

Michigan Office News



Skyline of Lansing

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Successful Sustainability in Action!

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (RPC) is celebrating not one, but two successes with its HUD Regional Planning Grant.

First, Tri-County Executive Director, Susan Pigg was given a framed Congratulatory Letter touting successful completion of its grant issued by HUD Headquarters and presented by FPM Management Analyst, Tony Martin at its Sustainability Symposium held on January 22nd.

Over sixty people, including community members; subcontractors; local, state and federal officials participated in the Symposium held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Lansing.

Second, Tri-County RPC received notice that its Ingham, Clinton and Eaton (ICE) Regional Fair and Affordable Housing Plan was being recognized under a partnership with King Media which was chosen as a finalist in Public Relations News Nonprofit Public Relations Awards.

King Media worked with the Greater Lansing Housing Coalition during 2014 to develop and implement a campaign for their 5-year fair and affordable housing plan funded through its Sustainable Communities grant from HUD.



Pictured L—R : Maria Habba, Administrative Asst. Tri-County Regional Planning Commission; LeRoy Harvey, director of Green Initiatives, Meridian Charter Township; and Nathan Triplett, Mayor of East Lansing and a Tri-County Regional Planning Commissioner

SOUTH SAGINAW CORRIDOR CHOSEN!

The City of Flint and the Flint Housing Commission as grantee and co-grantee, respectively, were recently awarded a FY2014 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant from the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development. The grantees focused their project on addressing the historic challenges facing the Atherton East public housing development and the South Saginaw Corridor neighborhood, which is an area of limited opportunity at the edge of the City, within a 100 year flood plain and separated from the rest of the community by railroad tracks. With recent investments coming into this area along with targeted interest by the City's new Master Plan and the South Saginaw Task Force, the area is prime for change. The Choice Neighborhood Transformation Plan will be one that is community-driven and centered on Housing, Neighborhood and People strategies. These efforts will also build on the extensive work taking place through the federal Strong Cities, Strong Communities Initiative (SC2).

Michael Polsinelli, Field Office Director for the Detroit HUD Field Office welcomes local community members. Mayor Dayne Walling, standing right, provided opening remarks at a Flint Press Conference announcing the Choice Neighborhood Grant award on January 16, 2015. The Office of SC2 was also present at the event.



GENESEE COUNTY NAMED "AFFILIATE OF DISTINCTION"

Out of more than 1,400 Habitat for Humanity affiliates in the United States, only 14 were named "Affiliates of Distinction".

On January 30, 2015, it was announced that Genesee County was one of the 14 recognized by Habitat for Humanity International as an "Affiliate of Distinction" for its innovation, leadership and impact.

The Affiliates of Distinction was launched in 2013 to honor U.S. affiliates that meet or exceed best-practice standards. Recipients maintain their recognition for two years.

Show Me The Money Day

More than 100 people attended this 5th Annual Flint event that provided resources and other helpful information from various housing organizations throughout Genesee County and Detroit HUD FPM Management Analyst, Tony Martin, who was part of a panel discussion.

Drawings took place all day for participants, which included such giveaways as an I-pad, gift cards, and more.

The event was held at Vernon Chapel AME Church on January 31st.

HUD volunteers cook breakfast for homeless in Detroit

by Gerald Henry, Senior CPD Representative

More than 1 million persons are served in HUD-supported emergency, transitional and permanent housing programs each year. The total number of persons who experience homelessness may be twice as high.

The Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD) seeks to develop viable communities by promoting integrated approaches that provide services to the homeless. The primary means towards this end is the development of partnerships among all levels of

government and the private sector, including for-profit and non-profit organizations.

However, beyond oversight of HUD Funded programs, HUD CPD Field Office staff feel as though It is their mission and life experience 'training' to improve their capacity for understanding people in need, and for providing service to the community.

On February 9, 2015, HUD CPD staff members volunteered to cook breakfast and feed the homeless. The CPD staff members were: Dan Huyck, Kathleen

(Casey) Hines, Gerald Henry, and Ellen Chung. They cooked breakfast in conjunction with the Manna Meal program located at St. Peter's Episcopal Church Detroit, which is situated in Corktown at Michigan Ave. and Trumbull. The Kitchen serves an average of 175 persons a day.

Arriving at 6:00 am, the HUD staff didn't have time for breakfast for themselves that day, but they were so filled with a special joy that it really didn't matter. They all felt truly blessed in a very special way.



