



Clarksdale HOPE VI Revitalization
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BUILDING A NEW LIFE



Deandra Adams, a 22-year-old Clarksdale resident, has not only gained construction and trade skills, she's also successfully

obtained her GED. As a YouthBuild Louisville participant, Deandra is "taking what YouthBuild Louisville has to offer to reach her goals." After graduating from YouthBuild, Deandra hopes to attend college to earn a degree in Human Resources. She also would like to live in one of the homes YouthBuild is currently renovating, or one of the homes that will be constructed alongside St. Peter Claver Catholic Church. Although Deandra has a variety of responsibilities and personal goals, her role as mother to her two small children comes first. "They are the most important people in my life, my focus is on improving our lives."

In the three years that YouthBuild has been operating in Louisville, its members have constructed two houses in the Russell neighborhood and one in Park DuValle. YouthBuild members have also constructed a gazebo and small shelter in the Wesley United Community Park, and have recently finished renovating St. Peter Claver Catholic Church in Smoketown. Donated to LMHA by the Archdiocese of Louisville, the newly renovated facility will house office space for the Sheppard Square Resident Council, and GED and computer training classes.

Deandra's favorite task is landscaping; however, she may soon expand her construction skills to include building benches. Just Solutions has been awarded a grant through Metro United Way, to construct benches throughout downtown Louisville. Deandra is excited about participating in this community-building project for youth in the Clarksdale and Sheppard Square neighborhoods.

YouthBuild Louisville is an education and job-training program for young people ages 17 to 24. While in the program, YouthBuild members participate in leadership development activities, receive social services support, and take college courses in construction and carpentry at Jefferson Technical College. YouthBuild also helps its young people prepare to receive a GED or enroll in college. Each participant receives a \$100 weekly stipend to help defray living costs, and those who complete 900 hours of community service also receive a \$2,340 college scholarship from the Americorps national service program.

If you are interested in learning more about YouthBuild Louisville, visit their website at www.youthbuildlouisville.org or call them at (502) 213-4257.



NEW BEGINNINGS

AN UPDATE ON THE CLARKSDALE HOPE VI REVITALIZATION

LMHA RECEIVES SECOND \$20 MILLION GRANT TO COMPLETE CLARKSDALE REVITALIZATION

Mayor Jerry Abramson and U.S. Rep. Anne Northup recently announced that an additional \$20 million in federal funding has been secured to ensure completion of the revitalization of the Clarksdale public housing complex over the next few years.

"This announcement represents a major step forward for revitalizing our downtown and ensuring a better, more livable neighborhood for the residents of Clarksdale and others throughout our community," Abramson said. "We appreciate the leadership of Congresswoman Northup, who has been a steadfast supporter of this project and the point person in Washington for securing this funding."

Abramson also credited the continued efforts of the Louisville Metro Housing Authority (LMHA), which oversees federally funded public housing and put together the proposal for grant funding, and the proven track record of success of the Park DuValle revitalization project in West

Louisville. "This is the second \$20 million HOPE VI grant for Clarksdale in two years - excellent news for residents of the deteriorating 1930s housing units, who for years have been waiting for revitalized residences," Northup said.

The grant has been awarded directly to LMHA for Phase II of the project that encompasses the two-block area east of Clay Street that currently contains 308 dwelling units. The \$20 million is the maximum award provided through the HOPE VI grant. Abramson said the project, scheduled for completion within five years, will ultimately result in about \$190 million in investment in Clarksdale through a combination of public and private dollars to build more than 180 homes for people to buy and 530 apartments for rent. Abramson also has included about \$2.4 million in his recently approved budget for infrastructure improvements at Clarksdale such as roads and sewers.

ARCHITECTS' WORK TO MEET RESIDENT NEEDS, ENHANCE COMMUNITY

The firms chosen by LMHA to focus on the on-site and off-site architectural designs are hard at work. The first actual construction will take place off-site, providing new public housing for qualified Clarksdale residents who choose new apartment and single-family rental housing. The housing, which will be designed by the Louis and

Henry Group, will be built throughout the Louisville Metro area. The on-site architects, Sherman-Carter-Barnhart Architects, are currently working on plans for the new buildings, roads and infrastructure.

DREAMS FOR A NEW COMMUNITY



A Message from Metro Mayor Jerry Abramson

I want to commend everyone who worked diligently to prepare the second application for HOPE VI funding for the Clarksdale revitalization effort. Thanks to this hard work and the continued support of the community, we have received the funding needed to complete this neighborhood transformation.

As we move forward, relocating residents in a thoughtful and sensitive manner will continue to be our primary focus. The Housing Authority will do everything in its power to make sure the needs of residents are met. We will work with everyone involved to help make this transition occur as smoothly and efficiently as possible. Those involved with relocation recognize that moving, even under the best circumstances, is never easy.

Our dreams for a new community can be realized with our continued involvement and patience as we move forward. It takes time to "do things right" and the completion of this new neighborhood is still a few years down the road.

I look forward to continuing to work with you, and sharing the successes we'll see throughout the year.



TWO WAY COMMUNICATIONS... A KEY RESOURCE



*A Message From
Tim Barry,
LMHA Executive
Director*

First and foremost,
I want to thank
the residents of

Clarksdale and the civic leaders who have consistently given their time and talents to the revitalization effort. We're counting on your continued involvement!

Good two-way communication is vital as we continue to move forward. We need your input on how we can better meet resident and neighborhood needs. We in turn will continue to communicate with you about what's coming up next. We want to make sure you are informed about our progress and are briefed on any changes in the plan.

