

Chesapeake Redevelopment and Housing Authority  
1468 South Military Highway  
Chesapeake, VA 23320  
www.crhava.org



**John C. Kownack,  
Executive Director**



**June 30, 1972**



# Latest News

## *“A Look Back - Highlights of 2022”* (A Word from the Executive Director)

I am extremely proud of the CRHA Staff and all that we have accomplished as an agency. Although Covid-19 presented a multitude of challenges in 2020 and 2021; in 2022, CRHA saw a return to a sense of normalcy that reverberated throughout all of its programs/communities.

In 2022, we saw a fully appointed Board of Commissioners for the first time since June 2021 (full 9 members) and were able to resume monthly and annual resident activities. Below are some of our proudest moments of 2022:

- Kickoff of the Aspire360 Jobs Plus Grant Program in January, enrolling 43 program participants, who stand to increase employment income while benefiting from a freeze of rents at the levels experienced prior to their enrollment
- Successful participation in HUD’s existing and pilot systems for inspecting the Authority’s five (5) public housing communities to ensure the continued high level of physical conditions that serve 467 households

(Continued on next page)

Winter 2022 Issue

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### Special Holiday Edition



## **A Word from the Executive Director**

### ***“A Look Back - Highlights of 2022”***

*(Continued from cover page)*

- Kickoff of a CRHA-led housing sub-group of the Chesapeake Thrives initiative, an inter-disciplinary plan for community well-being
- Introduction of the MyHousing Applicant Portal, which allows applicants to access their wait list information online, and upgraded the CRHA website to allow tenants to submit work orders online
- Receipt of over \$500,000 in payments for CRHA residents seeking assistance from the Virginia Rent Relief Program
- Two CRHA Basketball Teams brought home Championship wins for the City-Wide Spring 2022 Conference and the League of Advocates Basketball Tournaments. The teams were honored at a special Board reception in June 2022.
- Sponsored the Kids & Pros Football Camp, emphasizing the development of character and skills through athletics, for the third year
- Renewed partnership with the New Chesapeake Men for Progress Education Foundation (NCMFPEF), who awarded scholarships to two deserving high school graduates in CRHA programs
- Awarded a \$1.3 million Public Housing Revitalization Grant to support interior renovations in the Peaceful Village community. In anticipation of these renovations, CRHA is upgrading the mechanical systems in Peaceful Village with energy efficient hot water heaters and new heating and air conditioning components.
- Secured Mainstream Vouchers to provide ongoing rental assistance payments to 30 additional households impacted by disabilities
- Improved/upgraded Security Systems at both Peaceful Village and Oakdale Square to include Tsunami cameras and license plate readers

Despite our accomplishments, there is continuing concern over the impact of COVID and current economic trends, which have pushed the affordability of quality housing in Chesapeake and throughout Hampton Roads beyond the reach of larger numbers of lower income families and individuals.

While CRHA provides quality housing and rental assistance to roughly 2,400 very low income families, there remain over 5,000 tenants in Chesapeake that are paying more than 50 percent of their household income for rent and utilities.

On a positive note, this housing crisis has succeeded in providing a heightened common awareness of the challenges that we face across the full range of housing types, from emergency shelter, through permanent supportive housing and rental assistance, to affordable homeownership and wealth building. The coming year is anticipated to provide new opportunities for existing and new housing partners to address quality housing affordability with renewed vigor and a confident sense of possibility.

As we prepare to bid adieu to 2022 and begin the New Year, we would like to wish all of you a happy and safe holiday season!

**John Kownack**  
**Executive Director**



# Commissioner's Corner

**The Chesapeake Redevelopment and Housing Authority Board of Commissioners are seeking two (2) Applicants for City Boards and Commissions**



Chesapeake Redevelopment and Housing Authority is seeking two (2) candidates who are interested in serving on its 9-member Board of Commissioners. One (1) partial-term seat is open for appointment for the term expiring on August 10, 2023, with a second seat open for the term expiring on August 10, 2024. The Board of Commissioners are seeking candidates who live in Chesapeake City and have knowledge and experience in matters pertaining to housing, development and related activities in the district.

