



## HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!

### MOTIVATED AND DETERMINED

#### PUBLIC HOUSING FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY GRADUATE

Shavonda Hearn is a quiet hard working single parent with three children. She is also enrolled in the GED classes at night and very close to obtaining her General Equivalency Diploma.

Shavonda voluntarily enrolled in MHA's Public Housing Family Self Sufficiency Program August 1, 2010. When she enrolled in the Family Self Sufficiency Program, she wanted to take charge of her future but did not know where to start. The Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) coordinator, along with the FSS participant, developed a step by step plan of action to assist them in the completion of their goals. Shavonda needed a GED to obtain better employment, homeownership, credit counseling as well as financial budgeting education. She was determined to use resources that were available at Meridian Housing Authority to improve her quality of life. The Community and Supportive Services Department held workshops to provide information concerning homeownership, financial literacy, and job training/readiness/search. When Shavonda did not have to work, she attended every workshop that was offered.

Sounds like she was self-motivated to change her present life circumstances and determined to free herself from having to depend on public assistance.

Shavonda most important goal was to own her own home. Meridian Housing Authority is partnered with Multi-County and in a collaborative effort hosted a homeownership workshop last year where Shavonda received a certificate for completion of the homebuyer's workshop.

As of February 1, 2013, Shavonda and her three children are enjoying their lovely new home with three bedrooms and one bath.

Congratulations Shavonda! We are convinced that your strong desire and determination will encourage others to take charge of their future.



*PHFSS Graduate, Shavonda Hearn proudly displays certificate.*

### MHA HOSTS HOME LENDING WORKSHOP FOR RESIDENTS

The Community & Supportive Services Department of MHA hosted a home lending workshop for residents participating in the FSS program and also for residents that are interested in purchasing a home. The workshop was facilitated by Sandra Todd, of the Home Lending Group, LLC in Jackson, MS. This workshop provided residents with much needed information on what to expect when it is time to apply for a mortgage and close on their first home. Understanding when to solicit a realtor and how to know when it's time to approach a bank is critical and having this information is instrumental in the success of purchasing a home. The workshop was filled with eager residents who were ready to transition from one stage in life to the next. At the conclusion of the workshop, each participant was eligible to receive a certificate of completion for successfully completing the workshop. Thanks to all the residents who decided to come out!



*Residents attending Home lending Workshop*



*Sandra Todd, Workshop facilitator, conducting the workshop session*

## Executive Director's Message



*Ronald J. Turner, Sr.*

Approximately one year ago, the Meridian Housing Authority's new motto "Committed to Excellence" was embraced by the Board of Commissioners and staff at the agency.

During MHA's January 2013, quarterly mass meeting, over sixty-five employees were commended for achieving our agency's motto.

As we embark upon the new year, our staff remains equally committed to performing all responsibilities with the highest degree of professionalism in order to provide quality service to our residents.

We are committed to providing adequate, safe and clean facilities for all families participating in our public housing programs. Revitalization efforts remain a top priority as MHA and its planning partners finalize the Meridian East End Choice Neighborhood planning initiative. The planning team will submit the CNI grant to HUD in May 2013. Expectations of securing the necessary funding to reinvigorate East End Meridian, which encompasses the George Reese Court housing development, remain high.

HUD has also awarded MHA with over \$1 million dollars of Replacement Housing Funding to construct ten (10) new houses for qualified self-sufficiency program participants.

We are looking forward with eager anticipation to forging new community partnerships which will ensure that MHA will remain "Committed to Excellence" throughout the New Year

*Ronald J. Turner, Sr., Executive Director*



## Residents of Carousel Place Participates in Drug-Free Art Contest

The Carousel Place Housing Community sponsored a Drug-Free Art Contest for the youth residents of their site. These youth had an opportunity to participate in the art contest and win great prizes. The theme of the art contest was centered around being drug-free. Each participant was asked to sketch a drawing that would emphasize this theme and capture their creativity as well. There were several youth who came out and participated. They were excited and thrilled to know that they could win some awesome prizes by participating. This was time well spent for those who participated.



*Youth at Carousel Place participating in art contest*

Each participant was asked to sketch a drawing that would emphasize this theme and capture their creativity as well. There were several youth who came out and participated. They were excited and thrilled to know that they could win some awesome prizes by participating. This was time well spent for those who participated.



*Kelly, Assistant Manager of Carousel Place, helps youth with drawing*



*Youth focusing on completing art project for art contest*

This was time well spent for those who participated.

