

LAKE METROPOLITAN HOUSING AUTHORITY QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

F O U R T H Q U A R T E R 2 0 0 8

W o o d l a w n H o m e s H o l i d a y E v e n t W e l l A t t e n d e d !

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The Lake Metropolitan Housing Authority sponsored a Holiday Event for the residents of Woodlawn Homes and their children on December 19, 2008 in the Community Room. Members of the LMHA Management team worked diligently the previous week to make all of the arrangements for the event. Families were required to R.S.V.P so that a gift could be purchased by the agency for each child in attendance. Local businesses, including the Giant Eagle in Madison, Attorney Richard Hennig, Family Dollar, Sam's Club, and Redi-Go, showed their support by providing food and supplies for the event or offering monetary donations towards the purchase of toys and other gifts. In addition, Chester's Legacy Tavern provided two gift certificates that were raffled off to families. Executive Director, Steven Knotts, was thrilled to wear Reindeer antlers and hand out gifts under the Holiday Tree!



Children with their gifts in front of the Holiday tree

Cindy Brooks, Chairperson of LMHA's Board, also volunteered her time on site.

During the event children had the opportunity to decorate their own Holiday stocking and Christmas cookie while their parents listened to Holiday music and socialized. As noted above, the Holiday Party culminated with the passing out of presents which were eagerly opened by the happy children. Given that over 50 children were present, the agency plans to sponsor this event again next year!



Executive Director Steven Knotts with Chairperson Cindy Brooks



FOURTH QUARTER 2008

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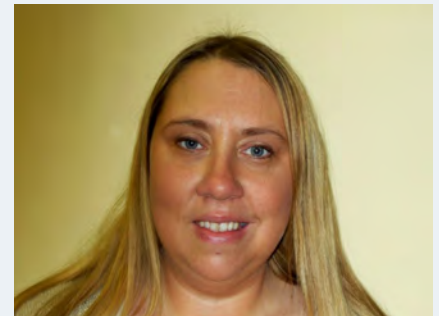
LMHA administers housing assistance for Lake County, Ohio through two federal housing programs, the Housing Choice Voucher Program (formerly known as Section 8) and the Public Housing Program. These programs offer low-income households the opportunity to rent or own affordable, decent, and safe housing. More importantly, they provide these households a stable living environment so that our clients may live securely and work towards their own economic self-sufficiency.

Employee Spotlight: Amber Martin's Story

At the young age of 19, I became a “statistical” teenage mom. I gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, and entered into a whole new world of adulthood. As a single 19-year old, I did not have the financial ability to be an “adult.” I had a job waitressing and worked well over 40 hours/week, but still could not pay my rent, grocery, daycare, or utility bills. I heard about the Section 8 Program at LMHA, and headed right down to the Admin. Office to apply for assistance. I vividly remember the day I received my voucher, and it felt as if the whole world was lifted off my shoulders. I was also referred by my caseworker to other wonderful programs such as WIC and ODJFS, and was able to receive assistance from these agencies. I was able to catch up on my bills, and clearly would not have been able to do so without the assistance of all of these programs. The Section 8 Program paid the

majority of my rent, leaving me with an additional \$500/month for bills. ODJFS provided me with low-cost daycare and food stamps so that my family could eat well. After one year on the program I decided to go to college full-time and work fewer hours.

Within 5 years I was welfare and assistance-free. I graduated from Lakeland Community College with honors with my Associate’s Degree in Accounting. Now I work as the Finance Director of LMHA. Working for the agency that assisted me has allowed me to no longer be “just a statistic” and has been extremely rewarding. I can honestly say that I may not have made it this far without the assistance of these wonderful programs and the awesome people working at those agencies. I am now married, with 3 girls and 3 step-children, and a proud owner of a Habitat for Humanity Home.



Amber Martin, Finance Director

I acknowledge that my story is one of the many success stories that the “system” can produce, and sincerely hope that many others will utilize these programs to better themselves. The Section 8 Program helped turn my “statistical” life into a dream, and I wish to thank the agencies and people who helped me to mature and prosper.

Steven K. Knotts, Executive Director, wishes to acknowledge that Amber is a valuable asset to LMHA’s Management Team.