The City of Chesapeake will be accepting applications on behalf of the Chesapeake Redevelopment and Housing Authority. Citizens wishing to serve on the Board must visit the City of Chesapeake's website at [www.cityofchesapeake.net](http://www.cityofchesapeake.net) and [complete an application form](#). Applications are to be submitted to the City Clerk's office for consideration. City Council will appoint a candidate for these openings at a future meeting.

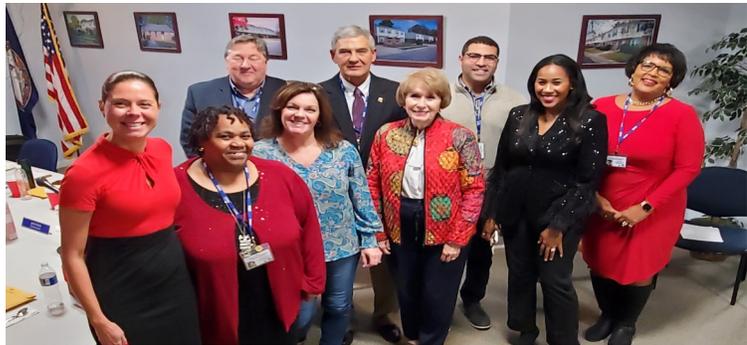
## Board of Commissioners Meeting Information

The Chesapeake Redevelopment and Housing Authority Board of Commissioners consists of nine (9) members, one of whom serves as Resident Commissioner.

The members are appointed by the Chesapeake City Council and may serve up to two consecutive 4-year terms from the date of appointment.

The Commissioners are the governing officers of the Authority. Their responsibilities include setting policies governing the operations of the Authority, charting the direction of current and future programs and development, and approving contracts entered into by the Authority.

The Board of Commissioners hires the Executive Director, who serves as Board Secretary and is responsible for managing the Authority's day-to-day operations.



The Chesapeake Redevelopment and Housing Authority Board of Commissioners convene on the fourth Wednesday of each month with the exception of the month of November.

Meetings begin at 5:00 p.m. and typically take place at the Authority's Administration Office, located at 1468 South Military Highway in Chesapeake, Virginia. Special meetings may occur at any time throughout the year. Special Meeting notices will be distributed at least five (5) days in advance should this occur.



**Wednesday, January 25, 2023 at 5:00 PM**

**Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 5:00 PM**

**Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 5:00 PM**



On the evening of Thursday, December 8, 2022, CRHA’s Vice Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, Mr. Camron Phillips, was sworn in by Delegate Clifton Hayes (77th District) at the NAACP Chesapeake Officer’s Installation and General Body meeting, where he will serve as President of the Chesapeake Chapter for the 2023-2025 term.

In attendance were fellow Board members, Dr. Rebecca Adams and Dr. Debbie Hunley-Stukes, as well as CRHA Executive staff members John Kownack and Nancy Tarkenton.

### Congratulations Vice Chairman Phillips!



## Commissioner Training Conferences



### NAHRO Washington Legislative Conference

Save the date for NAHRO’s **2023 Washington Conference**, scheduled to take place **March 6-8, 2023**. The conference will be held at the **Renaissance Washington DC Downtown Hotel** in Washington, DC. *Registration and program information is now available .*

**2023  
Commissioners’  
Conference**  
Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista  
Lake Buena Vista, FL  
January 9-12, 2023

# CC23

The Board of Commissioners and staff of Chesapeake Redevelopment and Housing Authority would like to express their appreciation to the New Chesapeake Men for Progress for their community support and investment in the City's most promising young men.

## **Congratulations to the 2022 Award Recipients:**



**Dr. George Reed**  
**Ms. Nischelle Buffalow**  
**Mr. Emery Fears**

**Job Well Done!**

On the evening of Saturday, November 19, 2022, CRHA Staff members Genevieve Guadalupe, Angie Brickhouse and several community partners attended the **Fifth Annual Black-Tie Scholarship Gala** hosted by the **New Chesapeake Men for Progress** (NCMFP). The event was held at the Delta Marriott Hotel in the city of Chesapeake.

Chesapeake's premier Black-Tie Scholarship Gala honors leaders and community servants. In addition to raising funds for scholarships, the purpose of the Gala was to acknowledge the achievements and contributions of outstanding citizens in the Hampton Roads area.