## A Smoke-Free New Year

Start the New Year smoke-free with help from the Smoke-Free hotline. You may call **1-800-QUIT-NOW** to find out about an easy to follow program. Because when you get help, you're twice as likely to quit smoking for good. For local assistance, you may contact Sabrina Wilson, Tobacco Free Coalition/Smoking Cessation, at 601-479-0753

## MHA PHONE NUMBERS

Maintenance Department 483-3328; Social Services 693-2800; Frank Berry Courts 482-1880; Eastern Gardens 482-3312; Mountain View Village 481-3424; Western Gardens 483-8612; Oakland Heights 481-3421; Highway Village, 8th & 9th Ave. 483-1816; George Reese Courts/Magnolia Courts 693-4586; Mount Barton/Sowashee Courts 483-0202; Carousel Place 482-0085; J.T. Davis 482-0077; MHA Police Liaison Cell (601)527-0407; Meridian Police Dispatch 601-601-484-6845



## FSS Financial Workshop

Did you know that” Mississippi has retained its distinction as the state with the highest percentage of households without checking accounts or other banking. FDIC say that 15.1 percent of the state’s households do not have banking services. This survey was conducted in 2011 and the information was retrieved from an article written in the Mississippi Business Journal.

Meridian Housing Authority and Citizens National Bank have partnered to bring a Financial Education Curriculum to the MHA residents. The Financial Education Curriculum is a guide to presenting the Money Smart Curriculum.

The first workshop will be held:

**DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2013**

**TIME: 3:00PM-4:00PM**

Light refreshments, free drawings, games, prizes, and fun activities

Where: MHA’s Eugene F. Young Community Service Building 2503 D Street

This workshop is the beginning of many more to come in the year.

The first workshop will be the “Bank at Work” meaning that “We are bringing the bank to you!!!!

**MY CLEAN SLATE CHECKING** is designed for people who have had trouble managing a checking account in the past.

Help with assisting anyone recover financially and reduce loss risk

It gives a second chance on a new checking account, regain your financial strength, and **ELIMINATE COSTLY CHECK CASHING FEES** for a low maintenance fee. Plus earn \$2 monthly refund with a recurring direct deposit.

Convenient, easy, and secure, can make purchases without having to carry around a checkbook

Please mark your calendar to attend the workshop in March so that through financial education you can gain economic independence and self sufficiency.

Amore

## Resident Advisory Board President’s Message



I want to remind all residents as the new year has begun, please take part in the activities and programs offered by MHA. We can take advantage of these opportunities to enhance the quality of our lives and provide a brighter future for our children. The RAB is working with MHA and several of its partners to bring enrichment programs to all the communities; we want our children to be on the honor roll at their schools. Also, there are a lot of negative things happening in our community and I want to encourage all residents to continue to ensure that your child or love one is active this year doing positive things to uplift the community. The youth of MHA are ambitious and full of life and we as parents should nurture these youth as they develop into responsible adults and citizens of society. This new year should bring joy and progress in the lives of all the residents of MHA and I want to support the cause in making this happen!

Thanks again to everyone tuned to what’s happening in MHA and are willing to step up and do their part in helping MHA sites be all that they can be. I am looking forward to a wonderful and prosperous year!

*Happy Valentines Day!*

*Brenda Griffin, Resident Advisory Board President*

## Message from the Asset Manager Coordinator



*Asset Management Coordinator,  
Trevelle McGlothlin*

Now that Valentines Day is approaching and the New Year is in full swing, make it a point to set goals that are often within reason and within our grasp. As the new year continues, be consistent in practicing safety at all times, monitor your children and your guest, report any concerns regarding your residence to your property manager.



May the coming year offer you more opportunities and blessings than last year.

Trevell McGlothlin, PHM





"Committed to Excellence"

*"Committed to Excellence"*

Meridian Housing Authority  
2425 E Street  
Meridian, MS 39301  
601-693-4285

Mail To:

## February 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

2/8 Western Gardens @ 3:30 p.m. Community Center

2/6 Magnolia @ 3:30 p.m. Community Center

2/5 George Reese @ 3:30 a.m. Community Center

2/7 Oakland Garden @ 10:00 Community Center

2/21 Eastern Garden @ 3:30 Community Center

2/18 Hwy Village @ 2:00 Community Center

2/18 Sowashee @ 3:30 Community Center

2/21 Mt. View @ 11:00 Community Center



### The MHA Home Life Newsletter For Residents

The MHA Home Life Newsletter For Residents is published monthly by the Resident Community & Supportive Services Department. We welcome submissions and we reserve the right to edit all materials used. Materials may be submitted to:

Meridian Housing Authority

Resident Services Department, Attn. Newsletter  
2305 D. Street, Meridian, MS 39301

OR

E-mail to: [saustin@meridianhousing.net](mailto:saustin@meridianhousing.net)