Happy New Year!

The start of a new year is a reminder that each day can serve as a chance for new beginnings! We hope each of you are able to utilize this month as an opportunity to create resolutions for 2022 that reflect the goals you aspire to achieve. Click HERE for more information on how YOU can do this!

Show us how you celebrated the New Year and new beginnings by sending in a photo to be included in the next newsletter!

Holiday Highlights

Last month, we asked you to share a photo with us of what the holidays looked like in your home. We received some great photos that have been featured below. Thank you to those who participated and make sure to keep reading our newsletters each month for more opportunities to have your content included in future editions!

Nimmer at Night
Submitted by Diane Rosario

Wreath, Family Photos and Lighted Tree Submitted by Melissa Durant Smith
Family Photos Submitted by Christina Ervin
with her kids Arieonna and Caleb

Fun with Gingerbread Houses and Christmas Tree Submitted by Nikee Nicole

Elf on a Shelf Photos Submitted by the Resident Services Team

Resident Services Updates
FSS Grad Story

Laketa started the FSS program in December 2016. She just had a baby and was on leave from her job as a Home Health Aid. Laketa already had an Associate degree in Criminal Justice and some credits towards a Bachelor degree in Human Services. Some of her initial goals were to obtain employment, finish her Bachelor degree and complete homebuyer education classes. Laketa began working at her goals. She obtained employment again in the Home Health field and continued seeking better jobs. She moved around to a few different Home Health agencies, always looking for higher pay and better opportunities. Laketa obtained a better job in Jan. 2018 at Wayside Farm Nursing and Rehabilitation Center still working in Home Health, and she also completed her goal of taking homebuyer education classes. In Sept. 2018, Laketa began earning escrow in her FSS escrow account. Laketa set new goals to meet with College Now to explore school opportunities and funding assistance, and to re-enroll in school. Laketa achieved these goals in early 2019 and was able to enroll in Walden University online classes.

Laketa was also able to trade in her car for something newer and begin the application process to rent an AMHA Single Family Home. In December 2019, Laketa was approved and was able to move from her apartment to a house! Laketa continued working very hard to manage her new home, her job and her college coursework. By August 2020, her hard work paid off when she obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Human Services!

During her last year in the FSS program, Laketa set final goals to work on paying down her new car loan, obtaining a job where she could could use her degree, and to enroll her son into Kindergarten. Laketa experienced some unexpected health issues during this time as well as being affected by the COVID pandemic. Despite these struggles, she maintained her job and was able to obtain a raise as well. Laketa was able to complete her FSS Contract in November 2021. She plans to save her escrow money towards a down payment on a home of her own within the next 2-3 years. She said that her biggest goal achievement during her FSS participation was completing her Bachelor’s degree. Laketa said that the FSS program encouraged and inspired her to bring about successful endings in her present and future life.

Tablet Giveaway

We are so thankful for Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing, OCIC, and Huntington National Bank for their partnership with AMHA's ConnectHome.
Akron project. With their support, we were able to install free in-unit Wi-Fi at Marian T. Hall and distribute tablets to each household. Pictured left is Wanda, an AMHA resident who attended the event and received a free device. Thanks to the hard work of many, this event was a success in helping to support ConectHome's initiative in bridging the digital divide.

Resources

City of Akron Older Adult Commission

The city of Akron is joining communities across the nation in becoming an Age-Friendly Community. We need your input to ensure that Akron is a place where everyone can thrive! There are a few ways to get involved. Attend a virtual meeting or fill out the online survey.

Join the Mayor's Commission on Aging on January 12 from 12-1:30PM:

Age Friendly Akron Virtual Meeting 1

Register for the virtual meeting on January 20 from 4-5PM:

Age Friendly Akron Virtual Meeting 2

Take the online survey today:

Age Friendly Akron Survey

Learn More:

Age Friendly Akron Website
Follow Age Friendly on Facebook

We are looking forward to seeing you (virtually)!
Starting January 5, 2022 COVID vaccination services will be offered through SCPH's indoor clinic at 1867 W. Market Street. All in-stock brands will be available and administered in line with current CDC recommendations. Any person ages 5 and older can be seen. Appointments are required and can be scheduled by clicking HERE.

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Jobs Plus

Have you ever heard of Jobs Plus? If you are a resident of Summit Lake Apartments, Lakeshore Apartments, Lakeshore Duplexes, Roulhac Circle, or Dorothy Jackson Terrace..you are eligible!

To find out how you can earn more money without an increase in rent and how you can access free life coaching services, please call 330-604-3239 or email us at JobsPlus@AkronHousing.org.

