



# MICHIGAN OFFICE NEWS

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**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

<i>Veterans Conference</i>	2
<i>Homelessness Solutions</i>	2
<i>Westland Dedication</i>	3
<i>ACA Enrollment</i>	3
<i>Landlord Recruitment</i>	3
<i>2015 CFC Results</i>	4
<i>Employee Field News</i>	4



## **COLUMBIA COURT GRAND RE-OPENING CEREMONY**



On December 15, the residents in attendance at the Grand Re-Opening of Columbia Court in Belleville, MI smiled with pride and approval over the major renovations that took place over the last year. Columbia Court was constructed in 1987 and has served as low-income senior housing since its inception. Furthermore, with HUD Section 202 dollars to spend, National Church Residences, a non-profit organization, leveraged MSHDA and HUD dollars, among others, to conduct the necessary renovations to secure housing for seniors.

Furthermore, National Church Residences and their public and private partners secured \$3.8 million in funds to support the renovations, which provided for much needed updates to both interior and exterior aspects of the property.

During the ceremony, one resident reflected upon the experience of living at Columbia Court during the renovation process as being, “worth the wait.”

National Church Residences has leveraged nearly \$22 million in funds over the last three years on similar renovations that provide housing to 375 low-income

residents throughout Southeastern Michigan.

**Pictured: Michael Polsinelli, Field Office Director for the HUD Detroit office, cuts the ribbon alongside state and local officials.**



## **REPRESENTATIVE LAWRENCE HOSTS RESOURCE FAIR**

Rep. Brenda Lawrence (MI-14) hosted a Winter Resource Fair on October 19 at the Samaritan Center in Detroit, MI. The main goal of the fair aimed to link 14th District constituents with local service providers and companies that can assist with addressing concerns in advance of potential life

threatening emergencies during the winter months. Representatives from the HUD office in Detroit were on hand to promote housing options and the upcoming open-enrollment season for the Affordable Care Act (ACA). In addition, representatives from the following agencies were present: The

Heat and Warmth Fund (THAW), United Way, Transgender Michigan, Detroit Police Department, DTE Energy, Salvation Army, Ruth Ellis Center, Forgotten Harvest, Detroit Area Agency on Aging (DAAA), Jewish Vocational Services (JVS), Mariners Inn, and Elder Law of Michigan.

**MICHIGAN VETERAN ENTREPRENEUR TRAINING CONFERENCE**

**“The main goal of the conference is to help Veteran business owners expand their businesses through the relationships that are cultivated at the conference.”**

On November 3rd, 225 individuals participated in the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Michigan Veteran Entrepreneur Training Conference. The conference is Michigan’s only Veteran-focused entrepreneurial event which serves new and established Veteran business owners. This year’s conference held in Lansing, MI emphasized supplier diversity.

Event sponsors were numerous and included SET Enterprises, Kellogg’s, Delphi, Ford, General Motors, Steelcase, Herman Miller, CSM Group, DTE Energy, CPI Inc., Takata, Michigan State University, Talmer Bank & Trust, National Veteran Business Devel-

opment Council, U.S. Small Business Administration and the PTAC’s of Michigan.

The conference also included a ‘Meet & Greet’ where business owners met individually with manufacturing and non-manufacturing organizations.

HUD participated in this productive matchmaker event and met one-on-one with several business owners.

The main goal of the conference is to help Veteran business owners expand their businesses through the relationships that are cultivated at the conference.

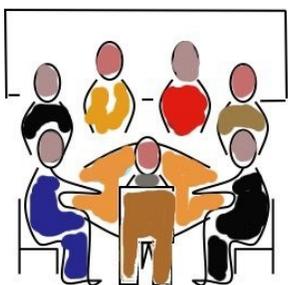
Feedback from the conference attendees was extremely positive with most agreeing that it was a tremendous event.

For more information on the Michigan Veteran Entrepreneur Training Conference, you may Contact Anthony Martin, Management Analyst at the HUD Detroit Field Office at :

[anthony.p.martin@hud.gov](mailto:anthony.p.martin@hud.gov) .



**CREATING SOLUTIONS TO END HOMELESSNESS**



The start of the 2016 Fiscal year at HUD was invigorated by the ongoing goal to end homelessness as a cross-program initiative.

With the participation of the offices of Field Policy and Management, Public and Indian Housing, Multi-family Housing, and Community Planning and Development, the HUD Detroit Field Office has set off to create new solutions to end homelessness in Michigan.

Douglas Gordon, Public

Housing Director, has begun by setting up a working group where initial strategies have begun to take shape, e.g. improving the impact that Public Housing Agencies have on providing housing for homeless individuals and families, and developing stronger linkages between individuals, Public Housing Agencies, and service providers.

