



Ohio Multi-County Development Corporation

www.omcdc.org

# A Place To Call HOME

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

SUMMER 2009

## Did you know?

**Startling statistics show the need for affordable housing**

The number of households estimated to be paying more than 50% of their incomes toward housing is **17.7 million**. *See source below.*

Only **1 in 4 people** who are eligible for housing assistance receive some type of housing subsidy. *See source below.*

The dwindling number of subsidized housing units is leaving many homeless people on **waiting lists**, often years in length.

At a recent city wide housing program designed to inform and assist homeless individuals find housing, OMCDC took in nearly **100 applications**, far exceeding the number of openings. The wait list grows exponentially each year.

Incomes are not keeping pace with rising housing costs.

In 2007, the national housing wage, or hourly wage needed to afford rental housing, increased to **\$17.32** (up from \$16.31), beyond the means of many low income renters. *See Source below.*

Sources: 1 Joint Center for Housing Studies (JCHS). Harvard University 2008. *The State of the Nation's Housing*. 2 Rice, D. and Sard, B. *The Effects of the Federal Budget Squeeze on Low Income Housing Assistance*. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. February 2, 2007. 3 National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC).

## OMCDC expands into Holmes County



In July 2009, the Ohio Multi-County Development Corporation will open Robin's Terrace — a new housing project designed for the senior population.

The 12-unit building is located in the city of Millersburg and features one bedroom apartments and a community room for senior citizen tenants. One unit has been designated a handicap unit and incorporates universal designs such as modified bathroom and kitchen fixtures in order to facilitate greater independence of its occupant.

Robin's Terrace was made possible through funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. OMCDC looks forward to providing Holmes County seniors with a housing choice that is safe, affordable and beautiful. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on July 22nd. For more information about housing availability please call 330-315-3736.

## Inside this Issue...

- *Meet the OMCDC Team*
- *New Housing on Horizon*
- *Summer Safety Tips*

## Resident Spotlight: John G

*John was accepted into the Blue Heron program, while residing at the Haven of Rest Shelter. He had been a resident of the shelter at various times over the past two years. Since December 2008, John has been a resident in the Blue Heron Program.*

*Blue Heron is independent housing designed for single, low income individuals. The program is made up of 8 scattered units throughout Akron.*

*“The Blue Heron Program helped me in my time of need,” described John. Since John’s housing needs are no longer a worry he has time to work on self improvement. John added that he enjoys watching basketball, reading the bible and attending church.*

## Summer Safety Tips!

1. Stay hydrated- drink at least 64 ounces of water a day, more if you are out in the heat or exercising!
2. Use sunscreen each time you are outside and re-apply frequently. Babies should wear light colored clothing that covers most of their body to protect them from the sun, including a hat. Remember, the sun is strongest between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. each day.
3. Refrain from using strong smelling products- they attract insects!
4. Cold picnic foods should not be kept out longer than two hours. Avoid food poisoning at your next outing!
5. Stick to public fireworks displays- over 8,000 people are treated each year for injuries caused by at home fireworks including sparklers.
6. Don't ever leave children in the car when it is warm outside- heat stroke can occur in minutes even with a window open!
7. Be careful when grilling- check for gas leaks before igniting and watch children closely. Be careful not to dump hot coals on the grass until fully cooled.

## Roll out the welcome mat!



### OMCDC welcomes two new housing staff members



**E. Raque Peters,**  
case manager

Raque has a Bachelor of Arts degree in social and behavioral science from The Ohio State University. He has 18 years of experience in the social work field, primarily as a case manager.

He oversees three OMCDC programs: Fox I, Fox II and the Blue Heron program. Raque conducts case management with sixteen residential clients within these programs.

Raque is married with two daughters and two granddaughters.



**Joe Scalise,**  
housing coordinator

Joe came to OMCDC after 7 years with our sister organization, Community Health Center.

As the Housing Coordinator, Joe is responsible for managing and enforcing housing policies for all OMCDC properties.

He also works very closely with the residents of the Horizon House program. Joe is charged with handling every aspect of Horizon House, including interviewing and placing residents, helping each youth find the appropriate services for their needs, and mentoring each young adult as they move through the two year program.

Joe and his wife, Kristen, live in Akron with their son, Matthew.

# OMCDC opens new projects

## New homes serve very different populations in need

OMCDC is proud to announce the opening of three new projects in 2009. Peachtree Estates III opened in March, completing a decade-long plan to provide housing for single mothers and their children during the substance abuse treatment/recovery process.

This new phase adds 6 more units and a community room. Peachtree III also features 3-bedroom units in the development. The addition of these units will provide a total of 20 units of housing for families in recovery. The third phase allows for more services to be provided at Peachtree and will bring the residents one step closer to a traditional neighborhood setting.

Our prevention program for homeless youth, Horizon House, opened its third location in June. In total, the program serves twelve residents ages 18-22 while they complete their high school education, gain employment and/or enter college. Residents may stay up to two years and are provided with case management, mentoring and many other services to support future independence. Horizon House is funded entirely by private donors and local foundations in Summit County.

Robin's Terrace is also scheduled to open in July. Pictured right, this program serves low income senior citizens who are in need of safe, suitable housing during this important time in their lives. OMCDC currently offers senior housing in Wayne County at Pigeon Creek. Seniors must be over the age of 62 and income qualify. This program has been very successful and has proved to be a peaceful retreat for the residents. We are confident Robin's Terrace will be accepted by the community in Millersburg the same way.

For more information about these or any other OMCDC housing programs please contact our offices at 330-315-3718.



**Robin's Terrace**

**Top:** Doug Shelby, Cleveland HUD; Fred Guerra, Planning Dir. Cuyahoga Falls; Corliss Newsome, OMCDC Assoc. Director; Kim Zurz, Ohio Director of Commerce; James Evans, Ohio Housing Finance Agency; & Ted Ziegler, OMCDC CEO, open Peachtree III in March. **Bottom:** Horizon House Resident Advisors & program graduates, Frankie & Donnie Betancourt, stand in front of the new Horizon House location opened in June.



Ohio Multi-County Development Corporation

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**ATTENTION RESIDENTS:**

**2009 Inspection Schedule**

- July 16
- September 17
- November 19

\* Case Managers will inspect units during off months.



**Building A Better Tomorrow for all residents in our community!**



The OMCDC is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Community Health Center Foundation. The OMCDC is an equal opportunity employer and provider of services.

OMCDC Board of Directors: John Herwick, President; Ted Ziegler, Vice President; Rose Juriga, Sec./Treasurer; Chris Foy; Cybil Keith; Cheryll Workman; Lisa Thacker

OMCDC receives funding from the following organizations: Ohio CDC Association, Midwest Affordable Housing Management, JP Morgan Chase, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago, Ohio Housing Finance Agency, County of Summit, Ohio

OMCDC is a member organization of: Ohio Finance Fund, Summit County Continuum of Care and Wayne County Housing Coalition



**OMCDC is cutting ribbons in 3 area communities!**



**Learn more on page 3**

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