SMHA
STARK METROPOLITAN HOUSING AUTHORITY

RESIDENT SERVICES NEWSLETTER

MAY 2021

HEALTH & WELLNESS

COVID Vaccine Clinic—May 7th

SMHA will be partnering with the *Ohio Department of Aging and the Army National Guard* to host a COVID Clinic for residents of SMHA. The hosts locations are Cherry Turner from 9:00 am – 11:30 am and Jackson Sherrick from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Call Amy at Ext. 309 to make your reservation for the Moderna Vaccine (ages 18 years and older).

YMCA: *Y on the Fly*

Y on the Fly has a free program for students in grades 1-5 and will be at the following locations: Jackson Sherrick on Mondays and Tuesdays from 4:00-5:30 pm & Ellisdale on Thursdays and Fridays from 4:00-5:30 pm. Participants will receive a snack. All activities are outdoors with social distancing protocols in place.

The YMCA has reduced membership fees for residents of SMHA. Memberships are available for seniors, families, single adult, and youth. Call Amy at Ext. 309 for more information.

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Making the Time to Show Thanks

Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority's mission is to provide eligible residents of Stark County with decent, safe, and affordable housing and contribute to nourishing neighborhoods by working in partnership with the public and private sectors.

SMHA assists over 4,000 families in Stark County and we take pride in our residents and our work. Thank you to our residents for all that you do to make our community a better place.

HERMAN L. HILL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FAMILY INFORMATION

EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

If you are struggling to pay your rent due to the pandemic, the *Department of Job & Family Services and Stark County Community Action Agency* can help! Please be aware that you cannot apply for assistance for months in which you already received assistance from another community or government agency. There must also be verification of a COVID related hardship. Contact Job & Family Services at 330.451.RENT or Community Action at 330.454.1676 Option 6 for more information.

BUS PASSES

Residents without transportation and who are working and/or in school or in a job training program, can receive a bus pass to get back and forth to work and/or school. Bus passes will be given out on a limited bases and there's an application along with documentation that must be provided to qualify. Contact Amy at Ext.309 to get your bus pass.

HOUSEKEEPING SUPPLIES

Resident Services has cleaning supplies for residents who have failed their inspection. Contact your manager for a referral and you will also receive a housekeeping manual. Call Melanie at Ext. 327 with any questions.

Resident Spotlight Ms. Tiffany Ford

SMHA is pleased to spotlight Ms. Tiffany Ford. Tiffany is a resident at one of our Scattered Sites properties in Massillon. She is the proud mother of 3. Currently, she is employed as an Employment Navigator/Community Coordinator with the Greater Stark County Urban League. Her primary role is to assist those in underserved communities with job readiness, secure living wage employment, and navigate through barriers to retain employment and access to community resources and safety nets. Tiffany has an Associate Degree in Business Management with a minor in Sociology.

As a resident, Tiffany has participated in many programs at SMHA: Stark Pathways to Success; Housekeeping Program; Section 3 Training (Clerical/Administrative track); and the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program. The skills she learned in the Section 3 training are still being used today. She loves the FSS program because of the escrow component, which works as a savings program that can be used for homeownership, continued savings, etc. More importantly, Tiffany feels the support of the FSS staff who want her to succeed and be accountable for her goals.

Tiffany's hobbies include shopping reading autobiographies and biographies, and watching Forensic Files on YouTube!

HEALTH & WELLNESS *(Continued from Page 1)*

NUTRITION

Save the Date: *Summer Lunch Program* at Ellisdale, Jackson Sherrick, and Linwood from June 1 thru August 13. Fliers with detailed information will be mailed and emailed soon.

Stark Fresh Mobile Market thru May 27 will have fresh produce and vegetables for residents of Alliance Towers on Thursdays from 1:00-2:00 p.m. More locations and dates will be available in the summer.

Positive Path Ministries, Inc. will be providing Blessings in a Backpack to children who reside at Ellisdale and Leshdale. Children will receive weekend meals throughout the summer. A flier will be delivered to all families at Ellisdale and Leshdale with more information on how you can sign up.

