

## Residents Corner

### Nimble Fingers Stitch EHDOC Story



Lou Emma Karl smiles as she shows off her latest creation, a quilt square depicting her home, **I.W. Abel Place** in Pittsburgh, Pa. Never one to shy away from a sewing challenge, Ms. Karl was asked to complete a square depicting her home for the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency's (PHFA's) "Common Thread Quilt Project." Ms. Karl's quilt square will be added to other squares from across the state of Pennsylvania by the Three Rivers Quilting Club. The final quilt will be unveiled at the Pennsylvania Housing Service Conference this year. PHFA's goal is to create a one-of-a-kind tapestry that represents the best of service enriched housing and the lives it changes. Ms. Karl learned to sew in eighth grade Home Economics and she never stopped. She recently lost her husband, Lawrence, unexpectedly to pancreatic cancer. She has two children and eight grandchildren. In addition to sewing the quilt, she recently completed a prom dress for her granddaughter. Ms. Kane is a retired x-ray technician and graciously gives of her time to sew for hospice patients and Community Action projects at I.W. Abel.

### Union Privilege Helps EHDOC Go Green

One little act each day dedicated to saving water, saving energy or reducing waste could make a big difference. In a collaboration with Union Privilege, 5,000 Osram-Sylvania Super Saver Halogen light bulbs made in the U.S.A. by union labor, were donated to EHDOC's residents. The light bulbs donated are the only energy-efficient bulbs being manufactured by union labor in the U.S.A, and unlike those made in China, they contain no mercury. The properties that benefited from the generous donation are North Park Village, Senate Apartments, Prete Apartments, Earl Bourdon, Chateau Des Amis, Village

De Memoire I & II, Savoy Heights Apartments, Leisure Lane, Lynn Williams Apartments, Lloyd McBride Court, Steelworkers Tower, I.W. Abel Place, Dino Papavero Senior Center, John Piazza Apartments, Clyde F. Simon Lakeview I & II, Robert Sharp Towers I & II, Palermo Lakes, Council Towers, MC Pepper, Mayfield Manor I, II and III, William W. Winpisinger, Chateau Cushnoc, John Marvin Tower, and Spring Rock Park. EHDOC is committed to going green and will continue to work towards that goal.



*Pictured: Resident Basya Levitt receiving light bulbs donated from Union Privilege with administrative assistant Rebecca Florell, Senate Apartments, Chicago, IL.*



# NEW DIMENSIONS

ELDERLY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT & OPERATIONS CORPORATION

Summer 2011

## Critical Time for Senior Housing

The congress is currently engaged in debates over federal budget funding. The action regarding the FY 2011 budget significantly cut funding for affordable senior housing, Medicare, Medicaid and many other programs that assist EHDOC residents and other seniors and their families.

other non-profit organizations have used in partnership with the federal government to provide quality affordable housing, the bill drastically cut this program from \$371 million for new construction in 2010 to \$78 million in 2011.

need. Today there are 10 eligible seniors waiting for very unit covered under this program. The housing programs are under assault and if we loose the battle to provide for new construction in 2012, the affects will be seen for many years as seniors, including the baby boomers face enormous housing shortages.

The funding bill that was passed just in time to prevent a threatened government shut-down drastically cut federal programs by nearly \$40 billion dollars compared to FY 2010 funding levels. Included in the cuts are affordable housing programs, health care, transportation, community services, and many other non-defense federal programs that assist the elderly, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable families.

Despite the documented critical need for housing we have seen a continued downward trend in funding for new construction from a high in 2005 of \$650 Million which provided for 4,682 new units to the 2011 funding providing for less than 600 new units.

The FY 2012 budget is currently under debate. We know it will include cuts in federal programs to reduce federal deficit spending. But careful consideration must be made so that we do not try to balance a budget by eliminating or dramatically reducing programs aimed at providing housing and health care to our most at risk citizens. Affordable senior housing needs to be recognized as a sound, cost-effective investment in the quality of life and wellness of older persons.

*"Despite the documented critical need for housing we have seen a continued downward trend in funding..."*

For the much needed Section 202 senior housing program that EHDOC and many

This dramatic decrease in new construction is countered with the dramatically increasing



Elderly Housing Development & Operations Corporation

**Mission Statement**

EHD OC develops and manages safe, secure and affordable housing for senior citizens across the United States. EHD OC advocates for the highest quality of life for the seniors of today and tomorrow.

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**Executive Director's Views**

By Steve Protulis

*Can we really afford to balance the budget on the backs of seniors?*



The debate over the FY2012 federal budget is far from over. Congressional actions indicate that affordable senior housing and other programs that assist older persons are at serious risk of being dramatically cut and changed in ways that may be harmful to the elderly and other special needs populations.

Each of us knows from our household or professional budgets, that we cannot sustain deficit spending that keeps accumulating to a debt that could bankrupt us. We agree with the need for the Federal Government to reduce its deficit spending, to reduce the national debt, and to maintain a balanced budget.