Don't forget to like us on Facebook @jobsplusamha to stay up-to-date on activities and resources!

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The Affordable Connectivity Program

Important things to know about the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) that used to be the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBB)

*If you have already enrolled in the EBB program last year, you do not need to reapply. Please keep in mind that the discount will go down from $50 to $30 on 3/2/2022. However, the income guidelines have been revised to help more individuals be able to sign up/or stay covered. More information on the website*
Sign Up to Get ACP Benefits:

Go to https://acpbenefit.org/
After you submit an application, they will share the results with you. If you apply online, you may receive an immediate approval. If they cannot confirm your eligibility automatically, they will request additional documentation from you and provide information on how you can submit those documents for review.
*If you have any questions, you can call the ACP Support Center at 877-384-2575, 7 days a week. If you need help with the application, you can reach out to ConnectHome Akron staff, Panther Spurlin at 330-958-2764.

Moving to Work: Survey and Virtual Meetings

Survey Information

Click HERE to take a survey about the Moving to Work program (MTW). For more information, please call 330-825-6987 or email questions to MTW@akronhousing.org.
Get Entered for a chance to Win a 25$ Gift Card!

We want to hear from YOU!

Please complete the survey found at the link above with your thoughts on how we could work towards the MTW goals below.

The MTW Program Aims To:

- Reduce the cost to run housing programs.
- Encourage self-sufficiency through job training, education programs, etc.
- Increase housing choices for our participants.

What IS MTW?

AMHA was selected to participate in HUD’s MTW program, which will allow us to change some of our program rules to design new housing and self-sufficiency strategies to better fit the needs of Summit County.

What AMHA Envisions

We envision a program that meaningfully increases local affordable housing choices, reduces administrative burdens and costs, and ultimately enhances the quality of housing and services that empower everyone to reach their full potential.

Virtual Meeting Information

Learn More About the MTW Program!

Virtual ZOOM Public Meetings

We invite you to participate in either of the virtual meetings listed below to hear more about the MTW Program and AMHA’s plans. During the meeting, we will discuss the changes we are making beginning in July and you will have the opportunity to offer comments and/or questions. The meetings will be held on
Zoom. To access the meetings, please dial 312-626-6799 on any phone and enter the meeting ID and passcode OR download the Zoom application on your smartphone and enter the meeting ID and passcode. Please continue to check AMHA's website at www.akronhousing.org for additional opportunities to learn more about MTW.

When: Wednesday, February 16th
Time: 10:00 AM (general meeting)
       10:30 AM (safe harbor/agency specific waivers)
Where: Virtual ZOOM
Phone #: 312-626-6799
Meeting ID: 825 5589 4622
Passcode: 021622

When: Tuesday, March 1st
Time: 5:30 PM (general meeting)
       6:00 PM (safe harbor/agency specific waivers)
Where: Virtual ZOOM
Phone #: 312-626-6799
Meeting ID: 893 6299 6082
Passcode: 030122

Quick Facts on the MTW Program!

- Ability to modify our housing programs to better benefit our local community
- Reduce cost and achieve greater cost effectiveness
- Encourage self-sufficiency through job training, education programs, etc.
- Increase housing choices for low-income families
- This year’s plans: simplifying rent calculation, reducing paperwork, offering incentives to landlords with the Housing Choice Voucher Program, and more!

If you are unable or do not want to participate in the virtual meetings, the information will be posted at HERE and you may ask your questions or provide your comments by calling our MTW information line at (330) 825-6987 or email MTW@AkronHousing.Org.

Persons with disabilities needing information in an accessible format, please contact the Reasonable Accommodations Coordinator at (330) 762-9631, or for persons needing an interpreter, please contact (330) 825-6987 as soon as possible.

Winter Utility Bill Assistance

Assistance is available to income-eligible Summit County residents to help pay for winter utility bills through the Emergency Home Energy Assistance Program (E-HEAP). Click HERE to apply online or call 330-436-0261. Please be persistent as it may take several days to get through. If all appointments are filled, callers may opt to call back between 4pm and 6pm that day to schedule one of a limited number of same-daytime slots for the following business day.

Facebook Poll

Do you follow our Resident Services, AMHA, Jobs Plus or Reach Opportunity Center Facebook page?
I don't have a Facebook account

If you answered no, please consider giving our pages a like and following us to get up-to-date information about useful resources, events and other news! The links to each page are found below.

Resident Services
Jobs Plus

AMHA
Reach Opportunity Center

Have a great January!

-The Resident Services Team