

Russell community gathers for National Night Out



Hundreds of families from the Russell Neighborhood, including residents from Beecher Terrace, participated in Metro Louisville's National Night Out event at the Baxter Community Center on August 1. National Night Out is an annual community building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. The event featured family-friendly games, activities and food, and offered the opportunity to meet with Louisville Metro employees representing a variety of departments. Above, a Louisville Metro Government employee poses with students who attended the National Night Out event held at the Baxter Center.

Ice cream social provides Beecher Terrace residents with more than cool treats



Dozens of families from Beecher Terrace enjoyed ice cream while learning more about resources and services available for families as part of the Choice Neighborhood redevelopment process taking place within the Russell neighborhood. The event was hosted and organized by Urban Strategies—the organization contracted by Louisville Metro Housing Authority to provide case management and other supportive services to Beecher Terrace residents. Urban Strategies will continue to host similar community engagement events to ensure that residents remain involved and benefit from the many opportunities arising throughout the Choice Neighborhood grant process.

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Russell Choice Neighborhood NEWSLETTER



Pictured (left to right) Dr. Wyllette Williams, Interim Director for the Louisville Urban League's (LUL) Center for Workforce Development; TaLonda Holland, Senior Project Manager for Urban Strategies; and Kennetha Kelly, Connector for LUL's "We Hire" program pose during a recent job fair and open house held at the Baxter Community Center. The event was hosted by LUL and attendees were provided with information on job training and placement, as well as other services available through LUL.

LUL offers training and job placement assistance in skilled trades

The Louisville Urban League (LUL), in partnership with the Kentucky Education & Workforce Development Cabinet and KentuckianaWorks, is offering free training and job placement in skilled trades including carpenters, electricians, welders and many other professions. The Kentuckiana Builds and Urban Skills Trade Pipeline program will provide hands-on training on these skills. Participants will also be connected to employers who are hiring once they have

successfully completed the program, including contractors who will be working on the redevelopment of Beecher Terrace and other revitalization activities in and near the Russell neighborhood.

To learn more about the Kentuckiana Builds and Urban Trades Pipeline, please attend one of the orientation sessions listed below at the LUL—1535 W. Broadway—or call (502) 566-337. The next seven-week class starts on October 16. All

participants must have a high school diploma or GED and pass a background check and be registered with the Selective Service, if eligible.

Kentuckiana Builds and Urban Trades Pipeline Upcoming Orientation Sessions:

- September 14@ 10:00 a.m.
- September 19@ 5:30 p.m.
- September 23 @ 4:00 p.m.
- September 27 @ 10:00 a.m.



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Urban Strategies staff hits the ground running

Since the award of the \$29.5 million Implementation grant that LMHA received as part of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Choice Neighborhood Initiative (CNI), Urban Strategies has been working closely with Beecher Terrace households to access the many resources available to them during the grant, including intensive support before, during and after the relocation process. Former Beecher Terrace residents will also be given the first opportunity to move back into the newly developed Beecher Terrace replacement housing.

Urban was hired by LMHA to lead the People component of the CNI and is implementing many of the strategies related to workforce development, economic self-sufficiency, education, health and service provision. Over the past several months, Urban Strategies has met with and worked with hundreds of Beecher Terrace families. They are also hosting monthly resident meetings and events to ensure that Beecher residents have access to information and available resources.

In addition to Urban's Senior Project Manager TaLonda Holland, the following Urban Strategies case management and outreach staff members will be working directly with Beecher Terrace households. If you are a Beecher Terrace resident and would like to schedule an appointment with members of the team or learn more about the resources that are available, please call (502)384-0786.



Markham French

While Markham French has been a case manager for Urban Strategies since March 2017, he's been involved with Vision Russell and the efforts to transform the neighborhood from the very beginning of the Choice Neighborhood planning process. French says the best part of his job is having the opportunity to work with residents and assist them with their relocation needs. And while the redevelopment and relocation processes are still in the early stages, French says he is already noticing more Beecher Terrace residents becoming financially independent. When asked to sum up the changes that are occurring within the Russell community with one-word, French said "promising."



