

Innovative Services

Innovative Housing, Inc.



Resident Services

2009-10 2nd Quarter Report

Resident Services Quarterly Update

In recognition that quality, affordable housing requires more than just bricks and mortar, Innovative Housing, Inc. (IHI) invests in a vibrant Resident Services Program designed to build community and help our residents maintain their housing stability, increase their quality of life and break the cycle of poverty. All residents in IHI housing have access to Information and Resource Referral, Eviction Prevention Services, Financial Education and Counseling, an Emergency Fund, specialized site-based services and a variety of workshops and community events throughout the year.

The following pages contain Resident Services highlights from this quarter. If you have questions, are interested in volunteer opportunities, or would like to contribute to Innovative Housing's Resident Services Program, please contact Angie Harbin at 503-226-4368, ext. 6 or aharbin@innovativehousinginc.com.

Resident Services awarded \$100,000 from The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation

In December 2009, The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation awarded IHI's Resident Services Program \$100,000 to help our residents maintain housing stability during tough economic times. These funds will allow IHI to provide direct assistance to our residents and help families who are experiencing unexpected expenses or sudden losses of income develop plans to avoid crises.

Using Allen funds, IHI has already helped 28 households maintain household stability. For instance, after being unemployed for several months, one single mother couldn't afford transportation to and from her new job until she received her first paycheck. IHI was able to purchase her a bus pass. The sole wage-earner of another family lost his job and, because he was employed through a temp agency, did not qualify for unemployment benefits. IHI was able to help the family catch up on bills and connected them with long-term rent assistance so they can stay housed.

IHI is very excited to be able to offer this extra support to our residents. Many thanks to The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation!



Lana is a single mom struggling to make ends meet on unemployment income, which doesn't cover all her basic needs. Funds from Allen are helping her scrape by until she receives her tax return. Resident Services referred Lana to a free tax-aide site and has helped her plan how to use her tax return to catch up on back bills and make the coming months more affordable.

Holiday Cheer



Carma and four of her children pose outside the door of their new home.

Before moving into Kinnaman Townhomes this summer, Carma and her 5 children were living in her van, and a fire in the family's previous home had resulted in the loss of many household items that Carma could not afford to replace. Christmas was looking bleak until Carma was referred to the

Family Assistance Foundation's Adopt-A-Family Program by IHI's Resident Services Coordinator. The foundation connected Carma with an area business that provided many needed items, fun presents for the kids and a Christmas tree.

This holiday season, IHI connected over 100 families with organizations and events that made celebrations a little more joyful. IHI would like to extend a special than you to the Family Assistance Foundation, the Human Solutions Holiday Store and the Community Cycling Center's children's bike giveaway.



Residents of Musolf Manor enjoy carolers, food and gifts at the building's annual holiday party sponsored by The MacDonald Center.



Families at Village Square Apartments donned their holiday best for pictures with Santa.



Safety Matters!



Brenda, a 16-year-old resident of Village Square apartments learns CPR.

One of the goals of Innovative Housing's Resident Services Program is to support safe and healthy communities. We work with several community partners to present information about preventative care, local vaccination and dental clinics, free health screenings, green cleaning and other health resources. Most recently, teenagers

and adults from Village Square Apartments and Hewitt Place Townhomes participated in a First Aid/CPR/AED certification course hosted by the American Red Cross Oregon Trail Chapter and held at Village Square. Many participants cited increased employment opportunities and safety as the reasons they enrolled in the course.

IHI also partnered with the American Red Cross Oregon Trail Chapter to host *When I'm in Charge: Home Alone Safety*. Many of our resident parents work full-time, which means youth are often home alone. This class teaches children basic safety tips, gun safety and internet safety. It also helps participants plan ahead for emergencies or unexpected events.

Both classes will be offered at Broadway Vantage Apartments in February.



First Aid Fun!



Kids show off their completion certificates from the American Red Cross's *When I'm in Charge* class.



The Oregon Zoo ZAP Team brings zoo animals to Musolf Manor and Village Square.



Bobbing for donuts at a Halloween party sponsored by community volunteers at Broadway Vantage Apartments



Youth work on a quilt project that will decorate IHI's downtown office when it's completed.

Building Community

Regular workshops and events at IHI's housing sites serve to make sure our residents have the tools they need to maintain housing stability, know how to access community resources and are informed about opportunities that may benefit them. They also help build healthy social networks that make IHI housing a great place to live!