***“History shows it can be done without eliminating important programs such as Social Security, Medicare, and affordable housing.”***

The key issue is how it will be done. Who decides who will benefit or lose by any proposed change in spending priorities and policy changes? The outcome of these debates and policy decisions which will have significant impact not only on the federal programs that EHD OC and our residents depend upon for years to come, but also on the financial and economic stability of our community and country.

A key concern to EHD OC, our residents, potential residents and their families, is how well do the

new Congressional members know and understand the various federal programs that are essential? Do they understand why these critical Section 202 senior housing programs should not be cut? Do they know who our Section 202 residents are? Their level and source of income? What their living condition is or how lack of housing will affect their physical well being? How important is affordable senior housing?

We must all make the effort to ensure our members of Congress know how important this program is. We are urging that before the next key votes that Congressional representatives visit EHD OC and other Section 202 facilities in their district or state to learn first-hand the cost effectiveness of this critically needed program and to put a human face on the need. Everyone should be involved in contacting elected representatives to urge funding for the Section 202 program and especially new construction of much needed senior housing. We have so drastically reduced the funding for new construction that with FY 2011 money only 594 units will be built. To put that in perspective, EHD OC has individual properties whose current waiting lists exceed that number.

There is no question that something needs to be done to get our financial house in order – to reduce deficit spending and to cut the national debt – but we cannot balance the budget on the backs of those who can least afford it.

**SENIORS HELPING SENIORS OFFERING HELPING HANDS ACROSS THE SEA TO JAPAN and in the USA**

In response to Japans devastating earthquake and tsunami and the tornados that destroyed U.S. cities, EHD OC's communities and staff joined forces once again. Residents and their families have been busy participating in hot dog lunches, bake sales, candy sales, spaghetti dinners, as well as Easter egg hunts and black tie dances. Their efforts to raise funds will help rebuild housing for the survivors who lost not only loved ones, but their homes. We are very proud of everyone who participated in this effort raising over \$19,000 so far.

Mayfeild Manor  
Canton, OH



*Pictured: Linda Duckworth, SC and residents Dixie Criswell, Donna Lasorella and Chris Hartshorn at a fundraiser luncheon.*

Palermo Lakes  
Miami, FL



*Pictured: Staff, residents, grandchildren and great grandchildren participating in an Easter Egg Hunt*

**EHD OC'S Family helping Families in Louisiana**



*Pictured: Louisiana Service Coordinators Maxine Chelette, Laura Betterton, Sharon Johnson, Gloria Williams, Connie Hilton, Celena Regan and Becky Bean*

Ten of EHD OC's communities located in Louisiana cooperated with each other to collect badly needed household and personal hygiene items to help those affected by the tornados that ravaged the region. The residents prepared the items collected for delivery to the Rayne Housing Authority where they will be distributed at the local level. The EHD OC communities that participated in this goodwill effort were: Chateau Des Amis, Pine Grove, Village De Memoire I & II, Savoy Heights, Oakwood Apartments, Leisure Lane, Point Villa, Sunshine Center Apartments and Morse Manor.

## EHDOC's Commitment to Senior Wellness

Movement and proper nutrition are vital to seniors' wellness. Our residents stay active while participating in exercise classes and learning to eat healthy with nutritional education. Health screenings are also an integral component to seniors health.

Council Towers  
Miami Beach, FL



Council Towers has created a sports team and the residents wear their special tee shirts as they participate in a weekly aerobics class.

Robert A. Georgine Tower  
Charlestown, MA

Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions and its nursing students provided free blood pressure screenings at Robert A. Georgine Tower. The students gave brief educational presentations on depression, elder abuse, health management, alcoholism and risk for falls. The residents were able to ask questions relating to their health while their blood pressure was being taken.



Pine Grove Apartments  
Pineville, LA

Pine Grove residents enjoy a healthy snack of low fat yogurt, strawberries, blackberries and granola, while a registered dietician educates them on eating healthy and proper nutrition.

Oakwood Apartments  
Cheneyville, LA



Oakwood Apartments has restarted their exercise class sponsored by Compassionate Care. The "Fittersitter" program consists of chair exercise for seniors working with their hands and feet with motions to music that includes cardiovascular work out and cool down which is designed to improve posture, balance, flexibility and strength. The class is held once a week. A residents states, "I love it and we have fun doing this kind of exercise."



President's Comments  
By Morton Bahr

*All Seniors are entitled to retirement with dignity*

This fundamental objective was originally laid out more than 100 years ago by the early leaders of the American Labor Movement and has been a continuing objective throughout the years. There are essentially three corner stones to retirement with dignity – finances to provide for the necessities of life, affordable health care so that no health care need goes untreated and a decent place to live. Over the years, the first two have been taken care of with the passage of Social Security and Medicare. But, we maintain, that without a decent place to live there can be no dignity. Right now all three of these foundations are under attack.

