

# NEW CASE MANAGER: CHARLES WILLIAMS




Urban Strategies, Inc. is pleased to welcome Charles Williams to our team. Charles will primarily be working with Beecher Terrace residents who are interested in furthering their employment and career goals.

Originally from Alexandria, Louisiana, Charles has worked in the social service field for 23 years. He began his career in juvenile corrections where he discovered a passion for encouraging young people in discovering their potential. From there, Charles began working in the community teaching social skills and tobacco cessation programs while simultaneously attending the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and majoring in Mass Communication. In 2002 Charles moved to Louisville and began working as a Youth Counselor.

During his 17 years in Louisville, he has worked as a Mental Health Technician for child psychology at Norton’s Hospital and in adult psychology at University of Louisville Hospital, prompting him to pursue an MBA. After earning his Masters degree, Charles began working as a Facilitator for Luther Luckett and Roederer Correctional Complexes in LaGrange, KY and Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women in Pewee Valley, KY facilitating parenting, anger management and trauma-informed care groups to inmates. He then worked as a Crisis Intervention Advocate and Mental Health Technician for The Brook Hospitals. Charles is currently pursuing a Masters in Psychology, scheduled to be completed in December 2019.




Louisville Metro Housing Authority  
420 S. Eighth Street  
Louisville, Kentucky 40203



## The Beecher Report

Community is the foundation of the bigger picture

JUNE 2019



## HOMEOWNERSHIP: YOU CAN DO IT, & THE HOUSING AUTHORITY CAN HELP!

Are you ready to pursue your dream and become a Homeowner? Then come to an orientation session to learn more about Louisville Metro Housing Authority’s Homeownership program and decide if it is right for you.

Register for one of the sessions below by calling (502) 569-3776. Leave your name, phone number and date of the session you would like to attend.

### Homeownership Orientation Schedule:

- Tuesday, June 18th @ 6:00p – 7:30p  
Hampton Place, 549 West Madison St.
- Tuesday, June 25th @ 10:30a – 12:00p  
Asbury AME Church, 1801 W. Chestnut St.
- Wednesday, July 10th @ 6:00p – 7:30p  
Russell Apartments, 1516 South 17th St.
- Wednesday, July 24th @ 10:30a – 12:00p  
Neighborhood House, 201 North 25th St.

ADULTS ONLY PLEASE

### We will be discussing:

- How the program works
- Requirements to participate
- How to get started
- The process and steps to follow
- Housing Authority’s assistance
- Post-purchase support



## RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT – Fonda Dickerson By Pamela Bischoff

*“I just stepped out on faith.”*



Ms. Dickerson attributes her strong faith in God and her upbringing to her successes today. She remembers family outings as a child, her father driving them from their home in West Louisville to Saint Matthews and other neighborhoods in the east end of town. “ ‘Always try for something better’, that’s what he would say,” she recalls.

There were many challenges along the way, but Ms. Dickerson achieved a dream she says she never even knew she had until she realized it was possible – homeownership. Through Louisville Metro Housing Authority’s Homeownership pro-

gram, Ms. Dickerson worked with a homeownership specialist to prepare for her home purchase. When she started her journey, she was a resident of Dosker Manor, but later moved to Beecher Terrace’s Sober Living program. “Right after I got clean, these people started calling me, asking for money,” said Ms. Dickerson. She made arrangements with each collection agency to pay down her debts gradually. By the time she walked in the door of the Louisville Urban League for financial counseling, she was debt-free, had excellent credit, and had built a savings account. “I didn’t know what credit was, how to get it, or that I was doing anything important. I just wanted to pay what I owed.”

Along the way, Ms. Dickerson regained custody of her four children after 13 years of separation. Today, she is proud to be able to help each one on their paths in life, whether by setting an example, providing guidance, or giving some financial help. She’s even more proud that each of her adult children has a good job and a nice place to live. Ms. Dickerson pursued her High School diploma as an adult, and encouraged one of her daughters who had left school to do the same. Now, that child is preparing for college.

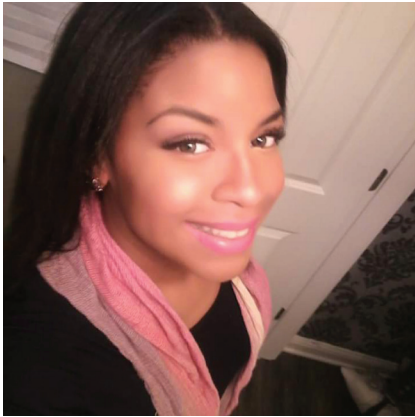
*“ I breathe different here.”*

In November 2018, Ms. Dickerson purchased her new home, far away from her childhood neighborhood and Beecher Terrace. Her neat yel-



## RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT – Leah Pugh

By Pamela Bischoff



### ***Banking on Change***

Leah Pugh, a 31-year old mother, hairdresser, student, and former Beecher Terrace resident is now also a new homeowner.