HUD Volunteers: Back Row-L to R: Dan Huyck, Kathleen (Casey) Hines, Gerald Henry ; and Left Front —Ellen Chung cook breakfast at Manna Meal (St. Peter's Episcopal Church Detroit) for the homeless.

Right Front: Marianne Arbogast who is the agency staff in charge of the breakfast for the hungry Monday—Friday. The Kitchen serves on average 175 persons a day.

Inspirational Quote displayed at the Coalition for Temporary Shelter (COTS):

“Never, Never, Never, Give Up”

Public Housing believes in working together to serve others

Approximately 75-100 persons were served a Fried Chicken dinner with all the fixings by HUD PIH staff at the Coalition for Temporary Shelter (COTS) cafeteria in downtown Detroit on December 11, 2014.

Pictured L—R: Valerie Sims, Doug Gordon, Dan Huyck, Angela Foster, Pat Hairston and Lidi Armenta Back Row: L-R—David Sherborne and Claunella Richardson



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Department of Opportunity



**HUD STAFF JOIN IN
COUNTING MICHIGAN'S HOMELESS**

By Mike Polsinelli, Field Office Director

On the night of January 28th the HUD required Point in Time (“PIT”) count took place in Detroit and several other Michigan cities. On this cold night, hundreds of volunteers spread throughout the various cities to count the homeless people spending the night on the streets. In the days following, hundreds more volunteered to conduct interviews of those staying in shelters. Several HUD employees volunteered their time as well to help with this very important effort. CPD employee Ellen Chung helped count in Lansing and CPD employee Casey Hines helped count in Ann Arbor. Public Housing Director, Willie Garrett and Field Office Director Mike Polsinelli helped count in Detroit. In addition, CPD employees Cheryl Mathis and Margaret Momon helped with interviews as did FPM employee Annie Ogletree and PIH employee Lidi Armenta. The work was tiring but satisfying. Willie Garrett summed it up best when he said “Today I am more determined than before to make every moment count because the more I do to house and keep housed those in need, it will be one less person I may run into next year when I volunteer again.”

February is Black History Month!

Did You Know? Here in Detroit we have the honor of being home to WGPR, the country’s first black owned and operated television station. The State of Michigan has announced the state’s approval of a historical marker in Detroit at the site of the country’s first black-owned and operated television station. WGPR-TV’s first broadcast was Sept. 29, 1975. The station’s location, just east of downtown Detroit, also is the site of WGPR 107.5-FM which began broadcasting in 1961. Both were founded by William V. Banks.

Transformation: Multifamily for Tomorrow

Just as spring is a time of change and new growth, HUD’s nationwide reorganization is sweeping through the Multifamily Midwest Region, including the Detroit and Ohio offices. Designed to realign Multifamily Housing more closely with industry standards and empower HUD to more effectively meet today’s business needs, this reorganization is creating change and growth for our offices. Dan Burke, in Chicago, is at the helm of the new Multifamily Midwest Region as the Director, while Barbara Chiapella will be the Detroit Asset Management Division Director / Satellite Office Coordinator. We are excited to welcome approximately 17 new hires and 10 Ohio employees who now call Detroit their home office. Additionally, approximately 26 Ohio account executives (F.K.A. asset managers), continuing to work in Ohio, now indirectly report to Detroit. The new organizational chart and phone lists will be sent out to all our external stakeholders as soon as the details have been finalized. Watch for this in the coming weeks!

We want to thank you in advance for your patience as we undergo this transformation. In addition to rearranging our offices many employees are taking on brand new job descriptions and responsibilities. Our staff will be participating in an intensive time of training from March 2- April 16, followed by additional on-the-job training

over the coming years. We are excited for the opportunity to better serve the public by strengthening the housing market and your apartment communities as well as improving our tenants’ quality of life through quality, affordable housing in inclusive, sustainable communities free from discrimination.

A Warm Welcome to:

Gregory Ackerman	John Godin
Cameron Asam	Daniel Goodall
Brenda Blaies	Jeffrey Howard
Quad Blassengale	Latrice Lyons
Jay Burns	Kristi Mathis
Sean Canty	Chris Nielsen
Joe Cirincione	Dori Pickett
Chris Cook	David Webster
Juan Cruz	Angela Witt
Zena Farah	Harvey Yergin
Steven Farina	