Lisa M. Schneckenburger Hired as New HCV Manager

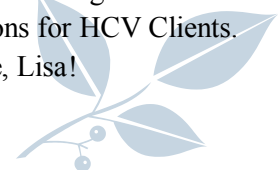


Lisa M. Schneckenburger

Lisa M. Schneckenburger started her career at LMHA as HCV Manager on Nov. 11, 2008. She has completed 102 credits at the

University of Akron. She previously worked at Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority for 10 years, holding positions as Contract Specialist, Auditor for the Assisted Housing Services Corporation, Certification Specialist, Occupancy Clerk, and Client Service Representative. In her role as Auditor, she determined property compliance with HUD rules and regulations, prepared detailed reports to advise owners of compliance issues, and recommended corrective actions to

ensure compliance with regulations. As Certification Specialist, she conducted annual and interim re-examinations of income and assets for HCV participants, maintained tenant files, prepared rent increases for HCV units, ensured that payments were properly processed for participating landlords and HCV clients, and completed Social Security matching for fraud investigations for HCV Clients. Welcome, Lisa!



LMHA Employee 5- and 10-Year Anniversaries

Beginning with this Edition of the Newsletter, LMHA Management wishes to formally acknowledge the five and ten-year anniversary dates reached by the agency's

employees.

Therefore, at this time we would like to formally recognize the ten-year milestone achieved by Gretchen Molnar, HCV

Program Interviewer, who began working at LMHA on 04/16/08.

Thank you, Gretchen, for your dedicated service to LMHA!



LMHA Holiday Party at Chester's

2009 PHADA Scholarship Information Available

2009 PHADA Scholarship applications are now available for all high-school Seniors residing in our Public Housing or Assisted Housing units. These scholarships, which are being offered via the Public Housing Authorities Directors Associa-

tion (PHADA) Scholarship Program, will be awarded to three deserving students.

We are requesting that all application materials be submitted to LMHA no later than Friday, January 9, 2009.

Qualified clients can download a copy of the application by visiting www.phada.org.

Otherwise, they may contact the Housing Choice Voucher or Public Housing Program Manager to request this information.



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE TELEPHONE NUMBER: (440) 354-3347

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ADMINISTRATION			
Name	Position	Telephone Number	Electronic Address
Steven Knotts	Executive Director	440-354-3347 x. 18	Sknotts@lakemetrohousing.org
Stephanie Alexandrou	Assistant Director	440-354-3347 x. 28	Salexandrou@lakemetrohousing.org
Diane Smith	Applications Clerk	440-354-3347 x. 10	

HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM			
Name	Position	Telephone Number	Electronic Address
Lisa M. Schneckenburger	HCV Manager	440-354-3347 x. 29	Lschneckenburger@lakemetrohousing.org
Melissa Martin	HCV/PH Coordinator	440-354-3347 x. 13	
Debbie Ferree	FSS Coordinator	440-354-3347 x. 23	
Tammy Wetherbee	FSS Coordinator	440-354-3347 x. 24	
Phil Fulgenzi	HCV Inspector	440-354-3347 x. 16	
Bob Webster	HCV Inspector	440-354-3347 x. 12	

HCV Interviewers	Client Names	Telephone Number	
Holly Hanna	A - HAF	440-354-3347 x. 11	
Gretchen Molnar	HAH - PAT	440-354-3347 x. 20	
Jackie Petri	PEA - Z	440-354-3347 x. 26	

FINANCE			
Name	Position	Telephone Number	Electronic Address
Amber Martin	Finance Director	440-354-3347 x. 25	Amartin@lakemetrohousing.org
Debbie Griswold	Contract Administrator	440-354-3347 x. 21	
Shirley Walker	Finance Assitant	440-354-3347 x. 14	

PUBLIC HOUSING			
Name	Position	Telephone Number	Electronic Address
Erica Peavy	Public Housing Manager	440-354-3347 x. 30	Epeavy@lakemetrohousing.org
Linda Ilacqua	Public Housing Assistant	440-354-3347 x. 17	

MAINTENANCE / OPERATIONS			
Name	Position	Telephone Number	Electronic Address
John Cirelli	Operations Manager	440-354-3347 x. 27	Jcirelli@lakemetrohousing.org
Romualdas Andrusaitis	Live-In Custodian (JT)		
Frank Bedenk	Maintenance Mechanic		
Raymond Bittner	Assistant Maint. Mechanic		
Chris Butler	Maintenance Mechanic		
Richard Ziemak	Maintenance Mechanic		
Ollie Leisure	Live-In Custodian (WS)		