people are having trouble paying their rent and utilities.”

Monocchio added investing in workforce development is critical.

“It’s a down payment on the future,” he said.

Community members, specifically Larimer activist the late Ora Lee Carroll and the Larimer Consensus Group, have long been advocating for the neighborhood’s redevelopment.

Mayor Ed Gainey said he grew up in the area, and knew the residents who were tough as nails, including Carroll and Ms. Betty Lane, who was in attendance.

“I wish she could be here today because I know how much she fought for this community. I know how much she protected this community. And today, to be able to see where Larimer is now, I know she is smiling down on us saying thank you for all that we have done in her vision and name, and the development that we did here today that she fought for,” he added.

Vince Bennett, President and CEO of McCormack Baron Companies said, “I really think without community partners,



Drone footage by Andrew Rush shows an aerial view of Cornerstone Village in Larimer during a ribbon-cutting celebration on June 20.

none of this would have happened. It’s about families and children; we need to create spaces where children can thrive.”

Larimer Consensus Group Executive Director Donna Jackson said she prefers to call it quality housing and not affordable housing, and thanked the LCG and community members who worked to reduce the violence in Larimer.

“This is not the end of the road for Larimer; this is just the beginning,” she added.

For more information on the Larimer/East Liberty Choice Neighborhoods Initiative, please visit: <https://hacp.org/hacp-hud-developers-and-many-stakeholders-to-commemorate-end-of-choice-neighborhoods-cornerstone-village-development-in-larimer-with-ribbon-cutting-celebration>.



Richard Monocchio, HUD’s Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing, speaks during the June 20 Cornerstone Village Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony in Larimer.



HACP Communications Specialist Lyss Hull, left, and Resident Relations Specialist Pat Briggs reveal Cornerstone Village’s motto ‘We’re All In’ during a Rain Poetry demonstration at the June 20 celebration.



HACP officials recently celebrated the completion of the four-phase Choice Neighborhoods Cornerstone Village development in Larimer, which includes the renovated former Larimer School.



HACP officials recently celebrated the completion of the four-phase Choice Neighborhoods Cornerstone Village development in Larimer, which includes the renovated former Larimer School.

HACP, ARMDC Commit to Over \$33M in PBV/Gap Financing to Further Affordable Housing Availability in Wake of County's 500in500 Initiative

The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP), along with its development arm, the Allies & Ross Management and Development Corporation (ARMDC), have invested in the HACP's Project-Based Voucher (PBV)/Gap Financing Program since December 2015.

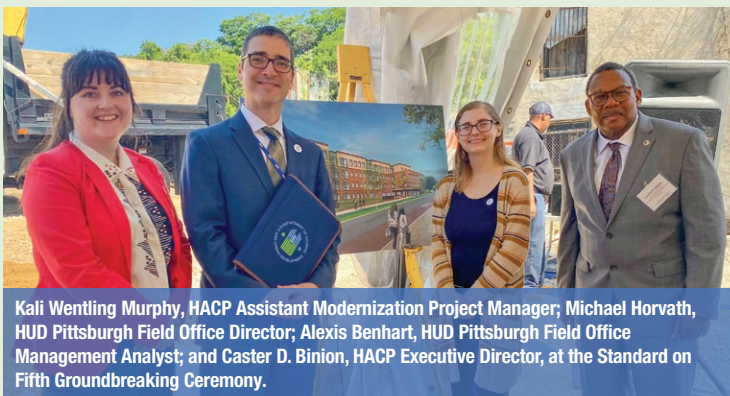
More than \$33 million and nearly 380 PBV units of housing completed or under construction to date, the program supports innovative affordable housing developments in neighborhoods across the City of Pittsburgh. In 2023, HACP provided 12 affordable housing developers with additional conditional commitments: 313 PBV subsidies and \$24 million of gap financing loans. The program encourages all levels of affordable developers, including community-based organizations, to invest in their communities by preserving and developing affordable housing.