This year's Gala featured the presentation of a Lifetime Achievement Award to the all-deserving, **Dr. George Reed** for over 40 years of service, and Community Service Awards to **Nischelle Buffalow** (Entrepreneur, Educator and Community Service leader) and **Emery Fears** (Music Educator, Civil and Human Rights Advocate, and Influencer of Generations of Musicians).

It also featured a delicious meal, presentation of awards, raffles and an evening of music and dance.



*The New Chesapeake Men For Progress  
Education Foundation, Inc.*

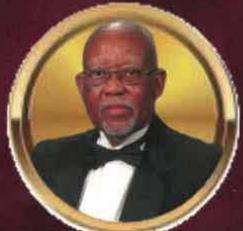
*Fifth Annual Black-Tie Scholarship*



*Nischelle Buffalow*



*Dr. George F. Reed*



*Emery Fears*

# *Gala!*

*November 19, 2022  
7:00 P.M.  
Delta Hotel by Marriott  
725 Woodlake Drive  
Chesapeake, Virginia 23320*

*Honoring the Achievement of Community Servant Leaders  
VIP Reception | Music & Entertainment | Dining & Dancing | Raffle  
"Forging ahead and striving for excellence"*

*All proceeds benefit the NCMPEF Scholarship Fund*



**Councilwoman, Dr. Ella Ward**

**Mr. Les Smith, Ground Zero Development**

# HomeOwnership (HOP) Program Kickoff 2022



## HOP Program Classes

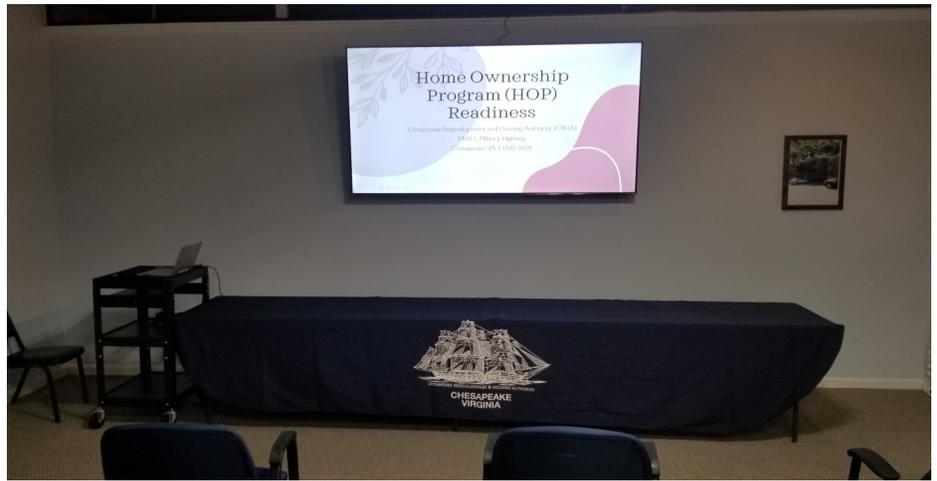
On the evening of Wednesday, September 21, 2022, the Home-Ownership Program (HOP) kicked off its first session of the 2022-2023 series of the Homebuyers Club with sixteen (16) potential future homebuyers.

The class focused on the primary elements which factors into the steps for eligibility, credit worthiness, etc. Romaunda Mitnaul, ROSS/Jobs Plus Programs Manager facilitated the class. Also in attendance was Nellie Sanchez, Housing and Community Development Specialist; Latwana Hunter, FSS Coordinator; Cindy Harrell, HCV Case Manager; Angie Brickhouse, Resident Services Liaison; Nancy Tarkenton, Assistant Executive Director; and John Kownack, Executive Director - whose opening remarks welcomed and encouraged the participants.

Following the session, staff held a Q&A session with participants who were eager to begin the process of qualifying for their first home purchase.

