

SENATOR SPECTER, SECRETARY DONOVAN, AND CONGRESSMAN DOYLE VISIT PROSECT TERRACE



Senator Arlen Specter (right) congratulates the ACHA for winning competitive funds; HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan (left) and US Congressman Mike Doyle (center)

On November 24, 2009, The ACHA received a special visit from United States Senator Arlen Specter, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary, Shaun Donovan, U.S. Congressman Mike Doyle, and other local HUD officials to formally announce that the ACHA will be awarded 4.4 million dollars through the HUD Capital Fund Recovery Competition Grants program that will allow the ACHA to make major energy efficiency improvements to Prospect Terrace. During the visit, the Senator, Secretary, and Congressman toured a vacant unit that illustrates energy deficiencies that will be the focus of the funds.

Secretary Donovan remarked, "Prospect Terrace will be a model for GREEN public housing and this revitalization effort is a smart investment that will save the taxpayer money over the long term."

The ACHA anticipates energy savings to be at least 50% of utility costs today. Energy efficient improvements will be highlighted by the installation of a closed loop geo-thermal system featuring individual heat pumps in the resident's unit. The heat pump will allow residents to control the temperature of their unit regardless of the season. Secretary Donovan also mentioned two additional ACHA awards through the program permitting the ACHA to make necessary accessibility improvements at West View Tower and G.W. Carver Hall. Secretary Donovan stated that, "for a housing agency to receive 3 competitive awards, is simply remarkable." Construction for the redevelopment effort is expected to begin in March 2010 and will employ as many as 175 people throughout the 18 to 24 month construction period. (more photos inside)



Frank Aggazio speaks to Senator Arlen Specter and HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan about future improvements.



Prospect Terrace Resident Council President, Vera Kelly interviewed by Channel 4 News

visit us online at www.achsng.com

You'll Be Glad To Call It Home! For Safe Affordable Housing Call 412.355.2189





There is much to look forward to in 2010. The ACHA will be awarding several contracts related to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). We will be doing our part to put people back to work and thereby stimulating the local economy.

I am proud of our efforts to secure three (3) competitive grants under the Recovery Act. During a recent visit, HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan stated, "For a housing authority of this size to win three grants is remarkable. This is one of the best examples we've seen in the country using this type of technology."

In 2009, the ACHA became a leader in the asset management field conducting national and local training for housing authorities making this challenging transition.

The commendable diligence of ACHA employees has resulted in successful audits in 2009. We continue to change the face of public housing in Allegheny County.

I hope your holiday season was safe, memorable, and filled with family and friends - HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Congressman Mike Doyle congratulates the ACHA



HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan



Frank Aggazio interviewed by the media about planned improvements



(L to R) Paul D'Alesandro - District Director @ Mike Doyle, Cheryl Campbell - Director, HUD Pittsburgh Field Office, James Cassidy - Director of Public Housing, Pittsburgh, Mike Doyle - Congressman 14th District, PA.

ACHA RECEIVES 3 CAPITAL FUND RECOVERY GRANTS FROM HUD



ACHA AWARDED IN NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR ARRA FUNDS


Recently, the ACHA learned that it will be receiving over 5.8 million dollars from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to make improvements to 3 developments within the ACHA's inventory. In a nationwide competition for American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) Funds that saw over 1,783 applicants applying for funding, the ACHA was successful with Category 1 – Improvements Addressing the Needs of the Elderly and/or Person's with Disabilities for Carver Hall and West View Tower. This funding will allow the ACHA to make major improvements to units that required accessibility features as well as improvements to common areas in the building that upon completion will assist these residents as they continue to age in place. In Category 4 – Creation of Energy Efficient, Green Communities, the ACHA was awarded funding from HUD that will make significant improvements to Prospect Terrace. Prospect Terrace will undergo a massive revitalization effort that will feature many "Green" designs and techniques that will produce an energy efficient community. As one of the older communities within the ACHA inventory, this funding could have not come at a better time. With these scheduled improvements to the development, ACHA will be able to "re-create" a development that will have lower operating costs at the site and allow the residents to live in a "healthier" community.

All funding must be expended within 3 years of the executed grant agreements, which were signed at the end of September 2009. Residents and community leaders will begin to enjoy improvements to the communities by mid-fall 2010.