HACP, developers, and stakeholders recently celebrated a groundbreaking at the Standard on Fifth in Uptown that will have 17 PBV units, along with a ribbon cutting at the recently completed Cedarwood Homes in Fairywood with 24 PBV units.

"We continue to use every tool at our discretion in order to meet the growing demand for affordable housing," said HACP Executive Director Caster D. Binion. "Many local organizations are interested in developing affordable housing around the city. Expanding the Gap Financing Program gives them the opportunity to step up to the plate and take the lead in shaping the communities they call home."

The Gap Financing tool will also be used to support Allegheny County's 500in500 initiative (<https://500in500.alleghenycounty.us/>) announced recently by Allegheny County Executive Sara Innamorato. 500in500 is an initiative to help people in the county, including the City of Pittsburgh, out of homelessness by making 500 affordable housing units available in 500 days.

"Using all of the tools available to expand affordable housing in Pittsburgh is critical for us to build a city where everyone can thrive," said Mayor Ed Gainey. "This program creates more opportunities to expand affordable housing, so everyone can continue to live and work in Pittsburgh – and ensure that we bring affordability to more neighborhoods, help rebuild communities, and connect people to new areas of economic opportunities."





Sister Mary of Cedarwood Homes poses for a photo with Michael Horvath, HUD Pittsburgh Field Office Director, during the Cedarwood Homes Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony.



HACP staff cut the ribbon at Cedarwood Homes, the newest affordable senior community in West End's Fairywood neighborhood.

The following PBV/Gap Financing project list is current, as of early 2024, and have been approved by the HACP Board of Commissioners:

Amount	Location	Developer
\$829,884	Elmer Williams Square, Larimer, 37 PBV Units	Taylor Construction (Completed)
\$419,998	Miller Street Apartments, Hill District, 9 PBV Units	Bridging the Gap Development (Completed)
\$3,984,900	Lemington Senior Apartments, Lincoln-Lemington-Belmar, 54 PBV Units	Beacon Communities (Completed)
\$1,000,000	New Granada Square, Middle Hill, 10 PBV Units	CHN Housing Partners (Completed)
\$1,095,000	The Carina (also known as, North Negley Residence), Garfield, 13 PBV Units	327 NN, LLC (Completed)
—	Harvard Beatty Housing, East Liberty, 8 PBV Units. Developer	TREK Development Group (Completed)
\$2,160,000	Cedarwood Homes, Fairywood, 24 PBV Units	Tryko Partners (Completed)
\$2,250,000	Letsche School, Hill District, 25 PBV Units	Beacon Communities (Under Construction)
\$1,000,000	Gladstone Residences, Hazelwood, 20 PBV Units	The Community Builders (Under construction)
\$2,070,000	Stanton-Highland, Highland Park, 23 PBV Units	ACTION Housing (Under construction)
\$1,700,000	The Standard on Fifth, Uptown, 17 PBV Units	Beacon Communities (Under construction)
\$3,200,000	Hazelwood Green, Hazelwood, 40 PBV Units	TREK Development Group (In the pre-development stage)
\$2,700,000	Oakland Pride, Oakland, 30 PBV Units	SeniorCare Network, Inc. (In the pre-development stage)
\$1,920,000	4800 Block of Second Avenue, Hazelwood, 22 PBV Units	The Community Builders (In the pre-development stage)
\$1,350,000	North Homewood, Homewood, 25 PBV Units	McCormack Baron Salazar (In the pre-development stage)
\$990,000	Legacy Village, Perry South, 13 PBV Units	Legacy Village, LLC (In the pre-development stage)
\$8,481,528	Crawford Square, Crawford Roberts, 60 PBV Units	Crawford Roberts (In the pre-development stage)
\$1,000,000	African Queen Apartments, Middle Hill, 12 PBV Units	ACCDC (In the pre-development stage)
\$4,850,000	Fifth & Dinwiddie, Uptown, 35 PBV Units	Bridging the Gap Development (In the pre-development stage)
\$1,200,000	2531 Brownsville Road, Carrick, 12 PBV Units	CHN Housing Partners (In the pre-development stage)
\$2,050,000	120 Cecil Way, Downtown, 25 PBV Units	Beacon Communities (In the pre-development stage)
\$3,800,000	First & Market, Downtown, 93 PBV Units	Beacon Communities (In the pre-development stage)
\$750,000	Carson Square Apartments, Southside, 8 PBV Units	Standard Communities (In the pre-development stage)
\$1,300,000	Carrick Senior Apartments, Carrick, 13 PBV Units	CHN Housing Partners (In the pre-development stage)
\$1,600,000	421 Seventh Ave., Downtown, 16 PBV Units	CHN Housing Partners (In the pre-development stage)
\$1,600,000	Smithfield Lofts, Downtown, 16 PBV Units	Woda Cooper Development (In the pre-development stage)
\$2,880,000	The Bethel, Lower Hill, 32 PBV Units	Bethel WPP Group (In the pre-development stage)

