County Executive
Ike Leggett Speaks at MHP Breakfast

Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett was the guest speaker at MHP’s Circle of Builders breakfast on April 18 at the Strathmore Mansion.

The MHP Circle of Builders is a giving club made up of donors who are committed to helping low income families attain the next level of stability.

Mr. Leggett, a self described “product of affordable housing”, pledged his support for affordable housing. He thanked those who aggressively pursue this mission and feels the challenge for all citizens is to balance affordable housing, smart growth and the need to preserve open space.

(for more info on Circle of Builders, see page 2)

MHP Relocates to 12200 Tech Road

MHP has experienced tremendous growth over the last 10 years. Since 2000, we have doubled the number of homes in our portfolio and have increased services to our residents to meet the demand. The dedicated staff of MHP has also grown, creating cramped conditions at their offices near the Westfield Mall.

“We’ve had to ask employees to double up in some offices and other employees are working on different floors in our current building,” states Jill Goodrich, VP of Operations. “Our goal is to create a great work environment and our new offices will allow for that.”

After searching in all areas of Montgomery County, a committee of employees selected 12200 Tech Road at Rt. 29 in Silver Spring. With the move in November 2007, the offices will have 1,200 additional square feet.

Don’t forget to designate MHP when you donate through United Way or the Combined Federal Campaign at your workplace!

MHP’s codes:  
United Way – DC 8849
United Way – MD 3355
CFC – DC & MD 16358

web.MPHPartners.org FALL 2007
President’s Message

Robert Goldman

In 2006, MHP formed a new group called the “Circle of Builders” which is made up of compassionate, visionary individuals who are interested in safeguarding affordable housing in the region. In April, the MHP Circle of Builders held their first event, a special breakfast reception for Montgomery County Executive, Ike Leggett at the Strathmore Mansion. This was a great opportunity for Circle of Builders members to meet local elected officials, mingle with leaders in the community and learn first hand the county’s strategy for meeting the challenges of affordable housing.

Other events are planned in the upcoming months including a dessert reception, symposiums, tours and briefings to promote new approaches and solutions to the affordable housing issue. The 2008 goal is to increase the number of charter members of the MHP Circle of Builders from 29 to 42. A list of those generous MHP Circle of Builders who have already signed on appears on page 8.

The Circle of Builders support MHP’s mission to address the affordable housing crisis by making a significant financial contribution of at least $1,000 annually and by sharing their expertise and experience. If you are interested in joining this dynamic group, call Patty at X22.

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Gloria Castro Community Life Programs Coordinator
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Summer is always a busy time for MHP’s Community Life Program and 2007 was no exception. In May, two Family Health Fairs were held at Great Hope Homes and Pemberidge Square. The preschool graduation ceremony and party were held in June. In July, summer enrichment programs kept the kids busy with classes, pool time, picnics and fun.

Preschooler Julian Ndjounouga poses with his diploma after graduating from MHP’s preschool program. 14 children and their families celebrated with a ceremony and a party.

Diana Cubas-Quinn from Amerigroup helps Josselyn Ventura put on a life vest as part of the Summer Safety program.

Luis Ventura plays bocce ball while Odalis Reyes and Rodrigo Portillo wait their turn at the MHP Community Life picnic held on July 19.
MHP Recognized for Homebuyer Assistance Program

MHP was recognized for its homebuyer’s assistance program on June 4, 2007 at the Annual Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers (HAND) Achievement Awards in Fairfax, VA. The awards are given annually to recognize the finest in affordable housing projects, programs and organizations in the Washington D.C. metro area during the preceding year. The Individual Development Account Program helps MHP residents save money towards buying a home with a 3:1 match of their savings. This program also provides classes on home buying and financial fitness.