HARRISON TOWNSHIP TO ENJOY A COMMUNITY CENTER NEXT TO SHELDON PARK



Through a partnership with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Allegheny County Economic Development, the ACHA will be constructing a 9,200 sq. foot Community Center that will benefit the entire Harrison Township Community. The Community Center will be partially built on property that was donated by Harrison Township and adjacent to the Sheldon Park Development. Contracts have been awarded to DiMarco Construction Company, Lugalia Mechanical, Inc., Norris Plumbing, and Uzmack Electric for a combined cost of \$1.6 million dollars. Funding for this community center has been secured from by Allegheny County Economic Development (\$450,000), The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP), (\$150,000), and the Allegheny County Housing Authority.

Upon construction completion, the community center will provide recreational activities and services for children, parents, seniors, and other community members of Harrison Township. To assist the “at-risk” youth in the community, a specific program targeting this population needing mentoring services and after school activities will be offered as well as other program opportunities for all ages that will help improve the overall quality of life for Harrison Township. 


PASTOR LARRY WALKER VISITS GROVETON VILLAGE

Pastor Larry Walker has worked with the Groveton Village Resident Council since 2004, beginning with the Groveton Enrichment Team, to focus youth activities during the redevelopment of Groveton Village. Since that time Pastor Walker and the members of West Hills Baptist Church has been involved in several endeavors focused on the youth and the families of Groveton. WHBC have devoted their time in areas of weekly craft activities, after school projects, yearly Sport Camps, and Block Parties.



*Larry Walker, Pastor
West Hills Baptist Church
Moon Township, PA*

Most recently Pastor Walker, in cooperation with “We Care Pittsburgh”, distributed gift boxes to the residents in the community. The boxes contained canned goods, health care/beauty products and fun items. The project youths of 100 volunteers went door to door with their boxes, offering services of pulling weeds, cleaning yards, or anything a household might have need of. They shared love through service. Once the deliveries were completed - the teen groups, which were from various states, spent hours with the youth of Groveton Village, performing skits, playing basketball, kickball, blowing up balloons and handing out snow cones. Without Pastor Walkers influence this activity would not have taken place.

The residents of Groveton Village wish to express their love and gratitude to Pastor Larry and to his wife Karen for all they do. 



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL ACHA GOLF CLASSIC

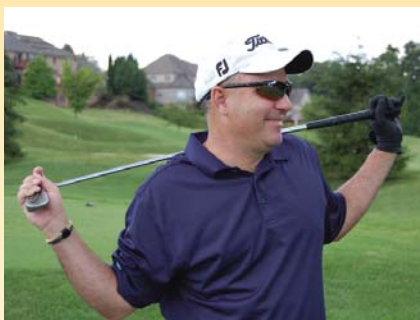



Despite the recent downturn in the overall economy, over 152 golfers headed to the links at the beautiful Treesdale Golf and Country Club in Gibsonsia, Pennsylvania to help raise funds for The First Tee of Pittsburgh @ Pleasant Ridge.

Thanks to the commitment of the Title Sponsor – Falbo-Pennrose and many other sponsors and partners, the event was able to raise over \$ 42,000 for the construction of the club house that will be located on the grounds of The First Tee of Pittsburgh at Pleasant Ridge facility.



This is the 8th year for the event and this event has generated more than \$ 275,000 for The First Tee Program and the construction of an outdoor programming area at Pleasant Ridge. The First Tee Program helps the children of the community learn important life skills using golf as a catalyst for this educational program.



The ACHA would like to thank everyone involved in the event from sponsors to the volunteers. We look forward to seeing you next year on June 14th, 2010 for the 9th Annual ACHA Golf Classic at Treesdale Golf and Country Club. 

