November 2015

Government Shutdown Averted... Again

Once again the Congress acted at the very last minute to pass a continuing resolution extending budget authority into December. Sadly, it has become commonplace to start each new federal fiscal year on October 1 without any certainty as to funding levels. This drama year in year out in Washington precludes meaningful planning for governmental services, whether it is housing assistance, veterans' health care, highway projects or a multitude of other programs.

What is often lost on the public is the fact that reliable and well-delivered services, regardless of public or private in nature, require a degree of certainty and the ability to employ and train staff to perform services that citizens expect. While this sounds like the broken record each time I write about it, I and many of our staff regularly receive very specific questions from applicants for housing services. Questions that cannot be answered, given the up and down nature of funding... and lately it has been primarily down! Our major housing programs are operating at about 20% less than what federal funding formulas allow.

Despite the economic recovery that is slowly building, we continue to have more than 17,000 people on our various waiting lists for federal housing assistance. So you can see that funding to sustain our programs has real consequences.

Farewell to a Friend and Colleague

On a very personal note for me and the entire AMHA organization, we lost a very valued and beloved colleague a few weeks ago. The unexpected passing of Tom Miller shocked us all. Tom was in the peak of life, practiced a healthy and active lifestyle and was the type of guy many turned to for help.

He was one of many great team players who work behind the scenes to continuously improve our services. Tom managed our customer service program, which receives more than 35,000 telephone calls each year and makes certain that requests for repairs are handled appropriately and tracked. He also was invaluable to our managers and maintenance employees overseeing the complex tasks of having the right products and materials available to staff who maintain our almost 5,000 housing units. Tom was a model employee and more importantly a model husband, father and friend, and we will miss him.

AmHA employees mourn the loss of a friend and co-worker.

AMHA Board of Directors

Anthony W. O’Leary, Executive Director
John C. Fickes, Chair
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AMHA Offices Closed

Veteran’s Day – November 11
Thanksgiving – November 26 and 27

AMHA Main Number

330-762-9631

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Anthony W. O’Leary
August 27, 2014 was a very special afternoon for the families at Bon Sue Apartments. Twenty-one families that included 56 children enjoyed the day, starting with a lunch of hot dogs, chips, fruit and cookies. The City of Akron Fire Department brought the “Touch A Truck”, allowing the children a chance to sit in the fire truck and try on fire helmets. Akron police officer Kevin Cooper brought coloring books and police badge stickers. Each child received an age-appropriate bag of school supplies. We would like to send out a big thank you to the resident volunteer group at the William Fowler building for decorating the school supply bags. Also, thank you to the staff from Resident Services, ECI and all those who contributed to make this day a success.

Bon Sue Family Day a Big Hit