Jasmine Aridod of Great Hope Homes Wins HAND Art Award

Artist is a member of GHH Homework Club

Jasmine Aridod, a ten year old former resident of MHP's Great Hope Homes Apartments, is the grand prize winner of the HAND Art Contest. The HAND Art Contest is open to children between the ages of 7 and 10 who reside in housing provided by one of the HAND member agencies. Jasmine's artwork was featured on the cover of the HAND program book at its 2007 Annual Meeting & Awards Luncheon and she was presented with a $50 gift certificate to Best Buy and a $250 savings bond. Jamilet Machado of Amherst Square Apartments also received a gift certificate as a runner-up. The MHP Community Life Program was the recipient of a $250 check for managing the contest.
MHP had sunny skies this year for the 19th Annual Norman Christeller Golf Tournament. The event was held at Northwest Golf Course on Tuesday, May 15, 2007 and successfully raised $50,000 which will be used for MHP's Community Life Programs. Many thanks to this year's sponsors, contributors, participants and volunteers! Congratulations to the winners of the 19th Annual Golf Tournament from Carl M. Freeman & Associates. Pictured from left to right are Mike Reilly, Kenny Scott, A.J. McDowell and Steve Hershey.

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Glenville Clean Up Nets 1.27 Tons of Trash

Glenville residents joined with MHP staff, NeighborWorks volunteers and employees of Tobon Landscaping on June 2, 2007 to clean and landscape the Glenville Rd. cul-de-sac as part of the National NeighborWorks Week.

The finished results were amazing! The group planted over 300 flowers and laid out 60 bags of mulch. Energetic volunteers tackled several trash piles resulting in 1.27 tons of trash being collected.

MHP developed 3 of the 15 buildings on Glenville Road and for the past few years, MHP’s Neighborhood Revitalization Program has worked with all the owners on Glenville Rd. to improve the condition of the entire street. The clean up day is a part of an on-going program to improve living conditions and bring owners, volunteers and residents together.

Special thanks to NeighborWorks who supplied funds and volunteers, Domino’s Pizza for supplying lunch and Tobon Landscaping for donating flowers, mulch and manpower.

Everyday Heroes

Rodrigo Tobon is a familiar face at many of MHP’s events. At a recent cleanup day on June 2, 2007, Rodrigo provided 60 bags of mulch, 300 flowers and a crew from Tobon Landscaping to assist volunteers with proper planting techniques.

Rodrigo attends most of the Community Life events. A few days after the clean up, Rodrigo was at MHP’s preschool graduation snapping pictures, serving food and working behind the scenes to make sure the event ran smoothly.

“We truly appreciate all the extra things Rodrigo does to help our Community Life Program.”, states Sulema Middleton Stewart. “His generosity is amazing!” Rodrigo is married to MHP staff member Cleydi Pacheco, Community Life Site Coordinator.

Five years ago, Rodrigo started Tobon Landscaping and worked primarily on residential properties doing mowing, trimming and planting. Today, Tobon Landscaping has 14 employees and dozens of commercial properties. Rodrigo now devotes his time to managerial and sales tasks.

Many thanks to Rodrigo and his staff for all the wonderful services they provide. You are truly “Everyday Heroes”.

Brayan Lopez, a resident of Glenville Apts, assists with the delivery of mulch.
Back to School Backpacks get a Thumbs Up!

Late on a Friday afternoon in August, a pick up truck loaded with notebooks, pencils, backpacks and more pulled up to the Great Hope Homes (GHH) Community Center. Geoff Clopton, Amy Ritsko-Warren and Wes Cronkite representing the Greater Capitol Area Association of Realtors (GCAAR) unloaded the donated school supplies while a group of volunteers quickly assembled the backpacks according to grade level. One by one, the kids were handed their backpack to start their school year well-equipped.

This scene was repeated at several other MHP locations during August as numerous companies, organizations and individuals pitched in to get the MHP kids off to a great start for the 2007 school year. Thanks to Kristy Butler and Ken Crawford for handling Enterprise’s effort this year. New to the backpack program this year is the First Baptist Church of Wheaton. Thanks to church members Lil Gilday and Larry White who supplied backpacks to children at Pembridge. Special thanks to Mona Shah and the Commonweal Foundation for providing financial support.

Raquel McKenzie thanks Ken Crawford of Enterprise for the school supplies with a handshake and a thumbs up!

Lil Gilday from the First Baptist Church of Wheaton poses for a picture with Deyvis Reyes and Josué Vargas

Geoff Clopton from GCAAR wishes Anthony Beverly Jr. a productive school year
Donors

MHP’s work is made possible by the generous donations of corporations, individuals, and the state and county governments. We would like to thank the following donors who have contributed to MHP from March 15, 2007 to August 30, 2007. If there is an error or omission, please contact Patty at X22.

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