Sarah Heinz House staff enriches youth at HACP's Northview Heights

Northview Heights youth recently spent an afternoon in the community gym driving small iPad-controlled robots, constructing a colorful archway with building straws, forming pretty spring flowers out of Play-Doh, and enjoying fellowship with friends and Sarah Heinz House staff.

The Sarah Heinz 360 Youth Empowerment Program, which began at Northview Heights in September 2023, brings staff to the gym along Mt. Pleasant Road from 3 to 7 p.m. each Monday and Wednesday to host fun, educational after-school programs for youth.

Sarah Heinz House Chief Executive Officer Demeshia Seals notes Sarah Heinz House met with HACP staff recently to discuss how the organization could reach the 800 youth at Northview Heights that were not being served by an after-school program.

They are currently averaging 30 to 40 Northview Heights kids each week and Seals hopes more will start attending.

Seals adds the program mirrors Sarah Heinz House's mission to empower youth, "especially those that need us the most."

The Sarah Heinz House, located on the Northside, has been providing a haven for Pittsburgh youth for more than 12 decades, with programs that are "designed to inspire children and keep them engaged, interested, and active," its website reads.

Christine Nguyen, Senior Program Director- STEAM at Sarah Heinz House, says she enjoys getting to know the kids at Northview Heights. She brings various art projects and technology for the youth to experience every Monday.

Her colleagues – Yasir Al Salih, Program Director of Sports and Healthy Choices, and Luke Badaczewski, Licensed Social Worker and Boys' Residential Camp Program Director – play different games with the youth each Wednesday, such as volleyball, GaGa Ball, and kickball.

"Building relationships is important," Nguyen says of the programs Sarah Heinz offers. "I believe in STEAM; I believe everyone should be able to try everything."

HACP Resident Opportunities & Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) Community Program Liaison TaShawna Patterson says, "I have had the pleasure of witnessing firsthand the positive impact the Sarah Heinz House 360 Youth Empowerment program has had on the youth of Northview Heights. From fostering a safe and supportive environment to providing enriching and engaging activities, every aspect of the program reflects dedication, creativity, and care."

Patterson adds the Sarah Heinz House stepped in when the HACP was struggling to find a provider to offer quality and consistent youth programming, and even gave every child a membership to their Northside facility.

"The RSS department would like to extend the deepest gratitude to Chief Executive Officer Demeshia Seals and SHH staff for the exceptional work they do," she adds.

