

SMHA OFFICES HOURS

Monday- Friday 9AM- 11AM & 2PM-4PM

SMHA CLOSED

December 25, 2020; January 1, 2021; & January 18, 2021

**MEET YOUR
RESIDENT
SERVICES TEAM:****Resident Services
Department**

Milistine Tatum
Director of Resident
Services &
Community Affairs
(330) 454-8051 ext.
318

Grace Berry
Service Coordinator at
Alliance Tower
(330)-823-5120

Tyana Chambers
Community Health
Worker
(330)-454-8051
ext.386

Johnnise Kimbrough
Resident Services
Assistant
(330)-454-8051 ext.
309

Melanie Singhaus
Coordinator of
Resident Services
(330)-454-8051
ext.327

Vonda Traylor
FSS Coordinator
(330)-454-8051
ext.365

Welcome, Vonda!

A native of Akron, Ohio, Vonda graduated from the University of Akron with a B.A. in Social Work and a Masters Public Administration (MPA). She is a licensed Social Worker. She was hired by Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority as a Hope VI Case Manager and later became the Family Self Sufficiency Service Coordinator where she was able to encourage, work with and motivate residents towards self-sufficiency and escrow savings! She is an advocate for affordable housing and a believer in the Family Self Sufficiency Program. With over 9 years of Public Housing experience, she looks forward to bringing the same energy to SMHA!

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

Fresh trees are less likely to catch fire, so look for a tree with vibrant green needles that are hard to pluck and don't break easily from its branches. The tree shouldn't be shedding its needles readily.

Always place your tree away from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights, and keep the tree base filled with water to avoid a dry out.

Make sure all your indoor and outdoor Christmas lights have been tested in a lab by the UL or ETL/ITSNA for safety, and throw out any damaged lights.

Any lights you use outdoors must be labeled suitable for exterior placement, and be sure to plug them into a ground-fault circuit interrupter protected receptacle.

Keep all your holiday candles away from your Christmas tree, surrounding furniture and décor. Bedtime means lights off! - Don't forget to turn your Christmas tree lights off each night.

How Reasonable is that Accommodation?

Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority's Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy ("ACOP"); specifically Section E: Service and Accommodations Policy, explains that a request for reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities will be granted upon verification that the request is related to the disability. Reasonable accommodation requests; however, may be denied if providing the accommodation is not reasonable. Reasonable accommodation requests or modifications that impose an undue financial and administrative burden on SMHA or that would fundamentally alter the nature of SMHA's programs or pose a direct threat to the health and safety of others may be denied. To determine if a reasonable accommodation request would be an undue financial and administrative burden various factors are taken into consideration such as:

- The cost of the requested accommodation
- The financial resources of the provider
- The benefits that the accommodation would provide to the requestor
- The availability of alternative accommodations that would effectively meet the requestor's disability-related needs.

In addition, a request is considered a fundamental alteration if the request alters the essential nature of SMHA's operations. For example, a tenant who has severe mobility impairment that significantly limits her ability to walk requests that SMHA transport her to her doctor's appointments as a reasonable accommodation.

Transportation is not a part of the housing benefits that SMHA provides to residents. Therefore, granting this request is a fundamental alteration in the nature of the provider's operations and can be denied. Further, if a resident's behavior leads to eviction proceedings because she has been hitting another resident, it is considered a direct threat of harm and her reasonable accommodation request can be denied.

**To view and access available reasonable accommodation forms please
visit: www.starkmha.org/forms**

If you have questions or concerns regarding your rights under Section 504, please feel free to call me, Corey Minor Smith, at 234-214-4262 or Megan Velain at 234-214-4288.

Corey & Meagan

