



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

YOUR HOME, OUR COMMUNITY

Learn more about THA's monthly events here.

SPRING 2024

IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

Police Non-Emergency
609-989-4170

Emergency 911

Fire and Emergency Services
609-989-4038

THA Security
609-278-5040

THA Work Orders
609-278-5027

THA MANAGEMENT OFFICES:

Abbott/Josephson Apartments
609-278-5035

Donnelly Homes
609-278-5008

French Towers
609-278-5030

Lincoln Homes
609-278-5023

**Prospect Village/
Frazier Courts**
609-278-5020

Turner Pointe
609-427-8715

Wilson/Haverstick Homes
609-278-5036

A Message from Executive Director Jelani Garrett

Greetings!

As we step into Spring 2024, the THA is focused on neighborhood revitalization in Trenton. Through public and private partnerships, we are dedicated to enhancing the city's housing environment and committed to creating avenues for employment, entrepreneurship, and homeownership for the residents we serve. While the core of our mission is to provide affordable, high-quality housing, it is the people who matter most in the development of vibrant, thriving communities.

In this newsletter, you will read about one THA resident's journey of taking her dream of homeownership to reality by participating in our Family Self-Sufficiency program. This program is specifically designed to help our families reach their highest goals. Additionally, in this issue, you will see our ongoing efforts to align with community partners that foster resident engagement through outreach programs and services. We are here for you and by highlighting our positive strides, we hope to inspire every family that calls THA their home.

Enjoy!

Jelani Garrett
Executive Director, Trenton Housing Authority



About THA:

The Trenton Housing Authority (THA) has provided safe and affordable housing to Trenton residents for 85 years, along with the resources to help them improve their lives. THA's communities serve 1,700 households and 3,200 residents.

Need to start a work order?

For more information, including paying your rent, call (609) 278-5000 or visit THA-NJ.org.



Like us on Facebook at facebook.com/TrentonHousing



LinkedIn at linkedin.com/company/trenton-nj-housing-authority



Follow our Instagram page at
<https://www.instagram.com/trentonhousingauthority/>

From Dream to Reality: Christine Bynum's Journey to Homeownership

In June 2021, Christine Bynum enrolled in the Family Self-Sufficiency Program. With great excitement and determination, Ms. Bynum met with Keya Baker, the FSS Coordinator, to discuss her goals. She had her sights set on homeownership and organizing her finances. Despite some challenges, Ms. Bynum was determined to pursue her dream with the support and guidance of the FSS Program.

Alongside her pursuit of homeownership, Ms. Bynum actively engaged in financial counseling, secured steady employment, and worked towards stability in her role as a parent. Over time, Ms. Bynum increased her income by an impressive 89%. With Ms. Baker's assistance and the expertise of THA community partner Fareeda Stokes from Harkes Realty, she embarked on her homeownership journey.

Finally, in December 2023, Ms. Bynum proudly closed on her very first home. Additionally, she secured \$19,188 in escrow funds, which are personal savings through the FSS Program, and over \$20,000 in closing costs through the Trenton Neighborhood Initiative Program, another valued THA community partnership.

Now, as Ms. Bynum's success story unfolds, Ms. Baker and the THA family are filled with pride. Ms. Bynum's journey serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration for other participants in the program, showing them what is possible.



Spring Cleaning Made Easy: **DIY Hacks for a Fresher Home!**



THA is committed to supporting the well-being of its residents. Practical tips to clean and freshen living spaces contribute to better health and a sense of comfort, which aligns with THA's mission.

DIY All-Purpose Cleaner: Create your own all-purpose cleaner by mixing equal parts water and white vinegar in a spray bottle. Add a few drops of essential oil for a pleasant scent.

Natural Air Freshener: Freshen your home by simmering a pot of water with citrus slices and herbs like rosemary or mint on the stove. Alternatively, place bowls of baking soda with a few drops of essential oil in different rooms to absorb odors.

DIY Drain Cleaner: Clear clogged drains by pouring half a cup of baking soda followed by one cup of vinegar down the drain. Let it sit for a few minutes, then flush with hot water. Repeat as necessary.

DIY Dusting Spray: Combine equal parts water and olive oil in a spray bottle. Add a few drops of lemon essential oil for a fresh scent. Spray onto a microfiber cloth and use it to dust furniture and surfaces.

Things to Do This Spring

THA is advocating for residents to embrace the spring weather and explore outdoor activities as a refreshing way to enjoy the season.

-  Take a nature walk in a local park or nature reserve to admire the blooming flowers and budding trees.
-  Have a picnic in the park with friends or family, bringing along homemade snacks and enjoying the fresh air.
-  Participate in a community clean-up event to help beautify parks, streets, and public spaces.
-  Explore nearby hiking trails and embark on a scenic hike to enjoy the spring scenery.
-  Host a neighborhood block party or barbecue, inviting friends and neighbors to socialize and celebrate the season.
-  Attend a farmer's market to sample fresh produce, artisanal goods, and locally made treats.
-  Organize a spring-themed scavenger hunt for friends or family, incorporating items like flowers, butterflies, and other signs of spring.

Empowering Independence: The THA Family Self-Sufficiency Program

The Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS) is an initiative of the THA that encourages independence and self-sufficiency through personalized goal setting. Offering one-on-one counseling and connections to vital support services, FSS guides THA residents toward achieving short-term and long-term objectives.

Residents participating in the program can set goals tailored to their individual needs and aspirations. These may include securing stable employment, mastering budgeting and saving techniques, attaining homeownership, acquiring transportation, pursuing vocational training or higher education, and much more.

At the heart of FSS is the commitment to support and uplift families, one step at a time.

100% OF FSS GRADUATES ARE EMPLOYED.

ON AVERAGE, THE ANNUAL INCOME OF FSS GRADUATES INCREASES BY 80%.

100% OF FSS GRADUATES ARE FREE FROM WELFARE CASH ASSISTANCE.

For further details or to get involved, please reach out to FSS Coordinator Keya Baker at 609-278-7783 or via email at kbaker@tha-nj.org.



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Trenton, NJ 08638

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Community Partnership Meeting

On March 26th, our Resident and Community Services team hosted the quarterly Community Partnership Meeting at Donnelly Homes' gymnasium, with more than 40 attendees, including valued partners, local allies, and THA leadership. We aim to efficiently match residents' needs with appropriate partners and support services.

To achieve this, we have established specialized sub-committees designed to address our community's diverse needs:

Workforce Entry/Re-Entry & Wellness

Zero to low-income residents entering new job opportunities.

Workforce Elevation & Wellness

Low- to moderate-income residents increasing educational base and skillsets to generate more earning potential.

Community Empowerment & Wellness

Fostering a powerful, cohesive place-based community.

Youth Education & Wellness

Educational excellence, experience, exposure, civic engagement.

Senior Support & Wellness

Aging gracefully in place with a vibrant, healthy community culture.

Local Business Partnerships

Building strong ties with local businesses and employers.



Public Notice of Waiting List Closure

THA is no longer accepting applications. The Waiting List is routinely closed when the anticipated wait time for certain sized units exceeds 12 months. The current wait is over 48 months. HUD regulations do not require a public hearing when opening and closing the Waiting List.

Public notice will be provided when THA re-opens the Waiting List for the specific bedroom sizes and developments as stated in the Admissions and Continuing Occupancy Policy (ACOP).

