

Better Homes.
Better Communities.
Better Lives.

Betternews

Better Housing Coalition changes lives and transforms communities through high quality, affordable housing.

Corporate Volunteers Keep Communities Vibrant

Capital One and Genworth Financial Lead Large-Scale Volunteer Projects for Better Housing Coalition



Top: Genworth volunteers and Lincoln Mews residents worked together to beautify the landscape.
Bottom Left: Capital One volunteers painted all front porches and backyard fences at St. Andrew's Townhomes.
Bottom Right: The new horsehoe pits at Carter Woods provide hours of entertainment for senior residents.

“It warms my heart that Capital One can have such a substantial impact on one organization and so many people. Thanks for connecting us with Better Housing Coalition,” said a Capital One volunteer.

On June 23, volunteers from Genworth Financial came to BHC's newly renovated Lincoln Mews apartment community for a landscape beautification project. Volunteers added color and warmth to the community entrance by planting flowers and laying fresh mulch. Many of the younger residents, just out of school for summer, eagerly joined Genworth's efforts. Adults guided the children in spreading mulch and digging holes for the flowers. After finishing the front flower beds, they worked together to mulch around the Community Center. Upon completion, the Genworth volunteers and kids gathered in the Community Center to celebrate the day's accomplishments with cookies and lemonade. The volunteer day was a fun experience for our young residents, as well as a great inspiration for them to take care of the community in which they live.

On behalf of our residents, BHC thanks Capital One and Genworth for their hard work and leadership in making our communities even better places to live. By working together, we are able to bring long-term, large-scale revitalization to communities throughout Greater Richmond and positively impact the lives of those who live there.

Capital One and Genworth Financial recently gave BHC communities a significant boost, and their volunteers made a great impact on the lives of residents.

BHC was a recipient of Capital One's *Investing for Good Award*, and was a beneficiary of their annual 'One Week' of company-wide volunteerism. From May 16-20, Capital One coordinated numerous projects to serve BHC residents of all ages. At the beginning of the week, Capital One volunteers constructed a bocce ball court and horsehoe pit for the enjoyment of our senior residents at Carter Woods. The new outdoor recreational area quickly became a popular place for residents to socialize and engage in leisurely exercise. Capital One also assembled care packages for residents of all BHC senior communities and school supplies for younger residents, which were distributed by BHC's Property Management and Community Social Work departments.

Capital One volunteers also spent an afternoon painting fences and porches at St. Andrew's Townhomes, revigorating the front and back exteriors of the apartments. To finish the week, volunteers landscaped the community gardens at Winchester Greens. This project generated great excitement among the children, as two young residents “adopted” their own plot of land and were already planting vegetables before the volunteers left for the day. More than 100 Capital One volunteers served BHC during One Week.



Community Center at Lincoln Mews

The newly constructed Community Center, funded by the Robins Foundation, serves as a central location for BHC's Community Social Work to provide after-school programs and other resident support services. Coming soon, residents will also have access to community gardens by the Center, where they can plant and harvest vegetables. These features, in addition to a new playground, give children many new ways to engage in healthy activities.

BHC Honors Local Leaders at third annual Groundbreakers

Governor Bob McDonnell welcomes over 400 guests



More than 400 supporters attended BHC's third annual Groundbreakers celebration on April 5 at the historic Beckstoffer's Mill in Church Hill. The site is under construction and will be transformed into a new mixed-use, mixed-income community. In keeping with the 'Home is Where You Are' theme, a vacant lot was tented and structured like a house - complete with an outdoor patio, living room, and dining areas. Mosaic Catering repurposed some of the old lumber left on-site by building shelves, tables, and other 'homey' furniture for the event.

The Groundbreakers Awards honored four local individuals whose leadership and groundbreaking work inspires positive change throughout Greater Richmond. BHC is pleased to congratulate this year's award recipients:

Community Revitalizer - **Bob Sledd**, Senior Economic Advisor to the Governor

Changer of Lives - **Cullen Rivers**, MD, CrossOver Ministry

Creative Collaborator - **Jeanine Harper**, Greater Richmond SCAN

Henry David Thoreau Environmental Conservator - **Patrick Farley**, Watershed Architects

Governor Bob McDonnell opened the awards ceremony, welcoming the guests in attendance and commending the award recipients for their great work. BHC thanks the Jepson School of Leadership Studies at the University of Richmond for leading the nomination and selection process, and our sponsors for helping make the event such a success!

