

# 17th Annual Scholarship Luncheon...

*Pictured from left to right: Perry O'Malley (Executive Director), Nancy Ansell, Aubrianna Steele (Daughter of Stephanie), Stephanie Steele, Deborah Carter, Paul Jones, Chanel Spohn, Edna Wilcox, Kevin Boozel (Resident Initiatives Director) and Beau Hudson*

The Housing Authority of the County of Butler's 17th Annual Scholarship Luncheon was held at the Butler Day's Inn, Pittsburgh, Road, Butler, PA on Wednesday, June 1st. The scholarships are designed to recognize and encourage participants in the Housing Authority's many programs to pursue higher education and achieve economic independence. The focus of the scholarship award is to provide financial assistance in areas not commonly included in the student's financial aid package such as: meals, supplies, transportation costs, day care expenses, books, lab fees and/or summer school classes. The participants in the program received seven awards totaling \$6,500. Scholarships awarded included:

- The Robert Hartnett Memorial Scholarship received by Mr. Paul Jones
- The Northwest Savings Bank Scholarship received by Mr. Beau Hudson
- The Nextier Bank Scholarship received by Ms. Chanel Spohn
- The PNC Bank Scholarship received by Ms. Edna Wilcox
- The Dollar Bank Scholarship received by Ms. Deborah Carter
- The Stepanian & Muscatello LLP Scholarship and the Affordable Housing Accountants Scholarship both received by Ms. Stephanie Steele
- The Armstrong Jud-Sedwick Scholarship and the Center for Community Resources, Alliance for Nonprofit Development & Nonprofit Development corporation Scholarship both received by Ms. Nancy Ansell

To date the Housing Authority has awarded over \$80,000 in scholarships thanks to the generosity of its sponsor partners!

[www.housingauthority.com](http://www.housingauthority.com)



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A publication of the Butler County Housing and Redevelopment Authority

# Housing Matters



## The Housing Authority's New

## Weatherization Program a SUCCESS!

With only two months of the program completed, the Butler County Housing Authority's newest program set out to *Weatherize* homes in Butler County is already making an impact in the community.

The Weatherization Program's goal as set by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), is to assist low to moderate income family's decrease energy consumption and costs. Interested program participants are placed on a waiting list. Once their name reaches the top of the waiting list they are required to complete an application to determine eligibility then an initial home energy audit is completed. The initial energy audit determines which services are of immediate need for optimum energy efficiency to the home. Projects are then completed by approved program contractors. To date, our Weatherization team has completed 5 projects and are processing 53 eligible clients

on the waiting list. Our Weatherization team is currently completing 2 initial energy audits a day with the goal of completing 16 projects a month. The state's goal with the program is to achieve greater energy independence, put more Pennsylvanians to work by increasing demand for skilled weatherization professionals and help vulnerable residents by reducing their energy bills.

If you would like more information on the program or to see if you are qualified, please contact Kathy Miller with the Butler County Housing Authority's Weatherization Team at 724.287.6797 or visit [www.housingauthority.com](http://www.housingauthority.com).

## United Way Grants Awarded

The Housing Authority has recently been awarded two grants from the United Way of Butler County. They received \$26,000 for their Supported Housing Opportunity Program which is designed to help struggling renters locate safe, secure and affordable housing through aspects such as housing counseling, financial literacy and continued case management.

The Authority has also been issued a grant in the amount of \$12,000 for their Family Savings Account (FSA) program intended to help low and moderate income families achieve their dreams of owning a home, starting a business or saving for college. The program helps participants open a savings account and begin saving toward their dream. After completion of the program, which includes free financial workshops and asset training, the amount saved by the family is matched through this program.

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2011 Homebuyer Fair>>>

## 2011 Homebuyer Fair a **SUCCESS!**

This year's homebuyer fair was held at Coleman Hall in Tanglewood Center in Butler, PA on April 27th. It featured exhibits from area realtors, banks, housing agencies, mortgage lenders, insurance agencies, housing inspectors, attorneys and much more! Over 75 families attended the free event. The event was co-sponsored by the Butler County Homeownership Program, PNC Bank, the U.S.D.A. Rural Development Service and the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency.



## Authority Staff Walks for a Cause

On Saturday, May 7th employees from the Housing and Redevelopment Authority of the County of Butler participated in the March for Dimes Walk at the Butler County Community College. Together the employees were able to raise \$600.00 from fundraising and bake sale efforts!



## August is Homeless Awareness Month

The Butler County Local Housing Option Team has several activities planned for the month of August.

**August 2** - VA CHALENG Meeting to discuss Homeless issues in surrounding communities (8:00 - 1:00)

**August 11** - Shanty Town Fundraiser

**August 12** - Poverty Simulation, community awareness training of how living in poverty can be extremely costly (1:00 - 3:00).

**August 15** - VAMC hosted meeting to discuss VASH, Continuum of Care, Homelessness and programming

**August 27** - Run for Shelter 5K, the run is being held at the VAMC to raise money that will directly assist homelessness in Butler County

All month donations are being collected throughout Butler County

### HUD-VASH Program Impacting our Community

The HUD-VASH Program is a partnership between the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) to provide case management, supportive services and subsidized housing vouchers to eligible homeless Veterans in our community. The program allows eligible Veterans to obtain safe, affordable, accessible, permanent housing. The goal of the program is to help move Veterans and their families out of homelessness. This past year the VASH program was awarded 50 vouchers and all are currently in use. It is the partnership between the Housing Authority and the VA that makes this program successful year in and year out. Since the program began in 2008, there have been 5 graduates with an additional graduate being added next month.

Parking Available>>>

Parking Spaces **NOW** available at Historic Lafayette Apartments.

### Spaces are:

- Located in a private lot in downtown Butler behind the Butler County Historical Society Building.
- \$45.00 a month for Non-residents.
- Convenient to the Butler County Courthouse and for those working in downtown Butler.



### For more information contact:

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724.287.6797 or 1.800.433.6327  
TDD: 800.545.1833 x772  
[www.housingauthority.com](http://www.housingauthority.com)

## Personnel Updates

### The Authority Welcomes New Staff

**Rich Clouse** has just begun work at the Authority as a Weatherization Auditor.

**John Stokes** was recently hired as a Senior Inspector/Project Manager.

**Jesse Mellish** began duties as Maintenance Laborer

**Ashley Pino** recently began marketing duties for the Authority.

### Promotions Within The Authority

**Christina Coddington** was promoted to Special Projects Manager/Weatherization Assistance Program Administrator effective August 1st.

**Anthony Ciaffre** began work for the Authority in December and has since been promoted to Acting Foreman.

### Exceptional Value Home for Sale >>>

336 Virginia Avenue, Butler, PA \$39,900

This home has been remodeled and updated by the Butler County Home Ownership Corp. Loads of updates including wall to wall carpet, interior doors, and complete remodeling of both baths. In addition to the already generous room sizes, the third floor needs only a few cosmetic touches to be a game room, office, or another bedroom or two. There is even space to possibly add an additional bath. If you feel like a little fresh air, the spacious front porch is the perfect venue to enjoy a quiet evening. You will not find a better value in this price range anywhere. Please note that this property is to be owner occupied only.