Innovative Futures— Investing in IHI's Youth

IHI's Innovative Futures Program, currently being implemented at Broadway Vantage Apartments and Kinnaman Townhomes, is a partnership with schools, community agencies and service providers designed to encourage academic success and positive community engagement among resident youth. This program includes academic assistance, mentoring, field trips, scholarships for school and community activities and child-specific supports as needed. One of the biggest indicators of academic success for lower-income children is parent involvement in their children's education. This Fall, local school staff visited both Kinnaman and Broadway Vantage to promote parent/teacher conferences and parent attendance at school functions. As a result, we had a 100% conference attendance rate among program participant's parents. Nearly 90% of these parents say they have increased their involvement in their children's educational experience over the past year and several cite increased school presence at their housing site as the reason they feel more comfortable participating in school activities and events. IHI Resident Services staff volunteer at the local schools and attend many school events and functions— also strengthening the ties between home and school.



IHI Resident Services Coordinator, Emma Martinez, poses with Innovative Futures participants during a recent field trip to a Portland Trailblazer's game.



A regular soccer game that IHI Resident Services staff and the Montavilla Community Center were hosting in a nearby park is now a weekly after-school class at Jason Lee K-8.

IHI Resident Services would like to thank...

The Paul Allen Family Foundation for awarding IHI \$100,000 to support IHI's efforts to ensure the economic stability of our resident families.

Stan Jackson, Sarah Carter Adams & Travis Adams, Bill & Kerry Stevenson, Roy D. Lambert, Jeff Reingold and Income Property Management, Walsh Construction, Heritage Consulting Group, LMC Construction, John Cunningham and Alder Geotechnical Services, and Jones and Roth PC for their generous donations to IHI's 2009 Coats for Kids Fundraiser.

Walsh Construction, Bill & Kerry Stevenson, Don & Mona Geddes and Jake & Yvonne Yamanoha for their generous holiday donations to IHI.

Oregon Food Bank for hosting their Healthy Cooking series at Musolf Manor Apartments and the monthly Harvest Share distribution at Hewitt Place Townhomes.

Pam McElwee and the Oregon Zoo ZAP Team for bringing animals and fun to Village Square Apartments and Musolf Manor Apartments.

Stephanie Hart-Coleman and Kymberly Miller for throwing a fabulous Halloween bash for families at Broadway Vantage Apartments.

Mikayla Gattuccio for teaching art classes to youth at Kinnaman Townhomes.

Alicia Garcia for helping with Harvest Share and other events at Village Square Apartments and Hewitt Place Townhomes.

Lisa Pearlstein from Project Return for providing weekly academic assistance at Broadway Vantage Apartments.

American Red Cross– Oregon Trail Chapter and Katie Davis for providing a First Aid/CPR/AED course and *When I'm in Charge: Home Alone Safety*.

Proud Ground and Hector Osuna– for presenting information about affordable homeownership opportunities to residents of Village Square Apartments, Hewitt Place Townhomes and Broadway Vantage Apartments.

Albina Community Bank and Mary Edmeades for presenting a workshop on credit basics at Broadway Vantage Apartments and working individually with residents to address their credit concerns.

The MacDonald Center for organizing a joyful holiday party and providing on-going services to residents of Musolf Manor.

Brian Maddox for playing a jolly Santa at the Village Square holiday party.

Cynthia Lam Moffett for presenting to parents at Kinnaman Townhomes about parent/teacher conferences and other opportunities to get involved in their children's schools.

Leslie O'Dell and Lisa Pearlstein for presenting to parents at Kinnaman Townhomes about parent/teacher conferences and other opportunities to get involved in their children's schools.

The Children's Book Bank for donating Halloween and Christmas books to resident youth.

The Family Assistance Foundation's Adopt-a-Family Program for connecting IHI families with people and businesses interested in providing holiday assistance.

The Community Cycling Center for providing bicycles to resident youth at Broadway Vantage Apartments and Kinnaman Townhomes.

Providence Medical Center for donating 200 tickets to the Festival of Trees.

Portland Trailblazers for donating tickets to a basketball game.

Terra Nova High School and Paul Hudak for donating fresh produce to Kinnaman Townhomes.

St. Agatha Catholic Church's Peace and Social Justice Team and Jerry Harp for providing monthly meals at The Clifford Apartments.