In 2001 the National Council of Senior Citizens spun off its housing units into what became the Elderly Housing and Development Corporation (EHDOC). AFL-CIO President John Sweeney asked the then head of NCSC and former assistant to the President of the UAW, Steve Protulis, to take over the helm of the new organization. Since 2001 EHDOC has continued to champion the need for affordable senior housing –keeping to the original idea of retirement with dignity. EHDOC is proud of the great labor leaders serving on our board and are especially honored that Mark

Ayres, President of the AFL-CIO Building Trades Department, has joined our Board. His vision will be an asset as we continue to move forward.

*"We maintain, that without a decent place to live there can be no dignity."*

We serve only one purpose – to provide safe and secure homes for those we serve – each day is designed to make life a little better than the day before. Because of EHDOC's commitment and services we provide to our residents, we have an average five-year waiting list at our properties and one of lowest turnover rates in the nation. We in EHDOC, staff and residents, will be fighting alongside our colleagues in the AFL-CIO and Alliance for Retired Americans in the continuing battle to save Social Security and Medicare. This is a battle we all know we cannot lose. There is another battle we dare not lose. That is the one to see that sufficient funds are allocated for an increase in construction for low-income seniors. Our success will determine whether tens of thousands of low-income seniors can, indeed, enjoy their golden years. Without a decent place to live, that

critical part of the American dream will be lost to so many.

Recently, we invited one of our residents from a Miami building, an 85-year-old woman, to speak to our Board of Directors. She told us she hears us refer to "units" and "apartments" and other descriptions, but, she said, "This is my home. Each night when I lay my head on my pillow, I know I am at home and safe."

I submit to all of my trade union colleagues that at the end of the day, it is precisely this that we want for all Americans.

*EHDOC welcomes newest board member*



Mark Ayers - President  
Building and Construction Trades  
Department, AFL, CIO

## News-worthy Happenings

### Seeing the Light

I.W. Abel Place  
Pittsburgh, PA



Resident June Michel displays more than 30 pairs of eyeglasses that were collected at I.W. Abel during the month of January. The eyeglasses will be sent to New Eyes for the Needy, which recycles donated glasses for distribution to people in need in the U.S. and overseas.

### Pennies for Seniors

Lynn Williams Apartment  
Pittsburgh, PA



Resident Mike Keally and grandson Connor Stutz assist Mimi Perez a resident at LWA, with presenting a check to Deidre Stein of the Alzheimer's Association

During the month of May, residents of Lynn Williams Apartments and Lloyd McBride Court collected pennies in an effort to acquire one penny for every senior in Allegheny County to fight Alzheimers. Resident volunteers and staff placed collection cans in local business and Senior Centers. The cans were picked up weekly. One can was placed in the first grade classroom of Connor Stutz, grandson of Mike Keally who is a resident at Lynn William Apartments. Connor's class collected over \$60. The combined total at the end of the month was \$626.70, which was donated to the Alzheimer's Association.

### Computers Keep Seniors in Touch

Steel Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA



Pictured: Residents Clara Alvarado, Jose Gonzales, Lorenzo Vilorio and Instructor Young Choi

St. Barnabas Senior Center hosts computer classes weekdays. Residents of Steel Plaza navigate the internet and communicate via email to their loved ones. The center has 10 computers available for the seniors' use.

## Older American's Month Celebrations

### Fun, Games and Exercise

Robert Sharp Towers  
Miami Gardens, FL



Robert Sharp Towers I & II celebrated Older Americans Month with outdoor and indoor activities. After fun and games outdoors, residents gathered in the community room to hear Lisa Davis, City Council person, deliver the Older Americans' Month Proclamation. A short exercise class was lead by aerobics instructor Maria Chasse. Residents enjoyed a light lunch and cake.

### Eight Decades and Counting

La Masion Acadienne  
Madawaska, ME



Pictured: residents of La Masion Acadienne display their certificates of recognition.

La Masion Acadienne celebrated Older Americans Month by recognizing their residents that are 80 years and older for their past and present contributions to our community and nation. Music was provided by resident Phil Martin, who played tunes on his keyboard.

## Walking for Health: Team EHDOC Hits the Pavement

Lloyd McBride Court  
Pittsburg, PA

The Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community took place Saturday, May 21. The walk is an annual fundraiser that benefits local health and human service agencies in southwestern Pennsylvania. The goal of the walk is to create a fun and easy way to raise funds for participating organizations that rely on support from the state and the general public to keep their services in the community.



Pictured: Residents: Doreen Moser - Lloyd McBride Court, Peg Arlotta -Lynn Williams Apartments, Staff & volunteers

Team EHDOC walked to raise money for the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. The Food Bank has been an invaluable program for the residents of Lloyd McBride Court and Lynn Williams Apartments.

For more information on our communities please visit our website: [www.ehdoc.org](http://www.ehdoc.org) or call us at (954) 835-9200