



Wesley Housing Development Corporation
 5515 Cherokee Avenue • Suite 200
 Alexandria, Virginia 22312-2309
 Phone: (703) 642-3830 • FAX: (703) 941-1724
www.wesleyhousing.org

Al Smuzynski Inducted into Affordable Housing Hall of Fame

On June 21, the Virginia Housing Coalition (VHC) inducted WHDC President/CEO Al Smuzynski into the newly-created Affordable Housing Hall of Fame. Launched at VHC's Annual Housing Awards banquet in Richmond, the Hall of Fame "recognizes lifetime achievement in the area of affordable housing preservation, production and advocacy." Mr. Smuzynski and Lynn Boyer Haines with ElderHomes Corporation were the Hall of Fame's first two inductees.

Strawbridge Square Youth Wins Science Fair



Formula for a Bright Future

Sundance's grandmother calls her an old soul. At 15, she prefers to listen to music from the 60s and 70s. The Strawbridge Square resident, pictured above, has a lot of curiosity and a wide-range of

interests — she aspires to one day be a forensic investigator or a fashion designer. Both dreams appear within reach, based on her current academic path. Sundance recently won the Annandale High School Science Fair for Chemistry. She and her team tested the pH of different liquids to determine the short- and long-term impact on the stomach. Her team didn't win the regional competition, but "it was an honor just to be there," Sundance said. She also loves designing clothes and has taken fashion design as an elective for two years. This is in addition to honors classes in English, History, and Biology.

Sundance, who has lived at Strawbridge since she was seven years old, attended summer camp three times at the on-site Lincolnia Community Resource Center (LCRC). She served as a camp counselor-in-training there last summer; she was a counselor this summer. In her limited spare time, Sundance volunteers at the LCRC. "The Center is a very good resource, especially the access to computers," she said. "I spent a lot of time there as a kid." If she's not at the Center, Sundance is riding her bike or reading. "I read anything I can get my hands on." That habit bodes well for her future, which is sure to be bright.

UPDATES

Beverly Park Apartments (City of Alexandria): VHDA approved low-income housing tax credits for the acquisition and renovation of this 41-unit property. Allocation of these credits through the Northern Virginia Preservation Non-Competitive Pool will allow for needed renovations and improvements, including creating larger, family size units, and upgrading the kitchens and bathrooms.

Ben Franklin Road (Springfield): WHDC purchased a single family home, in cooperation with the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, which will be converted into a six-bedroom home for developmentally disabled adults.

Recent Grants: Special thanks to these community partners for their recent grants and contributions: Fannie Mae Foundation, Arent Fox PLLC, SunAmerica Affordable Housing Partners, Inc., The Richman Group (all via Fannie Mae Foundation's Help the Homeless Walkathon); and the Meyer Foundation, Philip L. Graham Fund, PNC, SunTrust, United Bank, Venable Foundation, VHDA, the Citigroup Foundation, and the Swain Family Charitable Trust of The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region.

Meyer Foundation MAP Grant Facilitates Transition

Al Smuzynski's retirement ushers in a time of change for Wesley Housing. The Board of Directors and staff have been busy preparing for this transition. With a Management Assistance Program (MAP) grant from the **Meyer Foundation** and support from **TransitionGuides**, we completed a survey of our stakeholders, an organizational assessment, and a strategic planning review. The President/CEO Search Committee just concluded its work.

Renovations Underway at ParcView Apartments



Hamel Builders, Inc. Hosted HAND Meeting and Walk Through

Hamel Builders, Inc. hosted the April HAND meeting and walk through to show the various stages of renovation at ParcView Apartments in the City of Alexandria's Landmark area. Wesley Housing is combining smaller units to make some two-bedroom/two-bathroom apartments at ParcView. Eight units will be remodeled as handicapped-accessible apartments.

WHDC Summer Intern

Ms. Chinwe S. Kpaduwa (right), a 2005 graduate of Harvard University, served as WHDC's Summer Intern.

Chinwe assessed the service needs in the Whitefield

Commons and Lincolnia communities. She identified gaps in meeting those needs, and developed a structure to establish resident advisory councils to mobilize residents and other resources. The **Citigroup Foundation** sponsored Ms. Kpaduwa's internship. Following her internship, Chinwe started her first year at Georgetown University School of Medicine.



This newsletter is sponsored in part by Virginia Housing Development Authority.



WHDC is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, partially funded by these government entities: Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Commonwealth of Virginia, Fairfax County, Arlington County, the City of Falls Church, and the City of Alexandria.