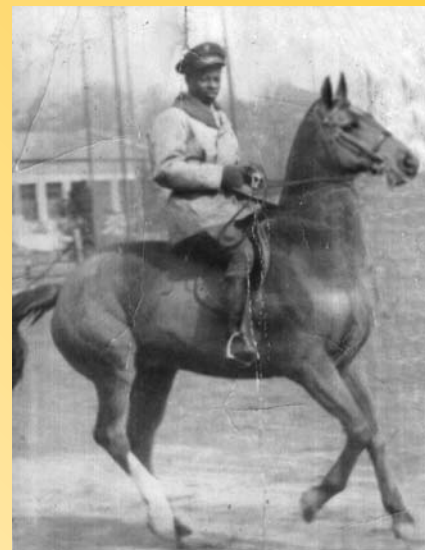


LLOYD D. HAYDEN SR. - A COMMUNITY ICON PASSES



Lloyd Hayden
1921 - 2009

Lloyd Daniel Hayden Sr., 88, of Natrona Heights, went to see the Lord Thursday, Dec. 10, 2009, at home, unexpectedly. He was born May 6, 1921, in Creighton, a son of the late Charles Hayden and Lena B. (Mumford) Hayden. He lived most of his life in Natrona Heights. He was a laborer for Allegheny Ludlum Steel Corp., Brackenridge, retiring in 1983, after 38 years of service. He was a World War II veteran of the Army and a Buffalo soldier serving at West Point, N.Y., in the 10th Calvary, 1941 to 1945, and was honored throughout the years related to his dedicated service. He was a member and deacon at Shiloh Baptist Church, Brackenridge, actively presiding as president of Resident Council of Sheldon Park Apartments. In 1997, the community center was dedicated and named the Lloyd D. Hayden Center. He was a former Boy Scout leader of Troop 184, Natrona Heights. Mr. Hayden's passion in life was serving the Lord and being an advocate for improving the lives of children. He had been working with local and state agencies to build a multi-purpose building for the children of Harrison Township. He always said, "The children need something to do and somewhere to be out of the streets." He enjoyed gardening, music, fishing, family reunions and spending time with his family.



Lloyd Hayden - Buffalo Soldier
1941 - 1945

The Allegheny County Housing Authority will miss his presence and leadership. Lloyd was buried at Mt. Airy Cemetery, Natrona Heights, with full military honors accorded by Post 5758 VFW of Tarentum. Obituary from Valley News Dispatch, Natrona Heights, PA. Uncle Lloyd, you will be missed by all. 🏠

ACHA RESIDENT ADVISORY BOARD RECEIVES AWARDS

At the November 17, 2009, Board of Directors Meeting, members of the Resident Advisory Board (RAB) received Certificates of Dedication for years of dedicated service. Pictured below (L to R): Vera Kelly, Marlane Vennie, Isaiah Dent, Frank Aggazio, Executive Director, Tonya Bennett, and James Carnahan. Not pictured: Irene Nock, Jean Frederick, Eugene Frederick, Henry Wild, and Joanne Molinaro. Congratulations and thank you for your commitment to the ACHA and fellow residents. 🏠



ACHA RECEIVES 105 VASH HOUSING VOUCHERS



The Allegheny County Housing Authority has been awarded 105 Veteran's Administration Supportive Housing vouchers. These vouchers, commonly known as VASH, are designated for veterans who are currently homeless, eligible for VA medical care and must have an identified clinical need for case management. HUD-VASH is designed to help veterans living with a disability, chronic homelessness, or other issues who can be helped by participating in ongoing case management. Veterans who have spouses and dependent children are also eligible to participate. Veterans who are required to register on any Lifetime Sex Offender Register or who exceed income thresholds are not eligible for the program. All referrals are made by the VA clinician working with them. The ACHA does not maintain a waiting list for these vouchers.

The HUD-VASH Program was originally started as a nation-wide, limited-scale program in 1992, with a total of 1750 vouchers issued. In 2008, \$75 million dollars in funding helped to expand the HUD-VASH program by providing approximately 10,000 vouchers nationwide. An additional 10,000 vouchers were funded in 2009.


Shanee Chambers and Randi Beattie are working with all Veterans who are referred to the Housing Choice Voucher Department. For further information, please call 412-402-2473 or 412-402-2408. 

HOMELESS PREVENTION & RAPID RE-HOUSING

With the economic downturn impacting many, there have been increasing numbers of individuals and families who are having difficulty making ends meet, with many even facing homelessness. Allegheny County Economic Development and the City of Pittsburgh have recently joined together to launch the Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP), funded by the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009. HPRP will provide short-term financial assistance and services to homeless individuals and families, as well as those who would become homeless without assistance. Rental and utility payment assistance, relocation services, and legal and counseling services will be available for those who qualify. Qualifications include being homeless or on the verge of becoming homeless, below 50% of the area median income, and having no other housing options or financial support resources to obtain housing.

