

Family Self-Sufficiency and Community and Supportive Services
"Spring is Here"

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GLASSPORT AREA



**TEENS
 EARN \$100 WHILE
 YOU LEARN!**

My Money, My Life is a financial literacy program for youth 16 to 19 years-old in Allegheny County. This 5-day class will cover goal setting, budgeting, saving, and credit, among other topics. Youth who complete the course will be rewarded with \$100 in a fee-free savings account at a participating bank.

When: April 19 & 26 and May 3, 10, & 17

Time: 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Where: Glassport, Call for exact location A light meal will be served

Sign-Up: Contact Neighborhood Housing Services @

(412) 281-9986



PLEASANT RIDGE
 THE NEW AFFORDABLE COMMUNITY IN STOWE TOWNSHIP



BEFORE

AFTER

A Community in Transition

"Out with the old and in with the new"! On the left, "The Old", former Ohioview Acres Public Housing Community built in 1942. On the right, "The New" the result of years of planning and public / private partnerships that combined to create the new community of "Pleasant Ridge". Pennrose Management, the property management agent for the new development, has been working with families who want to move to Pleasant Ridge since December of 2005 . To date there are more than 67 families who have moved into these brand new townhomes, some who are former residents of OVA and some who are new to the community. Pleasant Ridge, when all of the Phase I & II construction is complete will have plenty of 1, 2, 3, and a few 4 bedroom rental units available for families that qualify. The new community of Pleasant Ridge is shaping up to be one like no other. With a combination of rental townhomes and three bedroom owner occupied homes, Pleasant Ridge boasts something for everyone with playgrounds for children, a brand new community center featuring daycare, a food bank, after school programs, a technology center, meeting rooms, a multi-purpose / gymnasium, First Tee of Pittsburgh Golf Program, and a youth basketball instructional league. This is the place to live in Allegheny County! In addition to all of these amenities, the Allegheny County Housing Authority Community & Supportive Services Program will have Case Managers available in the new community center to assist families in obtaining self-sufficiency services as well as accessing a host of other services offered by community partners throughout Allegheny County. **For more information on how you can make Pleasant Ridge your new home, please call the rental representatives of Pennrose Management at (412) 331-5260.**

"KEEP THE DREAM ALIVE"

You have the drive to succeed in life, what you need is money to help pay for your education. Up to \$3,000 will be awarded to a qualified ACHA resident for use towards a college, university or accredited training or post secondary institution. All applicants must be an ACHA Low Income Public Housing (LIPH) Resident or Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) Resident; Maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA; Be accepted to a



post secondary institution or training program; Compose a short essay (300 word minimum) highlighting educational goals and career aspirations; Obtain two reference letters (personal and educational).

For an application, (412) 402-2700 or visit our Website: www.achsng.com.

Applications accepted through April 17, 2006



Financial Literacy Classes

Spring Summer 2006 Schedule

Get Money Smart with FREE Financial Literacy Classes!

Banking and Budgeting: Take control of your budget and gain more control of your life. Find out how to use bank resources to your advantage. This class gives you simple tools to take charge of your finances. We offer this class several times each month.

<u>April</u>	
Thursday, April 6, 2006	9 AM – 12 PM
Wednesday, April 12, 2006	1 PM – 4 PM
Thursday, April 20, 2006	5:30 PM – 8:30 PM
<u>May</u>	
Thursday, May 4, 2006	9 AM – 12 PM
Wednesday, May 10, 2006	1 PM – 4 PM
Thursday, May 18, 2006	5:30 PM – 8:30 PM
<u>June</u>	
Thursday, June 1, 2006	9 AM – 12 PM
Wednesday, June 14, 2006	1 PM – 4 PM
Thursday, June 15, 2006	5:30 PM – 8:30 PM

<u>July</u>	
Thursday, July 6, 2006	9 AM – 12 PM
Wednesday, July 12, 2006	1 PM – 4 PM
Thursday, July 20, 2006	5:30 PM – 8:30 PM
<u>August</u>	
Thursday, August 3, 2006	9 AM – 12 PM
Wednesday, August 9, 2006	1 PM – 4 PM
Thursday, August 17, 2006	5:30 PM – 8:30 PM
All classes are FREE and open to the public. Class size is limited.	
<u>Registration required.</u>	
To Register Call: 412-661-1670	



Classes held at:
Family Services of Western PA
 East Liberty Office
 The Village of Eastside (near Shop N Save)
 6401 Penn Avenue 2nd Floor
 Pittsburgh, PA 15206



ACHA Awarded \$412,430 HUD Grant to Assist Public Housing Residents Achieve Self-Sufficiency

In the second quarter of 2005, The Department of Housing and Urban Development published the 2005 SuperNOFA (notice of funding availability). CSS/FSS Coordinator Richard Crowley with the assistance of Housing Management Operations Program Coordinator Barbara Baulding wrote and submitted 4 grant application proposals under the Resident Opportunities and Self Sufficiency (ROSS) funding category. In January 2006, ACHA was notified that 2 of the grant proposals, the ROSS

Family Grant, and the ROSS FSS Coordinator Grant were recommended for funding by HUD. The two grant awards total \$412,430 over three years. This funding will allow ACHA to provide training and workforce development opportunities to residents of our Public Housing communities. The Family Self Sufficiency Program will be the conduit by which the grant funds will be administered. ACHA public housing residents enrolled in the FSS program will have the opportunity to receive job training, job development, job placement, job coaching, and

support services. This award is a significant one and could not have come at a better time said CSS/FSS Coordinator Richard Crowley. Congratulations to the staff of the Housing Management Operations Department for a job well done! ***If you are ready, willing, and able to work, enroll in the Family Self-Sufficiency Program now!*** To enroll in the FSS Program and take advantage of these opportunities, call the ACHA FSS Case Managers Office at (412) 331-0257 or (412) 331-0276.



