

# THIS IS COLUMBIA HOUSING

Weekly Roundup of CH Happenings: Volume 16

## Columbia Housing (CH) Delivers Hot Meals to Seniors

*Life's most persistent and urgent question is "what are you doing in service to others."*  
~Martin Luther King, Jr.

So proud of the 30+ CH staff who answered the call and volunteered to hand deliver more than 400 meals to our senior citizens at 7 different locations on Thanksgiving Day (Many of them brought their children and other family members to help out).

Thank you for your cheerful heart and service to others.

Special thank you to Karen's Kitchen & Catering; and St. Peter's Catholic Church for providing delicious holiday meals to our residents.

#THISisColumbiaHousing  
#ResidentsFirst  
#ThePowerofPartnerships

**The Power of Partnerships**  
WE are better together! **CH**



## Columbia Housing and Midlands Technical College Celebrate Partnership with Signing Ceremony



**The Power of Partnerships**  
WE are better together! **CH**

**Columbia Housing**  
**MIDLANDS TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

CH and Midlands Technical College celebrated their partnership to bring educational opportunities to CH residents on Tuesday, November 29, 2022 with a Memorandum of Understanding Signing Ceremony held at the Wall of Fame Garden adjacent to the Oak Road Highrise.

CEO Yvonda A. Bean said, "We are thrilled to have this relationship that will help many of the people we serve to attend school at no cost to them. This is a life-changing opportunity for everyone who takes advantage of the program."

If you are a CH resident and would like more information regarding this program, please contact Belkis Encarnacion at [bencarnacion@columbiahousing.org](mailto:bencarnacion@columbiahousing.org) or Cynthia Boykin at [cboykin@columbiahousing.org](mailto:cboykin@columbiahousing.org).

## Columbia Housing Holds Building Dedication for 2 Newly Renovated Office Buildings

On Tuesday, November 15, 2022 Columbia Housing held a Building Dedication Ceremony and Open House to showcase the renovated Central Office Building and Resident & Family Services Center.

Columbia Housing originally built the Central Office Building in 1980 but only occupied the first floor. Rental office space for the public was located on the second floor. Today, Columbia Housing's administration offices occupy the entire 2-story, 26,000 square foot building. The new energy-efficient renovations feature significant technology and infrastructure upgrades in all staff offices, conference rooms, and common spaces.

The Resident & Family Services Center has served the community in a variety of ways over the years; originally built as a day care center for Saxon Homes, the building was repurposed as a health center during the HOPE VI revitalization of the community. After the health center relocated, CH consolidated all of its Resident & Family Services activities under one roof to make access to these vital programs as convenient as possible for CH residents.

We look forward to continuing to serve our 16,000+ residents in our newly renovated office buildings!



## Columbia Housing Employees Earn Industry Certification

Congratulations to Denise Caldwell (top left), Mary Diggs (top right), Maxine Donaldson (bottom left), and Maxine Rice (bottom right) on passing Nan McKay and Associates' Housing Choice Voucher Specialist certification exam!

The intensive HCV Specialist training gives participants an understanding of HUD regulations for the Housing Choice Voucher Program in the areas of eligibility, rent calculation, and occupancy. Upon successful completion of the class, participants have the skills to determine a family's eligibility for the HCV Program, perform required occupancy activities and accurately calculate rent.

CH is committed to providing professional development opportunities for our staff to provide the best service possible to the families we serve!

We are #CHProud of each of our newly certified Housing Choice Voucher Specialists!

## CEO Yvonda A. Bean Serves as Principal for a Day at C.A. Johnson High School



Dozens of business and community leaders stepped outside their normal duties on November 17, 2022, to find out what it's like to be a principal for a day at a Richland One school. Columbia Housing CEO Yvonda A. Bean served as Principal for a Day at C.A. Johnson High School.

Principal for a Day, one of Richland One's most popular and successful community engagement initiatives, had been put on hold since 2019 due to the pandemic. Richland One Superintendent Dr. Craig Witherspoon said school and district leaders were excited to be able to restart the initiative. Our very own, Columbia Housing CEO Yvonda A. Bean served at C.A. Johnson High School where Isaac McClinton is the principal.

Thank you Mrs. Bean for your commitment to the community and willingness to serve!

#HousersatWork

## Columbia Housing Participates in Richland County First Steps Health Fair

Columbia Housing participated in the Richland County First Steps Health Fair on Friday November 18, 2022 at Riverbanks Zoo.

Families enjoyed the zoo for the day and were able to access services and service providers during the Health Fair held during lunch break time.

Thanks to First Steps for including us in this important event.

For more information on Richland County First Steps visit: [www.richlandfirststeps.org](http://www.richlandfirststeps.org)

#CHCares



## COLUMBIA HOUSING CEO YVONDA BEAN VISITS SENIOR COMMUNITIES FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

On Monday November 21st and Tuesday, November 22nd, CH CEO Yvonda Bean knocked on the doors of more than 200 of our senior citizens at Oak Read High Rise, Arrington Manor, Rosewood Hills and Spencer Place in Cayce; and she came bearing gifts!

Each senior received a personal visit from Mrs. Bean and a special CH fleece blanket to help keep them warm during the chilly winter months.

Everyone enjoyed the visits and our blankets! We appreciate and value each of seniors and were grateful for the opportunity to spend time with them!

#ResidentsFirst



## Thanksgiving Turkey Give Away with the Big DM and Hot 103.9

Columbia Housing partnered with the Steve Harvey Morning Show, the Big DM and HOT 103.9 to provide turkeys to several CH families on Tuesday, November 22, 2022.

Big thanks to everyone involved!

#ThePowerofPartnerships



### OUR MISSION

BECAUSE COLUMBIA HOUSING CARES, WE ARE LEVERAGING THE POWER OF HOUSING TO BUILD A FOUNDATION FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES TO THRIVE.

### OUR VISION

COMMUNITIES OF OPPORTUNITY WHERE INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES CAN LIVE, WORK, AND THRIVE TO THEIR FULLEST POTENTIAL.

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