

E-News & Notes

December 2007



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Housing Development
Corporation



**Hearts and
Hammers**

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1. December Program Highlights: Affordable Rentals Increase in the New Year


RPJ Housing will be springing into the New Year by expanding its portfolio in Arlington and Fairfax Counties. We have closed on one property already and are moving toward closing on three more. We look forward to starting renovations in the spring of 2008. These additions will make available 10 units of affordable rental housing and two group homes that will serve 10 people with disabilities.

The two new group homes are located in Fairfax County and will offer permanent supportive housing for people with disabilities in the community. Each of these group homes will be done in partnership with another organization that will provide the services needed by our future tenants. RPJ Housing has already closed on the first of the group homes. This property will serve five to six women with severe mental illnesses who are moving out of the homes of their aging parents and taking their first major step towards greater independence. Through a partnership with PRS, Inc., the residents will receive home-based supportive services that promote successful recovery and community integration, including case management, community living skills training, supportive counseling, medication management, and crisis intervention. RPJ Housing looks forward to closing on the second group home in partnership with the Fairfax – Falls Church Community Service Board which will serve 5 people with developmental disabilities.

In addition to the new group homes, RPJ Housing is expanding our rental portfolio. We will be purchasing Garfield Gardens, a two story apartment property with seven one bedroom units, one 2 bedroom unit and a three bedroom unit in South Arlington. RPJ Housing plans to renovate this complex inside and out. We plan to upgrade the kitchens and bathrooms, build storage units into the basement, replace the roof and concrete walkway, improve the parking lot and driveway and repaint the apartments. The final addition to our portfolio is a single family home in Fairfax County. While it is difficult to find affordable housing for a small family, it is even harder if you have a large family to house. RPJ hopes to provide a 4 BR home for one such family with this latest acquisition.

2. Events and Announcements

 RPJ Housing agreed to partner with the Ballston Common Mall and the Arlington Jaycees this holiday season for the annual Photos with Santa and Gift Wrapping kiosks. The Arlington Jaycees are staffing the Photos with Santa while RPJ Housing volunteers are wrapping gifts. We have 10 different wrapping papers to choose from and boxes are available. Gifts do not need to be bought at Ballston Mall to qualify. Volunteers will be wrapping gifts 12-6 p.m. on the 15th & 16th of December and from 12 – 9 p.m. on the 17th through the 22nd. The Gift Wrap kiosk will be open 12-6 on the 23rd and from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Come and have your gifts wrapped and support RPJ Housing's mission to provide safe and affordable housing.

 RPJ Housing has newly renovated 2 BR apartments soon to be available in Front Royal. For more information contact Paul Clark at 540.635.3043 or paulc@rpjhousing.org.

3. Classified Ads

WANTED: Do you enjoy wrapping gifts? Shifts are still available to staff the Gift Wrap Kiosk at Ballston Common Mall. If you are interested, please contact Amy Medrick at amym@rpjhousing.org or call 703.528.5606 x10

WANTED: Do you have a neighbor, friend or family member who needs home repairs and can't afford them? RPJ Housing's **Rebuilding Together and Hearts & Hammers** programs provide free home repair services to homeowners with limited incomes. Repairs vary from fixing a light switch, installing a grab bar to painting an entire house. To learn how to apply, contact Patti at (703) 528-5606 x16 or visit our website at www.rpjhousing.org/program to download an application.

WANTED: full-time maintenance worker. Must have a minimum of one year experience in all aspects of apartment maintenance. Personal set of tools and a vehicle are a must! HVAC certification is a plus. Work is located in the Alexandria, Falls Church and Arlington Send your resume to terryn@rpjhousing.org or fax it to 703-351-9754 (RPJ Housing). EOE.

4. Hats Off To...








Mary Peters, a volunteer who simply does not know the word no. The RPJ Housing Volunteer Home Repair Staff is constantly amazed by her dedication and zeal. She first started volunteering with RPJ Housing in May of 2006, but Volunteer Home Repairs quickly realized that they can always depend on Mary in a pinch. She's a house captain for Rebuilding Together, has helped remove and re-install numerous stair glides for Hearts and Hammers, and has gone out to Winchester to help with the Hearts and Hammers program out there.

Recently, we had a project that we wanted to do, but were unsure if it would be possible. The residence was a townhouse and a ramp simply would not work. We had to find some way to make an elevator lift work in the limited space. Mary researched different lift options, she drew and re-drew plans, arranged the building permits and other paperwork as well as performed hands on handyman tasks. In all, she logged over 200 hours on the project. RPJ Housing would like to recognize her devotion and thank her for all she has done for us.

Holiday Wishes

RPJ Housing hopes that you and yours are healthy, happy and warm this holiday season. Unfortunately for many in this region that is not the case. RPJ Housing strives to help people with a limited income to find affordable rental housing and to acquire the home repairs they need, but we need your support. Your time, skills and resources are what makes our efforts possible. Perhaps you are in the position to help us this holiday season. There are many ways to give and we appreciate your consideration in this season of giving.

-  Visit www.rpjhousing.org/donate.html to donate online through the Network for Good or Paypal.
-  Checks payable to RPJ Housing may be sent with the printable coupon below to 2666 Military Road, Arlington, VA 22207.
-  Federal employees can donate to RPJ Housing through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) workplace giving. Our CFC number is 77956.
-  Ask Your Employer about a Matching Gift.
-  Consider alternative forms of donating including bequests, charitable gift annuities, and endowments.

__ \$25.00 __ \$50.00 __ \$75.00 __ \$100.00 Other \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____