Ms. Pugh enrolled in the Louisville Metro Housing Authority’s Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program in 2015 and graduated in 2017. It was a time commitment, but well worth it she says.

“I learned different ways to save – not just out of my paycheck, but through lifestyle changes.” Courses at the Louisville Urban League taught her valuable lessons about homeownership and the process of purchasing a home - from the search and inspection process to do-it-yourself small home repairs.

“Leah was one of the best and brightest clients I’ve ever worked with. She personifies determination and perseverance and came in with a plan. I was there merely to help her navigate Family Self Sufficiency, IDA and the homeownership program and Leah mastered them all flawlessly,” said Katrina Taylor, her FSS Case Manager. “I couldn’t be more proud of her.”

In making her decision on where to search for her new home, there was no question she wanted to stay in the Russell neighborhood.

“I had great neighbors at Beecher and here in the new house,” said Ms. Pugh, who believes there will be a lot of change in the area over the next 10 years and feels that investments, such as the new YMCA and elementary school, will make the neighborhood safer and more attractive.

On November 27, 2017 – just three days before her deadline to receive a federal Welcome Home grant - Ms. Pugh closed on her brand-new home at the Cedar Street Development in Russell.

“I used to walk by here all the time and think, ‘this isn’t for me’. I was frustrated after having put in several offers on other homes and not getting a contract,” said Ms. Pugh. “Then one day I decided to call Cedar Street. I got to select a home plan and all of the finishes, and came by the site a few times a week to check on the progress while it was being built. It definitely feels like home.”

Ms. Pugh continues to set goals for herself, pursuing an Associate’s Degree with a goal of obtaining a Bachelor’s in Business Marketing from the University of Louisville. “I was inspired to go down this road through the support of people around me, and now I try to encourage others to invest in themselves.”

*“A house is made of bricks  
and beams.  
A home is made of hopes  
and dreams.”*

### **Fonda Dickerson** continued

low house is accented with white trim, and the comfortable front porch is a peaceful, quiet place to sit. There are no shared walls, break-ins or gunshots. She remarks on how she feels her physical and mental health have improved in this short time, away from what she described as a chronically stressful environment. Her two grandchildren visit often, and are able to play safely throughout her house and yard. Just one week after moving in, Ms. Dickerson hosted Thanksgiving with her family, and later, Christmas. Her only complaint, “I need a bigger table”!



The Western Library Block Party is back! Kids can enjoy the Bubble Car, a bouncy house, and loads of summer reading games, including a hula hoop contest, and prizes. We will bring the food and the DJ if you bring your dance moves and smiling faces!

Sponsors will be on hand to share information and provide resources, including the Western Branch Library Support Association, Louisville Metro Police Department, the Health Department, Norton Healthcare, the Chestnut Street YMCA, and more!

Saturday, June 22, 2019, 10 AM – 3 PM. For more information, please call (502) 574-1779. This is a Book Rich Environments event. The Louisville Free Public Library and LMHA will be distributing free NEW books to youth in attendance and offering library card sign-ups.

## BEECHER TERRACE RESIDENTS HIRED FOR CONSTRUCTION

Congratulations to the following Beecher and Russell residents who are part of the Beecher Terrace construction teams currently working on our site:

Kevin Wilson, Springfield Plumbing  
Timothy Fuqua, C.E. Scott & Associates  
Derric Easton, Ideal Construction  
Marnita Brown-Mixon, Innovative Demolition

REMINDER: To ensure that Louisville Metro Housing Authority (LMHA), contractors and subcontractors are able to reach you, please keep LMHA updated with any changes in your contact information. You can send any updates to your address, phone number(s) and/or email address to [section3@lmha1.org](mailto:section3@lmha1.org) or by text or voice to 502-276-5008.

## PHASE I CONSTRUCTION IS UNDERWAY!



The first phase of the Beecher Terrace redevelopment effort is under construction. This four-story building will feature 117 units for adults ages 55+. Apartments will be predominantly one-bedroom units, and will include energy-saving kitchen appliances, high-quality finishes and attractive designs. The development will also feature a community kitchen, hair salon, a doctor’s office, indoor and outdoor gathering spaces, a fitness center, laundry rooms and a craft and library room.

The Louisville Metro Housing Authority (LMHA) is currently maintaining a list of those who are interested in relocating to the Phase I building once it

is completed in Fall 2020. Please call the Choice Neighborhoods hotline at (502) 569-4972, and wait until the end of the entire message to leave your name and phone number and state that you are interested in the senior living apartments. Your call will be returned as soon as possible to get more information about your housing needs. LMHA will reach out again to all who are interested in these apartments approximately six months prior to the building’s completion. Current and former Beecher residents, ages 55+ who remain lease-compliant, will receive priority for housing and may be eligible for relocation benefits.

You may also leave your name and contact information after the hotline recording if you are interested in the family apartments that will be developed in future phases.