Amachi is a Nigerian word meaning, **“Who knows what God has brought us through this child”**

Amachi Pittsburgh is a mentoring initiative for children with incarcerated parents. Your child, age 4-15, will be matched with a carefully screened and trained mentor/friend for meetings of at least one hour each week for a year.

National studies prove that mentoring WORKS!

- Mentored children are 46% less likely to get involved with drugs and alcohol,
- 59% of mentored youth improve their grades; 86% go on to higher education,
- 80% of youth in the juvenile justice system do not return to the system after being mentored.

Target Areas:
Braddock, Duquesne, Homestead,
North Versailles, Swissvale,
West Mifflin

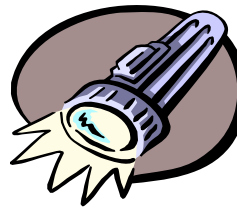
Call us today to ask about a mentor for your “child of promise”!

Phone: 412.281.3752

Amachi Pittsburgh

People of Faith Mentoring
Children of Promise
100 Ross Street 4th Floor
Pittsburgh PA 15219
Email: athorpe@plf.org
Website: www.plf.org

Resident Spotlight



Amber Benjamin, a former Family Self-Sufficiency Program Participant and Hays Manor resident has successfully completed her goals and graduated from the FSS program. Amber’s one and only goal was to one day become independent of Public Housing. As of March 18, 2006, Amber made her goal a reality and now lives in a BEAUTIFUL town home in South Park with her two children. She was determined to save money and pay off as much outstanding debt as she could while living in Public Housing in order to get approved for her new town home. Amber hopes that other residents will take advantage of the FSS program and also make their dream become a REALITY!

ACHA congratulates Amber Benjamin for her accomplishments and wishes her the best of luck!

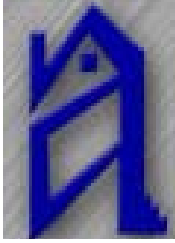
Submitted by:

Erica Fields, Family Self Sufficiency Case Manager

\$ Family Self-Sufficiency Program Statistics \$

Escrow account accruals are steadily increasing. **Nineteen (19) public housing residents** (Including 5 former OVA residents who chose S-8) continue to actively accrue funds in their escrow accounts. The balance in the public housing FSS escrow account as of **January 2006 totals \$31,469.72**. These dollars represent money that residents have saved through the Family Self-Sufficiency Program.

“Learn how you too can save \$\$\$ through the FSS Program



**News
and
Notes**

**Allegheny County
Housing Authority**

625 Stanwix Street, 12th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
(412) 355-8940
www.achsng.com

*You'll be glad to call
it home!*

How to reach us:

Housing Management
Operations

Director of Operations
Jim Bulls
412-402-2498

Program Coordinator
Barbara Baulding
412-402-2523

Community and Supportive Services
Coordinator
Dick Crowley
(412) 402 2609
(412) 331-0398

CSS/FSS Case Managers
Erica Fields
(412) 331-0276

Terri Hinkofer
(412) 331-0257

Housing Choice Voucher
Program

Special Programs Coordinator:
Ellen Parker
(412) 402-2476



**Congratulations to Graduates of the
New Choices / New Options Program**

During the months of January, February, and March 2006, the New Choices / New Options Program held classes in the Hays Manor Neighborhood Networks Center. The program, sponsored by the ACHA Housing Management Operations Department was a cooperative effort of HMO Department and the Community College of Allegheny County. Students that participated attended classes 3 days per week in core subjects such as **Goal Setting, Resume Writing, Interviewing Skills, Job Search Assistance, Personal Development, Basic Computer Training, Skill & Interest Assessment, Financial Empowerment Workshop, Employment**

Referrals & Networking, High Skill / High Wage Labor Market Training, Skill Marketing for Entry Into the Job

Market, and More! The offering of this program was spearheaded by Richard Crowley, CSS/FSS Coordinator. Classes were coordinated by Ava Johnson, Hays Manor Neighborhood Networks Coordinator. This was the first offering of this wonderful opportunity for ACHA public housing residents which resulted in three graduates. Students who completed all 60 hours of the program and have graduated from the program are **Raquel Forbus, Melissa Evans, and Alisa Daniels**. Graduating students celebrated their ac-

complishment at a luncheon with New Choices/New Options and ACHA staff at the Ponderosa Restaurant. The offering of this program to ACHA public housing residents was made possible by grants from the Pennsylvania Department of Education and 2002 ROSS Neighborhood Networks Grant. Plans are in the works to offer this same program at the new community of Pleasant Ridge and the Hawkins Village Neighborhood Networks Center which will re-open soon. For more information or to pre-register for one of the next classes please call **(412) 237-4682**