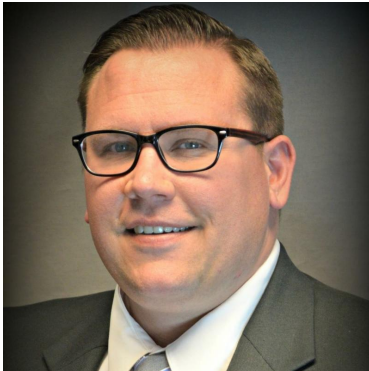




March 15, 2019

Notes from the Executive Director



Onward and Upward!

March brings with it the hope of spring and the cycle of renewal that comes with it! At CRHA we fully recognize that we are often a part of the solution for those in need of hope and we have celebrated multiple milestones along that front. At the end of February the City of Chesapeake made plans to move forward with the City's first Homeless Services Center that will provide a physical space to accommodate the numerous non-profits who are hard at work to end homelessness across Hampton Roads. CRHA is honored that we will be hosting the center in previously unused commercial space located within our central office on Military Highway. This is a huge step toward our broader vision to offer comprehensive services, and opportunities, for our extremely low income persons and families. We

want to foster opportunities for housing, education, job training, and all other facets necessary for people to transcend homelessness and poverty through personal development.

In concert with these coordinated efforts to serve previously unserved populations, we are also actively working with over 200 persons enrolled in our Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) and Resident Opportunities for Self Sufficiency (ROSS) programs. Each of those participants is working on a five year plan of action that will elevate them from public assistance to self-sufficiency. In February, CRHA was awarded over \$164,000 to fund three full time FSS Coordinators who provide case management, personal development planning, and the other components required for success. Those plans will include resurrection of previous Homeownership Programs and the creation of new opportunities aimed at assisting low income households to grow from housing assistance to homeownership.

We are also working to reach our children and youth who are participating in our housing assistance programs. CRHA estimates that we have approximately 2,000 school aged children within our program areas. We have enjoyed some success in providing programming to aid in their academic development but beginning April 1st we will reach new plateaus. Through a partnership with the Southeastern Tidewater Opportunity Project, Inc. (STOP) we will be providing a Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) based after school and summer programs for approximately 100 of our students. They will learn computer coding, robotics, and other exciting skills in addition to receiving assistance with homework and other needs. Talent is equally distributed throughout this world and we are taking very deliberate actions to assure that opportunities to utilize those talents are no longer disproportionately less for lower income households.

As always, we cannot go this course alone and we welcome partnerships from our community and business leaders, non-profits, faith-based organizations, and the commitment from our program participants to push themselves to previously uncomfortable levels of success.

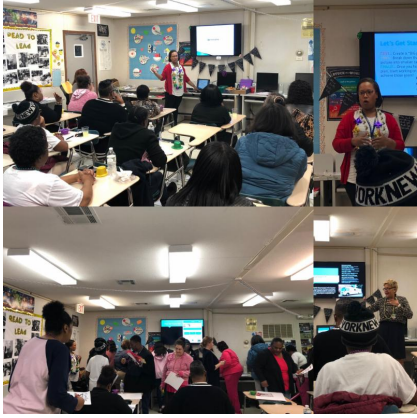
We are pressing onward and our communities are moving upward.

Justin D. Brooks
Executive Director

[Visit our Website](#)

Service Spotlight

On February 13th our Resident Services Team



facilitated a Vision Board session for CRHA's Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) program participants. The group of 25 women learned to visualize their success and the importance of setting attainable goals. These activities aim to assist in each participant's five-year personal development plan to go from public assistance to self-sufficiency.

Kids Corner



During the week of March 4th CRHA celebrated Read Across America with events at its Broadlawn Park, McDonald Manor, Owens Village, and Peaceful Village public housing communities. We had great readers and great participation from our communities.



On Friday, March 1st CRHA hosted its first Red Carpet Reception for students who made the honor roll for the previous grading period. We celebrated 36 students with a party complete with a Red Carpet Photo Line. Chartway Federal Credit Union was a gracious sponsor and the City of Chesapeake's Channel 48 News (WCTV) provided coverage you can see [here](#).

Scholarship Opportunities

Virginia Association of Housing and Community Development Officials (VAHCDO) - the VAHCDO scholarship program is currently open to CRHA residents and program participants. Applications are due by March 16, 2019. Click on the Link below for more information.

[VAHCDO Scholarship Program](#)

HAI Group - the HAI Group is accepting scholarship applications now through April, 2019 providing \$6,000 per student. Click on the Link below for more information.

[HAI Scholarship Program](#)



March BOC Meeting

The March, 2019 CRHA Board of Commissioners meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 27th at 5:00 p.m. Meetings are held at the CRHA Central Office located at: 1468 S. Military Highway,

Chesapeake, VA 23320.



[Click Here for Meeting Information](#)