The Allegheny County Housing Authority's (ACHA) non-profit, Three Rivers Communities Inc., was awarded funding from both ACED and the City of Pittsburgh to conduct the Apartment Search Locator services and the House Quality Inspections for the program. A mass mailing went out to area landlords to inform them of HPRP and recruit landlords for the program, and was received with a high level of interest. The database of available units will be provided to the five lead agencies to assist clients in finding a suitable and fitting unit. Once a unit is selected, ACHA inspectors will conduct standard inspections to assure the unit meets HUD standards.

We are joined by ACTION Housing, Community Human Services, Neighborhood Legal Services, North Hills Community Outreach, Urban League of Pittsburgh, and Veteran Leadership Program as funded agencies for HPRP.

Individuals and families in need of assistance can call the HPRP Hotline at 1-877-350-4777(HPRP), from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. 



ACHA EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH 2009

For consistently showing enthusiasm and working with an unwavering positive attitude. You've clearly made a difference. We acknowledge our appreciation.

JAN	Kim Evans
FEB	Dave Majeski
MAR	Mary Anne Marquis
APR	Rebecca Sowers
MAY	N/A
JUN	Angie Barczyk
JUL	Shanee Chambers
AUG	Ryan Coll
SEP	Chris Mancino
OCT	Jack McGraw
NOV	Jack Kearney
DEC	Rebecca Sowers



John Majeski presents Frank Aggazio with a Certificate of Appreciation

HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM - HIGH PERFORMER AGAIN!

Under the tutelage of Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP) Director, Kim Longwell, the Section 8 Department has achieved High Performer status for the third year in a row. Her approach has been unique and innovative to the Authority and it has set the bar for the entire staff. The staff has worked hard to maintain such a high level of performance and this achievement reflects their accomplishment.

On Tuesday, October 27, 2009 at the Western Pennsylvania Housing Directors Association (WPHDA) meeting, the Allegheny County Housing Authority (ACHA) was awarded a Certificate of Superior Accomplishment for recognition of designation as a High Performer under the Section 8 Management Assessment Program (SEMAP) for the 2008 Fiscal Year.



James Cassidy, Public Housing Director, HUD Pittsburgh, presented the award to ACHA staff members Frank Aggazio, Executive Director, Robert Gabbianelli, Associate Director HCVP and Ellen Parker, Quality Control Supervisor HCVP.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING 2009



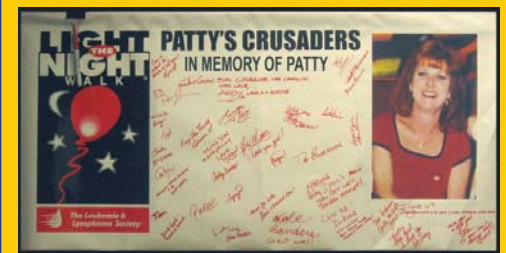
On December 10 and 17, 2009, ACHA executives and staff visited senior communities to sing Christmas carols and bring holiday cheer to the residents.



"LIGHT THE NIGHT WALK 2009"

The Allegheny County Housing Authority employees along with their families and friends attended The annual "Light The Night Walk 2009" on Thursday, October 1, 2009 hosted by The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. It was Kim Evans 8th year participating in the walk as a team captain. As a survivor of Leukemia she continues to fight for the cure by taking charge of the team. Kim's team name had been "The Faith Crusaders" because faith in God, a supportive family, caring friends and co workers that's exactly what it took to get through such a difficult time in her life.

On January 5, 2008, Patricia Caslin, our friend and co-worker was diagnosed with AML Leukemia. She lost her battle with Leukemia on February 9, 2009. Our team, "Patty's Crusaders for a Cure," walked in in memory of Patty raising a total of \$1,689.00 donated to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS). We look forward to the "Light The Night Walk 2010" to continue the crusade.



ALLEGHENY COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

GOLF CLASSIC IX

MONDAY, JUNE 14, 2010

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**

You're invited!

Event includes:
18 Holes of Golf (Scramble)
Breakfast, Lunch (at turn)
Cocktails, Dinner, Prizes,
Auctions, and Raffle



ACHA GOLF CLASSIC IX

MONDAY, JUNE 14, 2010

TREESDALE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

PROCEEDS BENEFIT



Call 412.402.2465 for details!

PRESORTED STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PITTSBURGH PA
PERMIT NO 132

ALLEGHENY COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY
625 STANWIX STREET, 12th FLOOR
PITTSBURGH, PA 15222

