American women in the United States are increasing. Death rates from breast cancer are more than 40,000 women across America every year. Breast cancer is the second leading cause of death among women. African-American women are experiencing breast cancer rates 42% higher than in white women.

Every 3 minutes a woman in America is diagnosed with breast cancer and every 11 minutes, a woman will die from it. The American Cancer Society states that women have a 1 in 8 lifetime chance of being diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime.

Breast Cancer Screenings
Free Cervical and Breast Cancer Screenings - Contact Vision Russell Neighborhood Outreach at 502-589-3479

Russell Mural
Braylyn Stewart has brightened one corner of the Russell neighborhood with 3 new murals enveloping the multi-use building at the corner of 18th Street and Muhammad Ali Boulevard. “There’s Love in Louisville” fills the once-blank wall to the left of the Sweet Peaches restaurant with pinks, purples and blues, while the second story corner bears an abstract image of Muhammad Ali next to the building’s address in large black and white lettering.

Images in Stewart’s murals include a “fresh fish” sign (far left of the ground-level mural) that pays tribute to the former fish market that once operated in the building, a musician and “18th and Walnut” sign that serves as a reminder of the thriving business and entertainment district that once stood on Walnut Street (now Muhammad Ali Boulevard), and symbols representing each current building tenant (far right side). Stewart was chosen to do this work through a competitive application process that is being funded through the Fran Huettig Public Art Project, with support from Fund for the Arts, 16/19 Flux: Art+Activism, the Commission on Public Art and Louisville Metro Government. These murals were the first of five public art projects to be commissioned in west Louisville over the next five years.

Russell Choice Neighborhood Planning Initiative

LOUISVILLE AWARDED FY2016 CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS IMPLEMENTATION GRANT!

On Monday, December 12th the Louisville Metro Housing Authority (LMHA) was awarded a $29,575,000 Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. This is the third Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI) Grant awarded LMHA to benefit the Russell neighborhood, making Louisville the only city in the nation to receive all three grants offered under the Choice program.

Implementation Grant funds will allow Louisville Metro Government (LMG) and LMHA to move forward with implementing specific aspects of the Vision Russell Transformation Plan, including:

- Razing and redeveloping the Beecher Terrace site into sustainable, mixed-income housing
- Developing replacement housing for Beecher Terrace units in other neighborhoods of choice
- Increasing safety and security
- Re-creating strong retail and service centers within the neighborhood
- Improving educational and health outcomes for Beecher Terrace and Russell households
- Improving community connectivity

CNI Implementation Grant funds will also be used to provide case management services and relocation counseling and benefits to Beecher Terrace households.

If you are a current Beecher Terrace resident, please do NOT move, as moving will jeopardize your relocation benefits. You will soon be receiving a letter from LMHA with more details about the upcoming relocation process, your relocation options and the timeframe for relocation, which is not expected to begin for another year (early 2018).

There will also be a resident meeting in January or February with more details about your relocation options and benefits. In the meantime, you can contact Kathy Head at 569-3479 for more information.

SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE CNI GRANT UPDATES!
That is why Allen was thrilled to discover “The Beech” - a tutoring program located in two former Beecher Terrace apartments. It wasn’t long after her middle school daughter began the program that Allen began volunteering at The Beech. Now her other children, including her 4-year old, are participating as well.

“The facilitators do an excellent job of establishing relationships with the parents and students and focusing on those academic areas that are key to succeeding in school,” said Allen. “My kids are at the point that they are eager to learn and can’t get enough of the homework and extra assignments they provide. It has made a huge difference and has accelerated their learning.”

As Allen considers the changes planned during the revitalization of Beecher Terrace, she hopes that educational programs and other family-oriented activities will become more prevalent at the Baxter Community Center. “Right now, it’s not safe for kids to play outside and there isn’t a lot of activities in this neighborhood that families can enjoy or afford,” said Allen who keeps her kids busy in a variety of extracurricular activities including cheerleading, gymnastics, softball and t-ball.

And while she’s eager to see more amenities brought to the Russell community, she believes that addressing crime is a necessary first step. “People need to feel like it’s safe for their kids to go outside and play. Right now, I don’t let my kids play outside because I’m fearful of what could happen.” Despite these concerns, Allen says she is cautiously optimistic. “I’m excited about the changes being discussed and the opportunities it may bring. But when it is done, I hope that the Russell neighborhood will still have that community feel and is a place that we still want to be.”

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about programs offered at The Beech, please contact Rose Livingston at 502-314-4173.