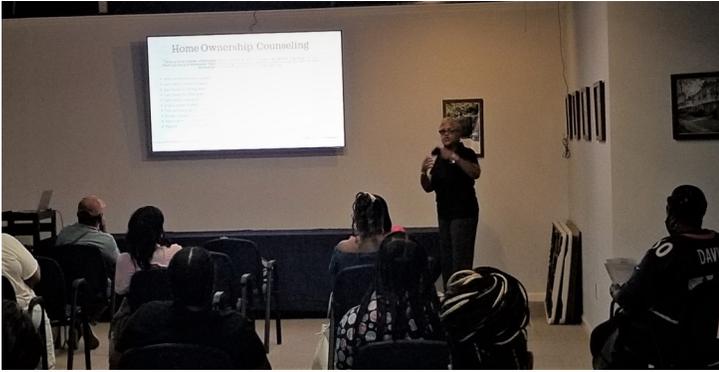
HOP will work individually with families in both the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV-HOP) and Public Housing (HOP-PH) programs to assess the current level of homebuying readiness, determine steps required to reach readiness, provide, or refer the family to training, classes, and/or resources upon completion of preparedness. The family will then be directed to local lenders and realtors to purchase their own home.

The second, third and fourth series were held on the evenings of October 11th, November 15th and of December 13th.





If you are interested in participating in future classes, or enrolling in the program, please contact **Ms. Nellie Sanchez, Housing and Community Development Specialist** at (757) 233-6403.



# Aspire360 Jobs Plus Initiative Program



Jobs Plus services are tailored to residents' individual needs and are drawn from a menu of on-site and referral services. For unemployed residents, case managers will help identify short and long-term employment goals and create plans to accomplish them. Employed individuals can work with case managers to take the necessary steps to advance in the labor market. Staff will continue to canvass all public housing communities to encourage the enrollment and other job-related opportunities.

In October 2022, the search continued for replacement of two (2) Jobs Plus Community Coaches. Our goal is to emulate their success stories across the entire Jobs Plus program platform. It is our hope the former Coaches will return as spokespersons to explain the full benefit of seeking employment while enrolled in the program and encourage others to do the same. The third Jobs Plus quarterly report was submitted on October 31, 2022.

In November, enrollment numbers steadily increased to forty-three enrolled; pushing Aspire360 one step closer to the annual program participant goal of 70-75. The program also continued its search for qualified candidates to fill vacancies for Community Coaches.

Throughout the fall months, the Jobs Plus team and community coaches participated in job fairs, Virginia Employment Commissioner/Career Works training sessions and became reacclimated with regular program activities following a busy summer season.

For additional information, please call (757) 233-6900.



## Latest News

### New Jobs Plus Vehicle

On November 17, 2022, the Aspire360 Jobs Plus program accepted delivery of a brand new service vehicle, which will be used to provide transportation for program participants who are experiencing transportation barriers while seeking employment.

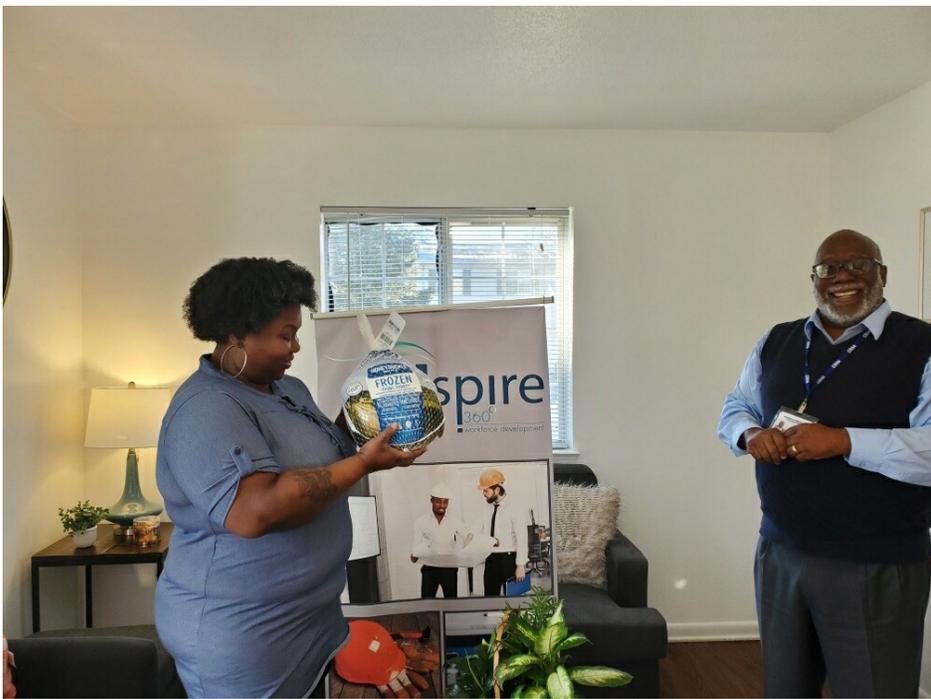




*"A Day of Caring" as noted by Joseph Hadley, Jobs Plus Case Manager:*

Ms. Carroll called this week to express her excitement. "Mr. Hadley, I have a new part-time job, I am so excited. I have accepted a position with Globe Life Insurance."