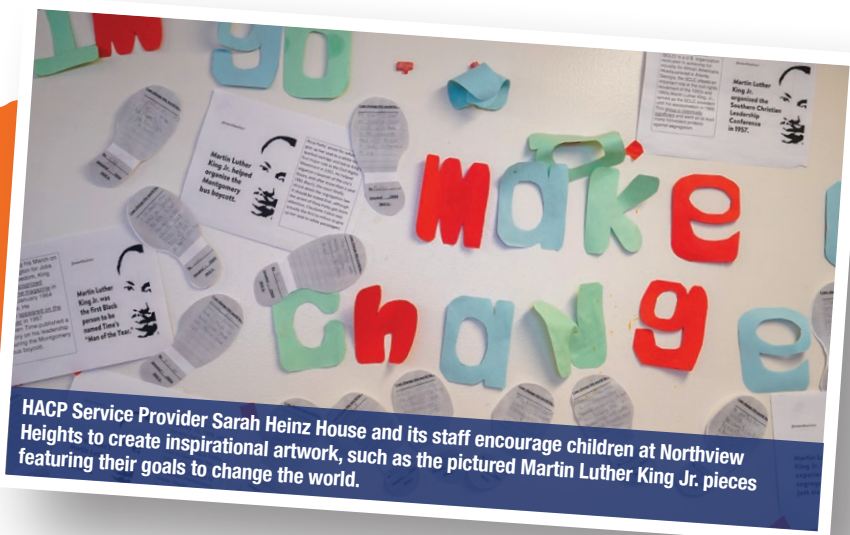
The Sarah Heinz House serves roughly 1,500 youth, ages 6 to 18, each year between its after-school programming and summer camps. The facility houses a robotics lab, swimming pool, gym, and game room. Students receive homework help, and can attend two free classes per grade level, along with a hot meal and two free snacks.

The Sarah Heinz House also serves as a senior fitness center and will soon offer regular senior center hours to Pittsburgh's older population. It also recently launched intergenerational STEAM programs for the whole family, sponsored by Comcast.

Seals, her staff, and the Sarah Heinz Board of Directors were eager to provide their programs at Northview Heights and hope to expand their offerings to other HACP youth.

“Building relationships is important,” Nguyen says of the programs Sarah Heinz offers. “I believe in STEAM; I believe everyone should be able to try everything.”

— Christine Nguyen, Senior Program Director- STEAM



HACP Service Provider Sarah Heinz House and its staff encourage children at Northview Heights to create inspirational artwork, such as the pictured Martin Luther King Jr. pieces featuring their goals to change the world.

"I can't say enough about how responsive HACP, and TaShawna in particular, were with getting this program at Northview Heights started," Seals says. "She really made it her business to make this happen."

She adds she doesn't view this solely as a partnership with the HACP, but rather another way the Sarah Heinz House can serve more children.

"I really hope more partnerships with other organizations will come of this. I feel if other providers saw this, they would join us; I feel it's more sustainable with more providers. The kids are the ones who lose out if we can't figure out our problems."

For more information on youth programming at the HACP, visit: <https://hacp.org/programs-services>.

For more information on the Sarah Heinz House, visit: <https://www.sarahheinzhouse.org>.



Christine Nguyen, Senior STEAM Director with the Sarah Heinz House, works with Northview Heights children to teach teamwork and leadership skills through arts and crafts.

One of our Northview Heights residents learns the technology involved to operate a drone through the Sarah Heinz House after-school program.



100 Years Young: Ms. Emma Alper of Murray Towers Celebrates Milestone Birthday

HACP's own Ms. Emma Alper has a lot to celebrate.

The sweet "mom for us all" became a centenarian on May 5, 2024, and was honored by her extended family and friends.

HACP also held a celebration for Ms. Alper on May 16, 2024, in the community room at Murray Towers, complete with cake, snacks, balloons, fellowship, and music.

Ms. Alper emigrated to Pittsburgh from Russia in 1993, fleeing antisemitism during perestroika (restructuring). She has lived at Murray Towers since she came to the U.S. She credits her longevity to genetics, her family, and living in America, a country she says takes better care of its older residents. "I feel good!" she says of turning 100.

