

E-News & Notes

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Housing Development
Corporation



**Hearts
and
Hammers**

Inside this edition:

1. [January's Program Highlights](#) – Ringing in the New Year with the Purchase of Arbelo Apartments
2. [Events and Announcements](#)
3. [Classifieds](#)
4. [Hats Off to Our Supporters](#)
5. [Did You Know?](#)

1. January's Program Highlights



Additional Affordable Apartments on the Horizon: RPJ Housing is on its way toward purchasing the Arbelo Apartments on Bashford Lane in the City of Alexandria! We have signed a contract and are now pursuing feasibility studies and financing packages that will enable us to preserve and rehabilitate this 34 unit property as affordable rental housing. Constructed in 1954, this two building complex contains a mix of efficiencies, one bedroom and two bedroom apartments and is a fifteen minute walk away from the Braddock Road Metro station. More to come on this new project in our February and March newsletters!

2. Events and Announcements

Project Training for New Team Leaders and Interested Volunteers: February 9th at 7:00 PM at RPJ Housing in the Fellowship Hall of the Church of the Covenant at 2666 Military Road in Arlington. This training is offered to assist **new and inexperienced** House Captains, Co-Captains, and interested volunteers in the following areas: working with the homeowner, estimating the job, recruiting and organizing a team, and coordinating/managing the project from inception through follow-up. RSVP by February 3rd to Patti at (703) 528-5606 x16 or pattid@rpjhousing.org.

Occupational Therapist Training on Home Modifications: February 10th from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at RPJ Housing in the Fellowship Hall of the Church of the Covenant at 2666 Military Road in Arlington. This training is sponsored by the Virginia Occupational Therapy Association. For more information, contact Patti at (703) 528-5606 x16 or pattid@rpjhousing.org.

3. Classifieds

Wanted: In-kind donations of professional electrical, plumbing, HVAC, carpentry, and roofing services for Rebuilding Together projects across Northern Virginia. If you have services or resources to offer, contact Patti at (703) 528-5606 x16 or pattid@rpjhousing.org.

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 and Hammers programs provide free home repair services to homeowners with limited incomes. Repairs can vary from fixing a light switch, installing a grab bar to painting an entire house. To learn more about how to apply contact Patti at (703) 528-5606 ext 16 or visit our website at www.rpjhousing.org/program to download an application.

Wanted: Raffle and auction items for our upcoming Casino Night. We need gift certificates for dinner at restaurants, hotel stays, spa visits, a hair cut/color, golf for four; tickets to sports events, concerts or theater performances; items of art, jewelry, or crafts; electronics (e.g., Ipods, game systems, PDAs) or services such as portrait sessions, interior design consults, house painting, remodeling consults, etc. Don't worry if it is small – we'll combine it with other items to make a basket! If you have a connection and can get a raffle or auction item, contact Jeannie at (703) 528-5606 x18 or jcummins@rpjhousing.org.

3. Hats Off To...

- The Walter family from the Kol Ami Northern Virginia Reconstructionist Community congregation, for donating a minivan to another Katrina family who RPJ Housing supports.
- The Handyman Corps of Jim Dillon, Bob Schreiner, Norm Beattie, Jerry Tannahill and John and Ashley America for installing new bathroom walls in a Springfield home, and stair glides and grab bars for several other homeowners with mobility limitations in Arlington, and Alexandria.
- Target Stores, for donating fully decorated Christmas Trees to three families in our transitional housing and affordable rental housing programs. Special thanks to Aubrey Pettit of Whitetail Express, who picked up the trees at Target's Skyline store and delivered them in time for the families to enjoy on Christmas Eve.



4. Did You Know?

The Virginia Housing Commission endorsed a Virginia Housing Coalition proposal to create a **Virginia Housing Trust Fund**, which would be funded with a two cent allocation from the state Recordation Tax on real estate transactions. Once the total state Recordation Tax collected exceeds \$200 million in a given year, two cents of the state tax collected on each \$100 in value recorded would be deposited to the Housing Trust Fund for the remainder of the year. The Trust Fund will facilitate the development of affordable homeownership and rental housing throughout the State using a variety of means, such as the provision of matching funds to jurisdictions that create or support local housing trust funds, the creation of a revolving loan fund, and grants for projects serving populations with significant needs.

For more information about the Virginia Housing Trust Fund plan, contact Virginia Housing Coalition representatives Connie Chamberlain (804-354-0641) or Bob Adams (804-278-9781). Now is also the time to call your state Delegate and Senator to let them know you support "2 Cents for Housing" in Virginia. To reach them in Richmond, simply call 1-800-889-0229.

Thanks to the Virginia Housing Coalition for passing along this information.