The Grand Rapids Housing Commission hosted the first in-person planning session for the working

group, and dissemination of the best practices in moving forward will be presented throughout the state in upcoming months. Furthermore, the work in Detroit is in full swing.

### CITY OF WESTLAND DEDICATES NEW COMMUNITY VITALITY CENTER

On October 16, 2015, the City of Westland proudly dedicated the Jefferson Barnes Community Vitality Center. Located in the historic Norwayne community, the Center is located within the grounds of the Jefferson Barnes elementary school that was forced to close over six years ago. Today, the Vitality Center is home to a boxing program in addition to city and community service programs, including the

Housing Commission. Through HUD funding assistance in the form of a Section 108 loan for \$575,000, the Vitality Center paid for renovations that brought the former school back to life. Furthermore, with help from thousands of volunteers who were led by Joanne Campbell, Community Planning Director and project Program Manager, the Vitality Center stands as a symbol of rebirth and

wellness in the city of Westland. In addition, the Vitality Center is the recent recipient of a national community development award from the National Community Development Association. The City will receive its award in Washington, D.C. on January 22nd, 2016.



Left: Michael Polsinelli, Detroit HUD Field Office Director addresses the crowd prior to the ribbon cutting.

Top Right : View of the Vitality Center from Dorsey Street.

Bottom Right: Joanne Campbell, Community Planning Director, cuts the ribbon.

(Photo credit, City of Westland)



### Affordable Care Act (ACA) Open Enrollment 2016



The Detroit HUD office continues to promote efforts related to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Open Enrollment for 2016.

Open Enrollment for 2016

coverage began on November 1, 2015 and ends on January 31, 2016.

This year, Detroit is one of 20 cities competing in the Presidential Challenge to win a visit from President Barack Obama if the city can manage to sign up the highest percentage of uninsured people for coverage under the ACA. As of January 20th, 2016, Detroit was ranked 3rd behind Milwaukee (1st)

and Chicago (2nd) for the win.

It is important that you pass along this vital enrollment information to ensure a win not just for the city, but for those in need of the vital health care services that are now available through the ACA.

Coverage seekers may access the marketplace at [www.HealthCare.gov](http://www.HealthCare.gov) or by calling 1-800-318-2596.

**“Open Enrollment for 2016 coverage began November 1, 2015 and ends January 31, 2016.”**

### LANDLORD RECRUITMENT AND RESOURCE EVENT

#### Register Now!

Tuesday, February 23, 2016

9:30am-12:00pm

The next Detroit Landlord Recruitment and Resource Event will be hosted by the Detroit Landlord Coalition, with a location TBD.

This is the 3rd event to be held and will provide train-

ing and general information covering the main aspects of housing choice voucher programs, with special emphasis on Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity issues.

Additionally, attendees will have the opportunity to network, hear tenant and landlord success stories, and receive all resources pertaining to housing indi-

viduals experiencing homelessness in Metro Detroit.

Come prepared with questions to ask the experts from MSHDA, HUD, and the Detroit Housing Commission to name a few.

You can register for the event by contacting Catherine Distelrath at : [DistelrathC@michigan.gov](mailto:DistelrathC@michigan.gov) or 313-456-2477.



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"The Department of Opportunity"

## 2015 COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN RESULTS

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is the only authorized solicitation of Federal employees in their workplaces on behalf of approved charitable organizations. Federal employees have been making charitable contributions toward the CFC via payroll deductions since the early 1960's, and today, the CFC is the largest and most successful workplace philanthropic fundraiser in the world.

2015 CFC saw a total of **\$16,025.30** in donations from the Detroit HUD office staff which were also added to a total of nearly **\$1,711,332** for the Southeastern Michigan Area CFC.

HUD Employees continue to make a huge difference in people's lives, both through their work at HUD and charitable giving through the CFC.

Thank you!

## EMPLOYEE FIELD NEWS

  
**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
ENJOY  
RETIREMENT**

On October 30, 2015, Ms. Terri Sanchez celebrated her retirement from the Agency after serving HUD for 12 years in the Office of Field Policy and Management. In addition, the Office of Community Planning and Development celebrated the retirement of Mr. Steven Spencer and Ms. Marguerite Sykes on December 31, 2015. We wish all of our retirees well in their new endeavors.



### Office Argyle Day 2015!

On November 3, 2015, employees donned their finest argyle sweaters, tights, socks and more all for a little fun and HUD team spirit!



The HUD Detroit Field Office celebrated the End of Fiscal Year 2015, and HUD's 50th Anniversary on November 5, 2015.



National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October 23, 2015

HUD Employees Putting Our Pink On!