Ms. Alper was born on May 5, 1924, in Orsha, a city in Vitebsk Region, Belarus, a daughter of the late Haya and Moishe (Moses) Alper. She is the youngest of four children – brothers, Mulya and Haim, and sister, Tanya – and is the only living immediate family member. Ms. Alper studied dentistry at a college in Chelyabinsk, and practiced in Russia for 48 years. Music is also in her blood. She studied in Russia, and still plays the piano today.

When Ms. Alper was 21, she met her future husband, the late Efim Ryzhik. They were married two months later in July 1946. The couple has two children – Lina (Ryzhik) Eydinova and Alik (Alex) Ryzhik, one granddaughter, and two great-grandchildren.

Ms. Alper says she felt courageous for coming to America, "the real country for opportunities." She continues to enjoy cooking delicious Russian staples, reading literature, taking walks, playing the piano, and listening to classical music.



Ms. Alper, Pittsburgh City Councilwoman Barb Warwick, and Ms. Alper's son, Alex Ryzhik, pose for a photo after Mrs. Warwick issued a proclamation naming May 16, 2024, Ms. Emma Alper Day during Ms. Alper's birthday celebration in Murray Towers.



Ms. Emma Alper of Murray Towers smiles as she is presented with a crown and banner for reaching her milestone 100th birthday during a celebration at Murray Towers in May.

Ms. Alper says she enjoys living at Murray Towers because everyone is very friendly, and the community is clean. Alex and Lina say they are very happy to have their mother at their age (73 and 77, respectively).

"To have my mother is a real blessing," adds Lina. "She's the best mother in the world," exclaims Alex.

Happy birthday and congratulations, Ms. Alper!

To read the full Press Release, please visit: <https://hacp.org/100-years-young-ms-emma-alper-of-murray-towers-celebrates-milestone-birthday>.

HACP set to Expand Workforce Programming through Partnership with Master Builders' Association & New Mobile Workforce Development Initiative

Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP) residents will soon be able to lay the foundation for a stronger future thanks to an innovative partnership with the Master Builders' Association of Western Pennsylvania (MBA) and an addition to the HACP's resident programming set to roll into Pittsburgh in 2025 – the Workforce on Wheels CyberBus 2.0 – a mobile one-stop shop for HACP residents seeking to enter the workforce.

The partnership is aimed at bringing current workforce development opportunities among the 16 building trades unions in the Greater Pittsburgh Region, directly to HACP residents ages 18 and older and leading to well-paying union positions in trades such as plumbing, bricklaying, roofing and much more.

"At MBA we have identified workforce development as a key priority for our association. In 2023, we launched BuildWPA.org to help our members attract and retain skilled talent," says Lance Harrell, Director of Workforce Development, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion for the Master Builders' Association of Western PA. "Partnering with HACP on this mobile workforce development initiative dovetails perfectly with our goals to support our members, help expand the region's economy and connect HACP residents with a great career in the trades."

"Workforce development is paramount to what we do as a Housing Authority," says HACP Executive Director Caster D. Binion. "We're committed to removing any and every potential hurdle for our residents during their efforts to achieve self-sufficiency."

The HACP and MBA are committed to highlighting pathways to family-sustaining wages and benefits, along with life-changing careers, for residents of the City of Pittsburgh.

"Our overall goal with this partnership is to make sure we are connecting those who want the opportunity to get into a trade

and complete their certification with the right program so that they have the opportunity to achieve self-sufficiency," Lloyd C. Wilson Jr., HACP's Resident Employment Program/Section 3 Coordinator, says. "It's breaking ground to help them create a foundation for the future."

In conjunction with the partnership, the HACP is anxiously awaiting the addition of its Workforce on Wheels (W.O.W.) CyberBus 2.0 in mid-2025. Through this initiative, HACP's Resident Employment Program will provide mobile support services to its 2,200 public housing units located throughout the City of Pittsburgh, offering residents access to a variety of employment-related supports.