As you know, many of the Clarksdale residents who live in the Phase I are being relocated. We are doing everything we can to make sure these moves go as smoothly as possible, and that everyone's housing needs are addressed. We have put a large number of services and resources in place, and LMHA staff will be of assistance whenever and wherever needed. We are committed to our residents, and we will continue to make sure information and staff is available to answer questions.

Again, thank you for your continued support!



ON-SITE, OFF-SITE DEVELOPERS SELECTED FOR REVITALIZATION

The Community Builders, Inc. has been chosen as LMHA's on-site developer partner for the new Clarksdale community. The firm has experience in Louisville as the developer of Park DuValle. LMHA is working with two local organizations, New Directions Housing Corp. and The Housing Partnership Inc. for the off-site portion of the development activities.

Headquartered in Boston, The Community Builders has been involved in HOPE VI projects since 1995. Willie Jones, Senior Vice President, met with Clarksdale residents in January and spoke about the project. He said the firm's mission is "to build strong communities where people of all incomes can achieve their full potential." His organization is currently participating in approximately 11 HOPE VI efforts across the country. Jones told the residents that the revitalization process might not always be easy but he would always answer their questions and address their concerns honestly. "The level of cooperation between the residents, the city, utilities, the Housing Authority and others must be unprecedented," he said. He encouraged residents to use this opportunity to improve their lives by taking advantage of supportive services available through the HOPE VI project. He addressed concerns about relocation, eligibility requirements to live in the new development and the time frame of the project.

The Housing Partnership, Inc. and New Directions Housing Corp. were named as the off-site developer partners in February. Jointly, through a newly formed alliance entitled "East Side Partners, LLC," they will coordinate all of the off-site scattered site development related to the Clarksdale HOPE VI revitalization including the development of replacement public housing units on scattered sites throughout the city, and the coordination of off-site home ownership units that could be developed by non-profit and for-profit developers.

These local organizations have similar missions and are uniquely qualified to assist in meeting the ambitious goals of the Clarksdale revitalization, according to their leaders. Joe Gliessner, Executive Director, describes New Directions Housing Corp., as a private, faith-based, non-profit community development corporation that produces and manages various types of affordable housing and provides supportive services for residents of neighborhoods throughout the region. Maria Gerwing Hampton, President of The Housing Partnership, Inc., explained her organization is a public-private partnership that helps create housing opportunities that are affordable for low and moderate-income people. Hampton added, "Through this unique collaboration of time and talent, with local experience and mission-based sensitivity, we look forward to working with all the neighborhoods for a very rewarding and successful outcome."

For more information about the firms, go to www.communitybuilders.org; www.ndhc.org; and, www.housingpartnershipinc.org



RESIDENT ASSESSMENTS PROVIDE INSIGHT

One-On-One Interviews Key To Effort

An important first step in the process of relocating Clarksdale residents is one-on-one interviews between LMHA Community and Supportive Services (CSS) staff and residents. During the interview, CSS staff assesses the family's current status and reviews the support services that will be made available as part of the HOPE VI process. "The one-on-one interviews give the residents an opportunity to identify any areas in which they would like to receive assistance," said Tim Barry, LMHA Executive Director.

The CSS staff has completed the first round of interviews with residents who reside in buildings earmarked for the first phase of the revitalization, and begun interviews with residents who will be impacted by Phase II of the revitalization. The most requested services by residents are employment and educational assistance. "These interviews give us insight about what programs are working and how case managers can help individuals meet their personal goals," said Camille Robinson, CSS Coordinator. "We will do everything we can to help the Clarksdale residents obtain the programs and services they need."

For more information, the on-site CSS staff can be reached at (502)569-6015.

HOME OWNERSHIP: AN OPTION FOR QUALIFYING CLARKSDALE RESIDENTS

If it's important to you to own a home, the Louisville Metro Housing Authority can help, said Cathy Hinko at one of the public meetings held in December on the Clarksdale HOPE VI effort. Ms. Hinko, LMHA's Director of Strategic Planning, explained that there are income requirements to participate in home ownership programs, but LMHA staff and other community organizations can help residents determine if they qualify. "It may take one or more years to purchase your home once you start the process, but that preparation time is important to ensure success," she added. Counseling on personal budgeting, home maintenance and other issues related to home ownership is an important part of the home ownership assistance offered through the LMHA.

There are lease/purchase options where renters can save toward buying the home they are leasing within a certain amount of time. And, Section 8 residents can work to purchase their homes as well through the Section 8 home ownership program. Clarksdale residents may save towards a down payment and closing costs by participating in the LMHA's Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) and Individual Development Account (IDA) programs. Furthermore, community groups, such as Habitat for Humanity are available to help families and individuals work toward home ownership. For more information about purchasing a home, Clarksdale residents should call Elizabeth Fick at (502) 569-6905.

A BETTER DAY WILL SOON BE UNDERWAY

A message from Metro Councilman Willie Bright, District 4



There's a lot happening in our neighborhood. I'm excited about the prospect of a better community for our citizens – one that's safer and offers needed services nearby. The changes we're making to ensure that better day are often difficult. I am here to work on your behalf every step of the way.

I have made it a point to attend, or have my representative attend, all of the various meetings that have been held to-date on the revitalization. I know first hand that Clarksdale and area residents have had a significant impact on the design of the neighborhood, on the relocation schedule, and on the community supportive services available to residents. You have made this impact because you have voiced your opinions.

I encourage you to stay involved and stay in touch. I will work alongside you to see the better day that is surely coming for Clarksdale and for the neighborhoods in the surrounding area.

Clarksdale Hotline: (502) 569-6677

For any questions or concerns regarding Clarksdale HOPE VI Revitalization.