Julia Robinson

Julia Robinson has also been involved with Russell's redevelopment process from the onset. First as a neighborhood outreach worker during the two-year planning process that resulted in the Vision Russell Transformation Plan, and now as an outreach worker for Urban Strategies. In both these roles Robinson has enjoyed connecting residents to available resources throughout the community. Robinson says that most Beecher Terrace residents are excited about the changes taking place within the neighborhood and hope to return once housing becomes available back on the site. She feels that a better system and process for connecting residents with resources and sharing information is one of the biggest improvements that have taken place within the neighborhood through the Choice program.



Devan King

Resilient. That's the word that Devan King would use to describe the Russell neighborhood and its residents. As the case manager supervisor for Urban Strategies, King is passionate about connecting families with resources that will serve as a bridge during their transition to new housing and help families thrive. King began with Urban Strategies in March, and since that time, has heard lots of feedback from Beecher Terrace residents - from pride and fond memories, to excitement about the possibilities that these changes will bring to the community. King also hopes many current residents will decide to return to Beecher Terrace once redevelopment is complete and enjoy the endless possibilities that will exist in the newly created community.



Ebonique Burns

Ebonique Burns loves helping others. In fact, as a mental health case manager for Urban Strategies, the opportunity to help others grow and realize their full potential is one of the best parts of her job. Burns, who has been with Urban since March, but involved in the Russell redevelopment process for several years, says that while many of the residents are very excited about the changes being made, they are also nervous about the outcomes due to gentrification issues that are occurring throughout urban communities. Burns believes that the best word to describe the changes taking place within the neighborhood is "evolving."



Devonte Carson

Having joined Urban in July, Devonte Carson is the newest member to the team. As a case manager, Carson says that he enjoys helping people move on to a stable environment in which they can not only survive, but thrive. Carson says that the words that best describes the changes in the Russell neighborhood, including Beecher Terrace, are "meticulous and "strategic." Once the redevelopment process is complete, Carson is eager to see current residents return to Beecher Terrace and have access to the affordable housing options and neighborhood improvements that are underway.



Mika McClain

Mika McClain is an employee of the Louisville Metro Housing Authority assisting Urban Strategies with case management services. McClain is also a resident of the Russell neighborhood who fell in love with the neighborhood's unique and historic housing structures. McClain has been actively involved with developing the Vision Russell Transformation Plan from the very beginning and participated in many of community meetings and outreach efforts during the planning process. McClain describes the changes taking the place within the Russell community as "exciting" and greatly needed.

Choice Action Grant Gateway Project picks up steam

Louisville Metro Government (LMG) and the Louisville Metro Housing Authority (LMHA) are quickly moving forward with plans to development signature gateways and murals within the Russell Neighborhood. Four large-scale murals will be created on the railroad overpasses that run between 13 and 15th streets at Chestnut, Magazine, Madison and Muhammad Ali Boulevard. Artists are being selected to develop designs that reflect Russell's rich history and the revitalization currently underway in the neighborhood.

LMG issued a Call for Artists for this dynamic project at the beginning of

July. Two information sessions were held during the month and responses were submitted on July 31. Artist(s) have been selected and were introduced at the Russell Neighborhood Association meeting on August 29. The selected artist(s) will work with Russell residents and other key stakeholder to develop the murals which are expected to be completed by Spring 2018.

The gateway project is one of four "Action Activity" projects being funded through a \$1 million grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Choice Neighborhood Initiative to LMHA last June. LMG is

contributing an additional \$375,000 in leverage to these action grant activities, which have been strategically located to support and enhance other physical improvements currently underway in the Russell neighborhood.

Be on the lookout for additional details and updates about this project as well as the other Action grant activities - including the new spray grounds coming to Sheppard Park - in future issues of the Vision Russell newsletter and at www.visionrussell.org

Are there things you want to know more about? Contact Lhill@lmha1.org to share your newsletter suggestion.