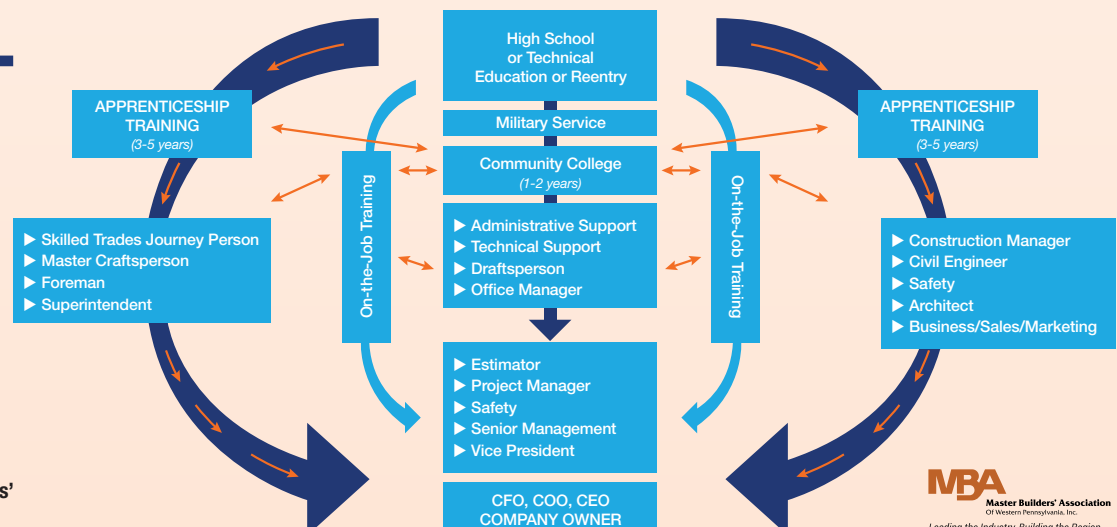
Services will include access and assistance with job searches; resume building, interview prep, access to telehealth services, and support through the pre-employment process. It will also introduce residents to careers within the 16 building trades unions.

"HACP has taken a great step to enhance opportunities for our city's public housing residents seeking good-paying jobs in our trades," adds Mayor Ed Gainey. "This new addition will provide access to residents on-site to learn skills that will positively impact both them and their families, as well as the communities they live in."

For more information, contact Michelle Sandidge, HACP's Chief Community Affairs Officer, at: 412-812-5545, or Lance Harrell at: 412-922-3912.

Additional information may also be obtained by visiting HACP's website at: <https://hacp.org/hacp-set-to-expand-workforce-programming-through-partnership-with-master-builders-association-new-mobile-workforce-development-initiative>, or MBA's website at: www.mbawpa.org.

Build Your CONSTRUCTION CAREER PATH For The Future



Graphic provided by the Master Builders' Association of Western Pennsylvania.

MBA
Master Builders' Association
Of Western Pennsylvania, Inc.
Leading the Industry, Building the Region

The Sky(scraper)'s the Limit with HACP, PPS' New Carpentry Co-Op Program



Caleb Bush and Mason Maxwell, students of HACP's new Carpentry Co-Op Program, get ready to tackle their day in the Bedford carpenters' shop.



Caleb Bush, a student in the new Carpentry Co-Op Program, learns how to remove floor tile in a Bedford Dwellings apartment unit.



Mason Maxwell, a student in HACP's new Carpentry Co-Op Program, cuts some wood in the Bedford carpenters' shop.

Pittsburgh area high schoolers are learning valuable hands-on skills through the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh's (HACP) new Carpentry Co-Op Program, in partnership with Pittsburgh Public Schools.

The program, launched in early March 2024, is led by Misty Clark, Senior Project Manager in HACP's Central Facilities Management. She helped two students enrolled in Carrick High School's Career & Technical Education Carpentry Program, Caleb Bush and Mason Maxwell, who completed the program in May.