While she was talking to me you could hear a male companion in the background saying who are you talking to; to which she replied: "This is my Case Manager, this is my coach, this is my mentor."



Aspire360/Jobs Plus staff decided we wanted to do something special for Ms. Carroll to let her know we celebrate with her. I asked a local church if they were able to donate a turkey and they did. Although the program offers food distributions on Wednesday, staff wanted to go a little beyond.

Ms. Carroll has given us permission to use her photos in an effort to help and encourage others to enroll in the program.



We wish Ms. Carroll all the best!!!

**Pictured left:**  
Ms. Carroll (Aspire360 participant) & Joseph Hadley, Aspire360/Jobs Plus Case Manager

# New Partner Spotlight: "Electric Eye Photography"

*"When Quality Counts, Count On Us"*

## **ELECTRIC EYE**

Photography - Video - Live Streaming  
The New TrackStar 360 & Mirror Me Photo Booth.

**KELVIN L. OLIVER, Sr.** (757)-754-8991

Email: [electricyepv@yahoo.com](mailto:electricyepv@yahoo.com)  
Photos : [electricyepv.photorelect.com](http://electricyepv.photorelect.com)  
Video: [Vimeo.com/videoelectriceye](http://Vimeo.com/videoelectriceye)

- |               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| Anniversaries | Weddings    |
| Banquets      | Reunions    |
| Birthdays     | Graduations |
| Photo Booth   | Retirements |
| Conventions   | Funerals    |
- Large Panoramic Group Photo's 8x18 - 8x26



## CRHA Staff Trainings

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, CRHA staff attended the Annual Employee meeting at the Geneva Square Community Center. This year, the annual meeting provided a much-needed gang awareness training session, presented by Detective Coull of the Chesapeake Police Department's Gang Unit. It also reminded staff to exercise extra caution as the holiday season approaches. The meeting also provided staff the opportunity to learn about ongoing and new benefit services provided by the Authority.

Nine (9) CRHA staff members attended an informative Mental Health First Aid Training offered by Chesapeake Integrated Behavioral Health (CIBH) on Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. The training is the second round (the first round took place in June 2022) offered in a three-part series that combines online pre-course work assessments, a full day of in-person training, followed a post-training session. It was vital for staff to attend the training in order to be better equipped to handle the ever-changing environment and growing need for mental health awareness surrounding the population we serve.

Senior management staff and the Executive Director also attended the annual *VAHCDO Legal & Policy Seminar*, held at the Delta Hotels by Marriott Richmond Downtown from December 1-2, 2022 where CRHA Counsel, **Ms. Delphine Carnes**, participated as a presenter.

### 2022 VAHCDO Legal & Policy Seminar



*HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM  
OUR FAMILY TO YOURS!*



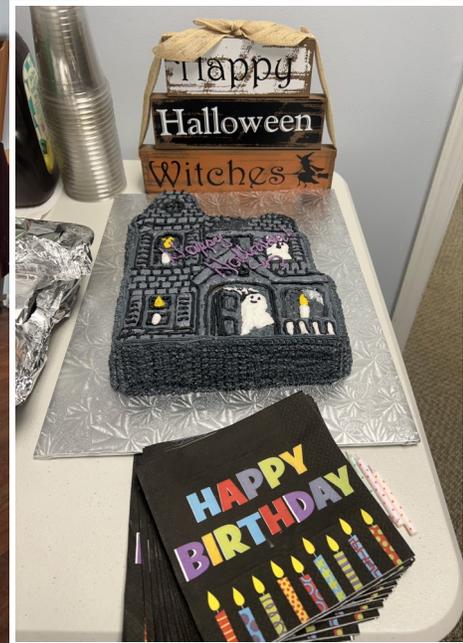
**CRHA Board of Commissioners, Legal Counsel and Executive Director**