RESIDENT SERVICES (330) 454-8051

Milistine Tatum, MPA
Director, Resident Services
Ext. 318

Amanda Jackson
Community Health Worker
Ext. 386

Amy Lorenzano
Resident Services Assistant
Ext. 309

Melanie Singhaus, LSW Resident Services Coordinator Ext.327

Vonda Traylor, LSW, MPA
Family Sulf-Sufficiency Coordinator Coordinator Ext.365

Service Coordinator
Alliance Towers
(330) 823-5120

Invest In YOU!
TAKING THE NEXT STEP TO FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE

FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY (FSS) PROGRAM

The Family Self Sufficiency Program May Be For You...

- Want to work on improving your credit score?
- Need to learn how to budget?
- Need a better paying job?
- Want to move towards homeownership?

Contact Vonda Traylor at 330.454.8051 ext. 365 or vtraylor@starkmha.org for more information on how you can reach your Self Sufficiency Goals!

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCES

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

If you are a resident that is or has been a victim of domestic violence please know that you are able to request an emergency transfer based on the protections afforded to public housing residents pursuant to the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 ("VAWA"). The 2021 version is pending. The Violence Against Women Act provides protections for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking. These protections are available equally to all individuals regardless of sex, gender identity or sexual orientation. If you have any questions, concerns, or would like more information about VAWA protections, please contact your Asset Manager or SMHA's Legal Department at 234-214-4288.

Sincerely,
Corey, Meagan and Nicole

Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority wants you to know that if you are experiencing domestic violence, you are not alone. We are here for you.

Domestic Violence Project, Inc.
P.O. Box 9459, Canton OH 44711-9459

Phone: 330-445-2000

24-Hour Confidential Hotline: 330-453-7233

Fax: 330-445-2007

Stark County Domestic Violence Collaborative

www.starkcountyohio.gov/domestic-violence/agency-involvement (SMHA is a member)

National Domestic Violence Hotline: Provides 24- hour support through advocacy, safety planning, resources and hope to everyone affected by domestic violence. 1-800-799-SAFE (7233), 1-800-787-3224 (TTY)

For tenants who are or have been victims of stalking seeking help may visit the National Center for Victims of Crime's Stalking Resource Center at

www.victimsofcrime.org/stalking-resource-center/

Stark Help Central

ww.starkhelpcentral.corn/dornestic-violencesupport
Hotline: (330) 453-SAFE (7233)

PACE Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter

P.O. Box 3622
Alliance, OH 44601
(330) 823-7223

www.alliancedornestic violenceshelter.com

Ohio Domestic Violence
Network: 800-934-9840
(Provides 24/7 Support)

Contact the Safe at Home Office

P.O. Box 16395
Columbus, OH 43216
(614) 995-2255

www.ohiosos.gov/secret ary-office/officeinitiatives/safe-at-horne/

Milistine Taturn, MPA
Director, SMHA Resident Services and Community Affairs

400 E. Tuscarawas St.
Canton, OH. 44702
330.454.8051 Ext 318
mtatum@starkmha.org

If you have any questions regarding SMHA's VA WA procedures, please contact the Legal Department:

Corey: 234-214-4262 or cmsmith@starkmha.org

Meagan: 234-214-4288 or mvelain@starkmha.org

Nicole: 234-214-4205 or nrobinson@starkmha.org

UPCOMING CAPITAL FUND PROJECTS

Gage Garden Renovation Project: Interior and exterior rehabilitation of 54 units of family housing in Canton NE. This project was awarded to the A. Morgan Building Group for roughly $3.4 M and is planned to start in the summer of 2021.

Pike Renovation Project: Interior and exterior rehabilitation of 39 units of family housing in Alliance. This project is estimated at roughly $5 M and the work is planned to be bid in the summer of 2021.

Lincoln UFAS Project: This project includes modifying 6 units in Massillon to conform to handicap accessibility requirements. The project is estimated at roughly $400,000 and the work is planned to be bid late summer to early fall 2021.

Portfolio-wide Elevator Modernization Project: This is an on-going project that is currently still in the planning phase and will address the replacement and repair of SMHA's elevator needs.

Turner Tower Elevator Replacement Project: Complete replacement of two elevators at Cherrie Turner Towers in Canton NW. The $560,000 project has been awarded to Lakeland Management Systems with work to begin in the summer of 2021.