"The type of learning provided through the CTE program in Pittsburgh Public Schools is a great addition that many students are not able to receive in their classrooms," says Mayor Ed Gainey. "What's being taught, and, more importantly, how it's being taught, will create an influx of young talent in the workforce ultimately making our local economy richer and more diverse."

Clark taught Caleb and Mason three days a week. Work was done in Bedford Dwellings – both in HACP's carpenter's shop and in some units.

With Clark's expertise, Caleb and Mason gained real-world experience that will help them upon entering the Carpenters' Union as commercial carpenters.

Caleb says he was looking into different programs that he may be interested in, and opted to enroll in carpentry.

"I started liking it over the years, and I've made a lot of friends through it," he says.

Mason says he studied carpentry at Carrick for three years, and his interest started when he was young.

"My dad was a contractor who did his own work, building decks and drywall, and that made me want to do it myself," he says.

Both Caleb and Mason agree the Carpentry Co-Op expanded their knowledge and hands-on experience.

"We can only do so much at school," Mason notes. "This expands what we do there. Mrs. Clark is really nice and cool, and she treats us well. She shows us things we didn't know."

"Mrs. Clark also teaches us little helpful tips and tricks that will prepare us for the union," adds Caleb.

Caleb and Mason both enjoy building things from scratch, especially seeing the finished product.

Clark has worked for HACP since 2005, and enjoys making tenants happy and working together with fellow staff as a team.

She says she is excited to grow the program and continue teaching students the ins and outs of carpentry.

"Hopefully, the Housing Authority can hire one or more of the students one day," she adds.

Kristen Johnson, Cooperative Education Coordinator with Pittsburgh Public Schools' Career & Technical Education program, says the program is better than she could have imagined.

"Misty has been exceptionally organized and helpful. She has put a lot of thought and effort into making sure the students are having an excellent experience and gaining new skills. She has been in constant communication with me, as well making sure that we are all doing what is in the best interest of the students," she says.

Pittsburgh Public Schools students interested in the Carpentry Co-Op Program should contact Kristen Johnson at: 412-757-2184 or via email at: kjohnson1@pghschools.org.

For the full press release, please visit: <https://hacp.org/the-skyscrapers-the-limit-with-hacp-pps-new-carpentry-co-op-program>.

The (W.O.W.) CyberBus Hits the Road!

This spring, the HACP (W.O.W.) CyberBus team visited Detroit during the NFL Draft to promote digital literacy initiatives along with the Jerome Bettis Bus Stops Here Foundation. The CyberBus visited Boys & Girls Clubs in the metro area to promote our mobile STEM learning program, giving more youth and adults the tools they need to score big by bridging the digital divide.

While we were in town, we gave Mr. Michael Polsinelli, the Detroit Field Office Director of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Redevelopment, a tour of the CyberBus and outlined HACP's digital literacy initiatives.

On Juneteenth, the CyberBus made a stop at Camp Batch, the Best of the Batch Foundation's summer programming. We had a blast participating in STEM week alongside Jerome Bettis and the Steelers' rookie class.

To learn more about the (W.O.W.) CyberBus program, visit: <https://hacp.org/programs-services/mobile-computing-lab/wow>.



The CyberBus received a special visit from Michael Polsinelli, Field Office Director of the HUD Detroit Field Office, while visiting Detroit in April. HACP staff provided a tour of the CyberBus while sharing our digital literacy initiatives with students.



The CyberBus at Camp Batch alongside Jerome Bettis and the Steelers rookie team.



W.O.W. CyberBus Computer Program Assistant Brandon Hamilton poses for a photo with children in Detroit who stopped in to learn some coding.



The HACP W.O.W. CyberBus staff introduced its digital technology services to children in Detroit during the NFL Draft in April.