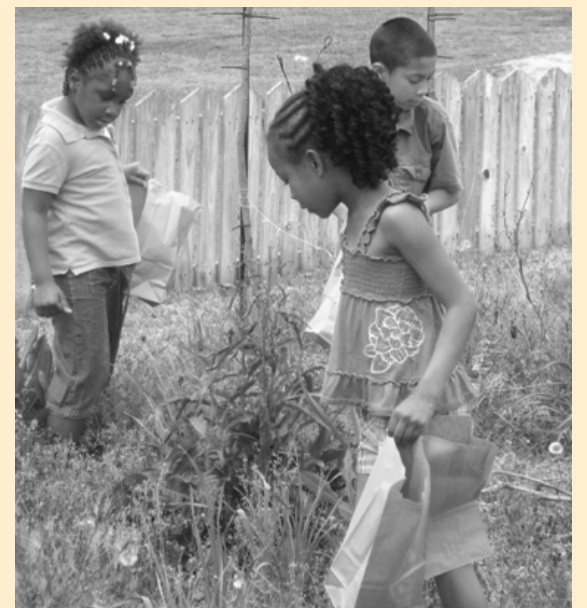
Top: Governor Bob McDonnell addresses the crowd before the awards ceremony. Bottom: (left to right) BHC Chairman John McCann, Cullen Rivers, Bob Sledd, Patrick Farley, Jeanine Harper, event MC Mary Thompson, and BHC President/CEO T.K. Somanath. Groundbreakers Awards were designed by local artist Noah Scalin using sustainable material procured from Beckstoffer's Mill.

Winchester Greens holds First Annual Community Walk for Fitness

BHC's Community Social Work team organized a successful Walk for Fitness on April 20, designed to highlight how residents can live healthy lifestyles in their own neighborhood. Nearly 90 people attended along with a variety of community partners and vendors. An American Family Fitness Certified Personal Trainer - also a resident of Winchester Greens - led the group in warm up exercises while other representatives from American Family gave away door prizes and passes for one free week at their Chester location.

After the walk, children participated in an egg hunt held in the Community Garden. They then enjoyed the opportunity to hold and pet Juicy and Roger - the floppy-eared rabbits in attendance.

As a result of great feedback from participants, the Community Walk for Fitness will become an annual event at Winchester Greens. The walk showed residents that there are plenty of fun ways to get physically fit with their neighbors! Special thanks to Day Support, 4-H Cooperative Extension, Bellwood Federal Credit Union, Mary Tyler McClenahan Child Care Center, and Chester American Family Fitness.



Children search for eggs in the Community Garden



Rockwood Village residents present their check to Station 24

Senior Residents Give Back to Rescue Squad

On May 21, the residents of Rockwood Village held a community-wide yard sale at Faith Heritage Church. The yard sale was not just an ordinary 'spring cleaning' - it was the residents' way of saying thank-you to Station 24 of the Chesterfield County Rescue Squad. Station 24 mans the ambulance 90% of the time when there are calls to the community. After working hard to gather items to sell and publicize the event, the residents were able to raise \$1,322.11. Not a single sale item was left over. They happily presented all proceeds to members of the squad the following week.

The donation will go to Station 24's Cares Fund, which is used to buy equipment not ordinarily covered by the county fire department as well as help families who have had fires or medical emergencies. BHC thanks the Chesterfield Rescue Squad for all they do to serve our residents, and congratulates our seniors on such a successful fundraiser! Thanks to Frances Arvin, Pat Barnett, Frances Thomas, Joan Theriot, and Rita Shumate for coordinating the community's fundraising efforts.

EarthCraft Virginia names Lincoln Mews Multifamily Renovation Project of the Year

On March 24, EarthCraft Virginia named Lincoln Mews as the Multifamily Renovation Project of the Year at its second annual Builder Awards program. Acquired by Better Housing Coalition in 2008, Lincoln Mews is the completely revitalized apartment complex formerly known as Lincoln Manor, located in Richmond's Northside.

BHC renovated the interiors and exteriors of the apartments in two phases to prevent displacement of families living there. New energy-efficient features, which are certified under the EarthCraft Multifamily Program, include:

- Blown-in cellulose insulation
- Energy-efficient tankless gas water heaters
- New high efficiency HVAC systems
- Energy Star appliances and light fixtures
- New low-E windows (Energy Star certified)
- Low-VOC solvents, adhesives and paints
- Low-maintenance HardiPlank siding
- Eco-friendly landscaping

These upgrades are estimated to cut residents' utility costs in half, making their monthly payments even more affordable.

The revitalization of Lincoln Mews includes the addition of a new Community Center, funded by the Robins Foundation. This building also incorporates green building technologies - such as solar panels - and serves as a center for after-school programs and other services provided by BHC's Community Social Work department. As demonstrated in other BHC communities, these free and voluntary services change lives and help bring lasting transformation to the neighborhood.

BHC is honored to have received this recognition from EarthCraft Virginia.



BHC staff Bernard Rogers, Jeff Reynolds, and Bob Newman with Paul Ferguson and KC McGurren of EarthCraft Virginia

New Program Teaches Teens Culinary Skills

Young residents at Winchester are acquiring knowledge and skills for preparing and sharing healthy meals. Through a partnership with Chesterfield Virginia Cooperative Extension, *Cooking Matters for Teens* provides six two-hour classes in which teens learn how to make healthy food choices, how to create meals for friends and family, and the importance of family mealtime. Dishes prepared by students so far include homemade vegetable pizza, fruit salad, sweet potato biscuits, and vegetable soup. Students are monitored as they cook and receive constructive tips from Virginia Cooperative Extension staff. After every session, each student takes home a bag of ingredients to replicate the meal for their families.