**CRHA Satellite Office Staff**



OCTOBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



Fall Festival

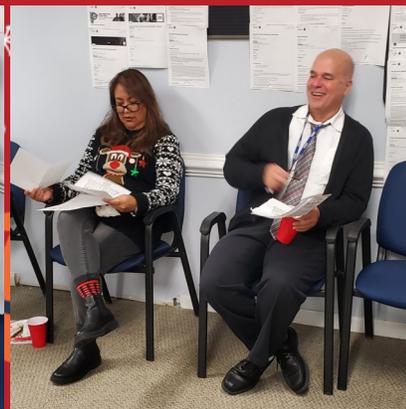


*HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM  
OUR FAMILY TO YOURS!*



**Central Office Holiday Breakfast**



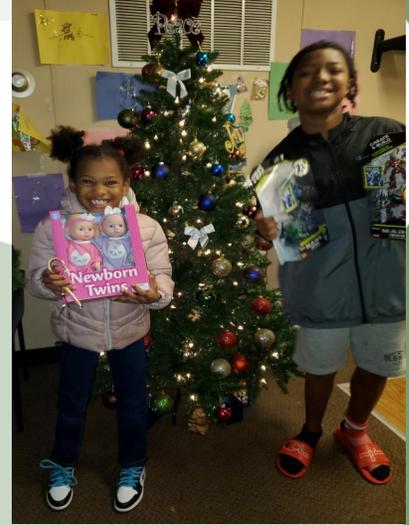




## Geneva Square Holiday Breakfast







## Christmas Cheer in Peaceful Village

On Tuesday, December 20, 2022, Santa paid a special visit to residents in the Peaceful Village Community. Children and parents alike were thrilled to receive their Christmas gifts early.

## Additional Rent Relief Resources

**211 VIRGINIA:** Virginia Department of Social Services Information and Referral Services features information on many community partners, community action agencies and nonprofit organizations across the commonwealth that help meet the financial needs of Virginians. Visit their website at [211virginia.org](http://211virginia.org) or by dialing 2-1-1; this is a free call. If you are calling from out of state or using a videophone or disposable cell phone, dial [1-800-230-6977](tel:1-800-230-6977).

### Tenant Rights and Responsibilities:

- Late fees must be limited to 10% of the monthly rent amount or the amount of past due rent a tenant owes, whichever is less. This is state law and has no expiration date.
- The prohibition against negative action by a landlord who owns more than four rental units against an applicant for tenancy (based on non-payment of rent because of the pandemic) will remain in place for seven years after the state of emergency expired on June 30, 2021.
- Under the Virginia Fair Housing Law, it is an unlawful discriminatory housing practice to refuse to rent, refuse to negotiate for the rental of, or otherwise make unavailable or deny a dwelling to a person because of source of funds (defined to include any assistance, benefit, or subsidy program).

### If You Cannot Pay Your Rent:

- If you are a Housing Choice Voucher recipient, contact your voucher agency as soon as possible so they can work with you toward a solution.
- Even though certain protections have been in place and even if your landlord allows you to skip one or more payments, the rent will need to be repaid eventually.

Tenants may fall under various state and federal protections, but some property owners may be able to collect full payment or raise your rent to recover missed payments.

- Be sure to discuss this with your landlord and double-check that advice with a housing counselor ([HUD-Certified Housing Counselors](#)) or legal representation so you understand any potential future consequences of skipping rental payments now, and the specifics of what protections are available to you.
- To avoid having to pay a lump sum payment of your past-due rent, request a payment plan from your landlord and have it spread over a longer period of time. Once you agree on a payment plan, ask for the plan in writing. Landlords are required to offer a payment plan if they own five or more units per the Code of Virginia on a pay or quit notice.
- If you are experiencing homelessness or at risk of losing your housing: [Contact your local homeless crisis response system](#).
- The [Virginia Residential Landlord-Tenant Handbook](#) provides guidelines for tenant and landlord rights. For tenants in hotels or motels, if the room or suite has been the tenant's primary residence for more than 90 days or there is a written lease for at least 90 days, it is illegal for a landlord to evict the tenant without getting a court order and involving the sheriff's office.
- If you are facing an eviction, or if you have questions about your rights, contact Virginia Legal Aid by calling [1-866-LEGL-AID](tel:1-866-LEGL-AID) or get legal advice from the Eviction Legal Helpline by calling [1-833-NoEvict](tel:1-833-NoEvict).
- Pay your rent if you are able, as these costs will continue to accumulate.

