



**Better Housing**  
COALITION

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Better Housing Coalition Awards \$11,000 in Higher Education Scholarships To Nine Residents of BHC Apartment Communities**

**August 16, 2016** (Richmond, Va.) — The Better Housing Coalition (BHC) announces the inaugural recipients of its Founders' Scholarships, established in 2015 in honor of BHC co-founders Carter McDowell and the late Mary Tyler McClenahan. A total of \$11,000 will be awarded to nine adult residents (ages 17 and older) of BHC rental communities who are seeking higher education (two- or four-year degree or professional certificate program).

The recipients will be honored at a reception on Tuesday, August 30, from 6-7:30 pm at Lincoln Mews Community Center, 4101 North Avenue, Richmond, VA 23222.

The scholarship recipients' ages, backgrounds and fields of study vary widely. Some are parents who want to set good examples for their children; some live with theirs, who support their quest for achievement. One is a grandfather; two are veterans; two were raised in Virginia's foster care system. Five are employed, and two are on the Dean's list at their respective institutions.

"All of our scholarship recipients have expressed a strong will and desire to succeed. Some of them come from challenging circumstances. Even so, they are driven to get the education and credentials that will lead to higher-paying jobs," said Greta Harris, BHC's President and CEO. "We applaud them for their commitment, and are happy to support them in achieving their goals."

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A group of individual donors contributed the initial funding for the Founders' Scholarships. For the first year, the program was rolled out to residents of three of BHC's 15 rental communities. Applicants applied competitively, and recipients were selected by a committee that included BHC donors, board members and staff.

The recipients of the 2016 Better Housing Coalition Founders' Scholarship and their educational institutions are:

Anthony Brooks, J. Sargent Reynolds Community College

Joi Greene, Virginia Union University

Cadisha Hurdle, Virginia State University

Derek Lem, J. Sargent Reynolds Community College

Brian Jefferson, American Intercontinental University

Dominique Propst, ECPI

Delsa Sally, J. Sargent Reynolds Community College

Joyce Spain, Chaminade University, and

Quinese White, Bryant and Stratton College

Scholarships are valid for a one-year period. Students seeking a four-year degree at a college or university are eligible for up to \$2,000 towards tuition, books and supplies; and those seeking a two-year degree or professional certification are eligible to receive up to \$1,000. Scholarship recipients in good standing may re-apply each year.

### **About the Better Housing Coalition**

As Richmond's largest not-for-profit affordable housing developer, the Better Housing Coalition's mission is to change lives and transform communities through high-quality affordable housing. Since 1988, BHC has revitalized several historic communities and developed new ones in Richmond, Chesterfield, Henrico and Petersburg.

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Its portfolio includes the development and operation of 15 multi-family rental communities – eight of which are for low-wealth seniors – with 1,500 rental units, and 200 new or renovated single-family homes sold to first-time home buyers.

BHC communities are characterized by attractive homes for people of mixed incomes; eco-friendly features and sustainable development; collaborations with residents and community partners; neighborhood preservation, and architectural features not typically associated with affordable housing. BHC also provides free and voluntary resident support services to help children reach their aspirations, adults become more self-reliant, and seniors age in place and lead healthier lives. The organization relies on philanthropic support to advance its mission. For more information call 804-644-0546 or visit [www.betterhousingcoalition.org](http://www.betterhousingcoalition.org).