By taking these classes, young residents are put on track to lead healthier lifestyles through the food they eat, and they gain valuable life skills. BHC thanks Chesterfield Virginia Cooperative Extension for their help in bringing this fun and educational program to our young residents of Winchester Greens. *Cooking Matters for Teens* is nationally sponsored by the ConAgra Foods Foundation and supported by the Walmart Foundation.

BHC Continues Single-Family Renovation in Church Hill



2012 Fairmount Avenue

BHC's newly renovated Queen Anne-style home at 2012 Fairmount Avenue is ready to welcome new first-time homeowners to the Church Hill neighborhood. This affordable home integrates modern energy-efficient features with beautiful historic architecture. The home is also adjacent to BHC's award-winning renovation at 2008 Fairmount (recipient of the 2009 *Golden Hammer Award* for Best Residential Renovation), making it another key piece of revitalization in Church Hill. BHC held an open house at the home on June 16 during the Center for Neighborhood Revitalization's Renovators' Happy Hour.

Young Residents Engage in Community Service

On May 7, three Lincoln Mews residents participated in Teen Service Day sponsored by the YMCA. The day called for teens (grades 6 -12) to give back to their local parks and schools. Our residents volunteered at Belle Isle, cleaning up trails by getting rid of undergrowth and picking up trash. Community Social Work (CSW) will continue to offer service opportunities at Lincoln Mews.



Teen residents clean up the trails of Belle Isle

Young residents at Winchester Greens are also working hard to contribute to their community. They held a food drive in April to benefit Chesterfield County residents, who received the food through Gathering Grounds Ministry. They placed donation bags with explanatory flyers on each apartment door handle in Winchester Greens, and collected the food the following week. Neighborhood residents donated nearly 20 full bags of groceries.

BHC Partners with VCU for International Planning Education

Urban planners and educators from around the world met in Richmond for one week in February for a seminar on sustainable planning. The first of four seminars to take place over the next two years, participants discussed topics ranging from land use to social inclusion. During the seminar, Winchester Greens served as a model for redeveloping a dilapidated housing community utilizing new urbanist principles and energy-efficient building practices. Through an international exchange of planning knowledge, this program funded by the U.S. Department of Education and European Union aims to enhance planning education in Europe and the United States.

"I want to give you many many thanks for your help and work during my home buying process! Your team has done amazing work and I am so very proud of my home! Thank you for always being available to answer questions and being a great resource!"

- Kristie, Oak Summit at Goose Creek homeowner



Kristie and Colin

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These gifts of \$1,000 or more were received since January 2011.

*2011 Groundbreakers Sponsor

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Maximize Your Gift: When you make a gift to BHC, it may be eligible for state tax credits. A gift from an individual of \$500 and above is eligible for a 40% tax credit. For businesses, the gift must be at least \$1,000 to receive the 40% tax credit.

Designate Your Gift: When you give to United Way, use code 3158 or simply write "BHC." Use code 3624 when you make a gift to the Combined Virginia Campaign, and your donation will go to BHC.

BHC is on GiveRichmond. Search for Better Housing Coalition on GiveRichmond.org to make a gift. You can also make an online gift at www.betterhousingcoalition.org/give.

For more information contact Drew Melson at 804-644-0546 x23 or d.melson@betterhousingcoalition.org.

What Your Gift Supports

\$100

- Children's books
- Art supplies for 6 months for elder art
- After-school snacks for 1 month
- Van for community service project, 15 kids

\$500

- Ropes course, 15 kids
- Computer instruction for 6 months
- Back-to-school supplies, 50 kids

\$1,000

- High quality home insulation
- Community gardens, fencing, landscaping

BHC WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER

Ronald A. Bertolini, Genworth Financial



"I am truly honored to be able to serve the Better Housing Coalition. One of the fundamental rights of all Americans is shelter. I believe BHC sees developing safe housing in the building of strong communities as its mission. I look forward to assisting the Better Housing Coalition in its mission."

Visit Our New Website

BHC has launched a new website loaded with new features, including a news blog and a page about the Center for Neighborhood Revitalization. Take a look today - visit www.betterhousingcoalition.org, and check back often for updates. Don't forget to sign up for our monthly e-newsletter!

Join BHC for a Community Bus Tour this Fall!

- Thursday, September 29, 2011, 12 - 2 pm
- Wednesday, October 19, 2011, 12 - 2 pm
- Wednesday, November 30, 2011, 12 - 2 pm

Our bus tours provide a great way for you to see first-hand the impact that BHC is having on communities throughout Greater Richmond. Lunch and parking will be provided. To register or learn more, please contact Drew Melson at 804-644-0546 x23 or d.melson@betterhousingcoalition.org.