If you are a Virginian facing a potential eviction, call **1-833-NOEvict** (1-833-663-8428) or visit [evictionhelpline.org](http://evictionhelpline.org).



### Helpful Links:

[2-1-1 Virginia](#)

[DHCD Statement of Tenant's Rights and Responsibilities](#)

[Tenant and Landlord Resources](#)

[Eviction Hotline](#)

[HUD-Certified Housing Counselors](#)

[National Alliance to End Homelessness](#)

[Virginia Housing Search](#)

[Renter Education eBook \(from Virginia Housing\)](#)

[Virginia Legal Aid](#)

[Virginia Poverty Law Center](#)

[Virginia Residential Landlord-Tenant Handbook](#)

[Virginia Mortgage Relief](#)

[Virginia Fair Housing Office](#)

## COMPUTER RESOURCE CENTERS

Computer resource centers are located in the Peaceful Village Empowerment Center, the MacDonald Manor Community Center and the Aspire360 Jobs Plus office. There are also two (2) kiosks at the Central Office, located at 1468 South Military Highway.

The labs feature work stations equipped with Internet access and Microsoft Office programs. The computer centers provide a resource for adult residents to access the Internet, enhance computer literacy, and improve educational skills and marketability for employment. Youth can access the computer terminals for tutoring activities and homework.



## Resources (Continued)



In order to increase the supply of accessible housing for tenants with Housing Choice Vouchers, Chesapeake Redevelopment and Housing Authority (CRHA) is seeking landlords who will **make their property accessible for new voucher holders and tenants with disabilities.**

CRHA recently added eighteen (18) new Landlords to its HCV program, but a deficit remains for those actively seeking housing. Please contact **Ms. Stephanie Wright, Director of HCV Programs at (757) 233-6408** if you are interested in placing your property on the list of Available Housing Properties.

# ForKids

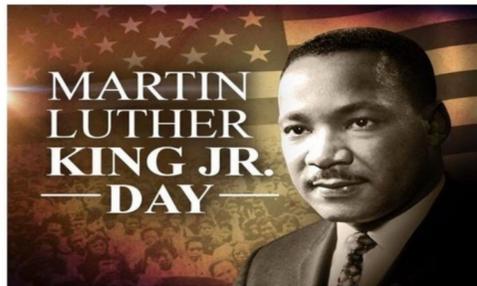
The ForKids **Housing Crisis Hotline** is the central point of contact for all persons experiencing a **housing crisis** throughout Southeastern Virginia. Through the Hotline, individuals in crisis are connected to the community's extended network of resources for assistance and to prevent them from falling into homelessness whenever possible. The Hotline also allows collection of an enormous amount of data about the homeless population in our region; armed with more knowledge about their specific needs, we are now better equipped to help move these families towards stability. For housing assistance, you may call (757) 587-4202.

[Our Solutions](#) | [Family Homelessness](#) | [Norfolk, VA](#) | [ForKids](#)

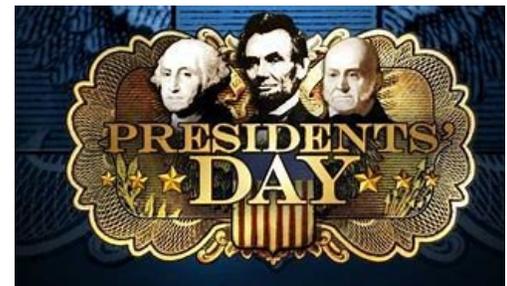
## Holiday Office Closures



CRHA Offices were closed on Friday, December 23rd and Monday, December 26th in observance of the Christmas holiday; and Monday, January 2, 2023 in observance of the New Year.



CRHA Offices will be closed on Monday, January 16, 2023 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.



CRHA Offices will be closed on Monday, February 20, 2023 in observance of Presidents' Day.

Chesapeake Redevelopment and Housing Authority

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