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...redefining affordable housing

behind the photo

Last month, Dahlgren Harbor Apartments in King George, Virginia, hosted the Fredericksburg Area Food Bank's mobile pantry, which supplied food for more than 50 resident families in need.

august 2011

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Remembering CHP Board Member Sally Osborne Mackie

Sally Osborne Mackie served on CHP's board from 1987 - 2003, and lived a life of service as the Executive Secretary of the Appalachian Peoples Service Organization. Sally passed away on April 12, 2011 at the age of 82. Upon her passing, she made a generous bequest to CHP.

"We are forever grateful for Sally's wisdom, service and generosity to our organization and our communities throughout her life. She will also be a reminder of why we are called to service."
- Janaka Casper, President and CEO of CHP

did you know?

Dear Melissa,

Do you ever wonder how things happen? Musician John Lennon said, "A dream you dream alone is only a dream. A dream you dream together is reality."

Perhaps that's how things in communities happen. People coming together around a common dream and making it a reality. This month we'd like to share stories of our residents, employees and communities coming together to achieve great things.

So what's your dream...and with whom will you share it?

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Friendship Village Resident Celebrates First Child Attending College this Fall
Single mom of four inspires both her children and community

This fall, Kimberly Thourogood will celebrate an important milestone in any parent's life - her son will leave to attend college this fall. Thourogood is a single mother of four and a resident of Friendship Village, a Community Housing Partners (CHP) community in Virginia Beach.

Her oldest child, LaFonte, received a football scholarship to Vanderbilt University, which was ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the top twenty universities in the nation. LaFonte recently began his freshman year and plans to use this opportunity to become an architect. His achievements are a reflection of his upbringing, thanks to his mom's strong emphasis on responsibility and education.



Left to Right: Kimberly and LaFonte Thourogood; Nona Hipp, CHP Regional Housing Manager

That we use over 80 trillion aluminum soda cans every year?

That's why the youth at three CHP communities created a Recycling War Challenge this summer.



The youth learning centers, led by Resident Services and AmeriCorps staff at the Woods at Yorktown, Rivermeade and Friendship Village communities are collecting aluminum cans all summer to see who can recycle the most!

For 10 easy recycling tips for your home, click [here](#).

...and stay tuned to see who wins this summer's Recycling War!

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"All children need more role models who teach them to get back up and start over again," she said, "My biggest role model was my mother, who also put herself through school while raising her children. I hope my children look up to me the same way that I looked up to her."

Thourogood has earned the respect of everyone in the neighborhood, especially the staff at the community center.

"The Thourogood family is a wonderful asset to the Friendship Village community," said Tonya Howard, CHP Resident Services Coordinator. "We're not only proud to know Kimberly, the community is also better off knowing her."

Read more about this story [here](#).

Bluegrass Cafe is Open for Conversation CHP staff and residents at Bluegrass Apartments create a community gathering space for sharing stories and reflection

Katy St. Marie, Resident Services Coordinator at Bluegrass Apartments in Pulaski, Virginia, had a thought one day.

"It occurred to me that sometimes people who live so close together can be prone to gossip," she said. "What if we could create a place where our residents had other things to talk about?"



That's when St. Marie and her residents created Bluegrass Cafe in common space of the apartment community's fourth floor. At the first Bluegrass Cafe event a few residents arrived early to set up refreshments and help serve coffee to the attendees. Then the talking began.



The conversation started with everyone taking turns discussing the coffee cup they had chosen and what it said about them. Residents commented on each other's responses and, from there, the group tackled questions like, "If you got one wish, what would it be?"

St. Marie said Bluegrass Cafe is a place for quiet group reflection and sharing.

"It's a chance for the residents to talk about and learn things they might not share in everyday conversation," she said. "And it's just fun!"

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