HACP Chief Community Affairs Officer Michelle Sandidge gives tablets to children of the Boys & Girls Club in Detroit during the NFL Draft in April.



HACP staff, service providers, organizations begin summer of Community Health Awareness Days

HACP welcomed the return of its Community Health Awareness Days in June at Homewood North, continuing our commitment to the wellbeing of our residents.

Events have also been held for residents at Northview Heights, Arlington Heights, and Allegheny Dwellings. The last summer event will be at Bedford Dwellings, from 1 to 4 p.m., Friday, Aug. 23, in the Chauncey Drive Parking Lot.

Each Community Health Awareness Day gathering provides HACP residents with important information pertaining to health care, such as mental and behavioral health, education, and human services.

“Community Health Awareness Days remind us every year of the importance of community. Community is at the epicenter of what we do at HACP. Being in the midst of the neighborhoods, with service providers and with our residents is fun, but it’s also a reminder that our mission is not possible without togetherness,” HACP Resident Opportunities & Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) Community Program Liaison TaShawna Patterson says. “At HACP, we don’t just get people housing; we build a support network for our residents and communities to holistically address their needs. Community Health Awareness Days are our annual reminder that it truly takes a village.”

Some vendors and service providers in attendance at the Homewood North event include: Highmark Wholecare Foundation, Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church’s Outreach Ministries, Southwestern PA Region 13 Task Force, Vintage



Josh Pusateri and Karen Garrett of HACP's ROSS Department are all smiles while manning the HACP table at the Homewood North Community Health Awareness Day in June.

Allegheny Health Network and the Highmark Wholecare Foundation offer free vaccines and health screenings during the Homewood North Community Health Awareness Day in June.



Pat Briggs of HACP's ROSS Department and Michelle Sandidge of HACP's Community Affairs Department pose with Michael Horvath, HUD Pittsburgh Field Office Director, and Aaryn Griggs of the Garfield Jubilee Association/YouthBuild PGH during the Homewood North Community Health Awareness Day in June.

Senior Services, YouthBuild Pittsburgh/Garfield Jubilee Association, UPMC For You, Allegheny County Health Department, Area Agency on Aging, Ursuline Support Services, Gwen's Girls-Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire High Utilizer and Community Engagement Program, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America of Greater Pittsburgh, Center for Victims, and Catalyst Academy Charter School.

Activities included tours of the HACP W.O.W. CyberBus and the Reading Is FUNdamental Pittsburgh Story Mobile, games, food, and fellowship with neighbors.

Michael Horvath, Director of the HUD Pittsburgh Field Office, also joined in on the fun.

Aaryn Griggs, Recruitment and Outreach Specialist with the Garfield Jubilee Association says the Homewood North event was a beautiful day with lots of participation, and they look forward to attending future Community Health Awareness Days.



Homewood North residents enjoy the offerings at the June 27 Community Health Awareness Day.



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Executive Director
Caster D. Binion

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Public Safety Reminders for all HACP Residents

The HACP Public Safety Department has issued a few reminders for all residents in order to keep our communities safe.

- As we are in the warmer season, we expect a higher rate of guests to visit friends and family in the HACP communities.
- **A friendly reminder:** It is mandatory to provide a valid state ID when entering the property for all residents and guests. By showing a valid state ID, it helps the Housing Authority provide a safe and secure environment in the communities. All guests are required to follow the standard guidelines and the rules set by HACP.

The Public Safety Department wishes you a happy and safe summer!

- HACP now has a Bully Hotline number: 412-471-2275 to anonymously report any criminal activity or bullying. Your property manager also offers Silent Complaint Forms.
- Public Safety also wants to offer a friendly reminder to all tenants that vehicles can be towed if they pose a hazard, such as, but not limited to, leaking fluids, out-of-date vehicle registration and/or inspection, and if they are parked illegally.

For more information on the HACP Public Safety Department, please visit: <https://hacp.org/programs-services/public-safety>.