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Building Communities

MHP'S CONTINUED COVID-19 RESPONSE

MHP continues to focus on responding to our residents' Covid-related needs. Thanks to our Covid Outreach Team and your generosity, we have been able to provide financial and emotional support to our residents and communities. Since the beginning of the pandemic, our response has made significant impact.

THE HELP WE ARE PROVIDING INCLUDES:

- Securing more than **\$1.5 million in assistance** for our residents (direct financial support, rental assistance, grocery store gift cards)
- **Guiding more than 400 people** who are seeking to participate in county, state, and federal assistance programs
- Using the MHP Resident Emergency Fund to **provide more than 120 families with direct assistance** to meet their basic needs, and to pay their rent
- **Providing 100 families with grocery store gift cards**
- Providing **766 persons with the COVID-19 vaccine** and providing over **1,000 residents with a Covid test**
- Distributing **1,600 boxes of food** to families in need



Thank you for all the ways you have supported MHP to continue fulfilling its mission of housing people, empowering families, and strengthening neighborhoods.

SOLAR ENERGY IN THE DISTRICT

As part of MHP's ongoing commitment to solar energy at our communities in the District of Columbia, we joined in as President Biden's Office of Climate Policy staff helped install solar panels at MHP's Crescent Park Village in Southeast Washington, DC. MHP and White House staff joined local clean energy company New Columbia Solar, policy makers and residents of the community to celebrate the positive results of bringing solar energy to the community after years of local efforts. Attendees included Deputy Director of the White House Office on Domestic Climate Policy, Ali Zaidi, DC Department of Energy and Environment Deputy Director Dr. Teresa Lawrence, DC Public Service Commissioner Emile Thompson, Councilmember Anita Bonds, and representatives of the DC Sustainable Energy Utility.

MHP is installing solar panels as part of the District's Solar for All Program at the Crescent Park Village and Worthington Woods communities. This commitment not only will reduce carbon emissions but also will cut residents' electric bills in half. In addition, the savings generated from reduced energy costs can be used for additional property repairs and for resident programs.



Crescent Park Village is a 110-unit garden apartment community and consists of 62 one-bedroom and 48 two-bedroom units. Worthington Woods is a 394-unit, garden-style community of 48 buildings. It consists of six efficiencies, 192 one-bedroom, 190 two-bedroom, and six three-bedroom units.



Welcome New Staff:

Rachel McMenamin, Grants Manager
Joanna Perez-Zavala, AR/AP Specialist
Emeli Oliva, Program Coordinator

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As of September 1, 2021



FROM VIRTUAL TO IN-PERSON LEARNING

Classes and afterschool program are now back in-person after more than 18 months of online learning.

Virtual learning required our staff to make many adjustments that included delivering story books, stationery paper, colored pencils, glue, and Chromebooks to families in the communities.



"After some months of virtual learning, the kids were ready to come back. They would tell us how much they wanted to see their friends. And we wanted them to come back. Especially when we noticed that a few of the kids weren't doing as well learning virtually," says Gloria Castro, Senior Programs Manager with MHP.

When it was safe to return to in-person learning, both teachers and students were excited. Staff immediately began preparing classrooms for a safe return. Teachers and staff installed plastic shields, purchased wipes and masks, and made sure the centers were sanitized.

"Another change we made was making sure kids had their own school supply boxes instead of sharing like we've done in the past. We also encourage the parents to bring their own snacks for their children," Castro says.

Students are now benefiting from the high level of engagement face-to-face learning offers. For example, students of the afterschool program called Great Achievers Toward Outstanding Results (GATOR) have participated in a music program with Civic Circle. This organization empowers young students to understand and participate in democracy through music and the arts. Through song and story, kids learn about seven "steps to democracy," each captured with a single word that grabs the attention of young children, such as Listen (civil discourse), Learn (media literacy), and Choose (voting).

RENOVATIONS AND UPGRADES

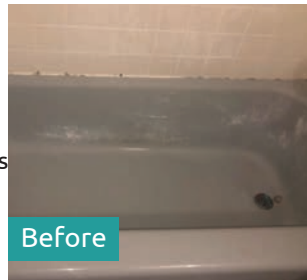
We are working on several projects that will make important upgrades in MHP communities and improve residents' quality of life.

The improvements to both 515 Thayer and Hillwood Manor are part of MHP's larger strategy to preserve and improve quality affordable housing in the Purple Line corridor. These buildings are within walking distance of the Purple Line, the new light-rail public transit line in the final phases of construction.

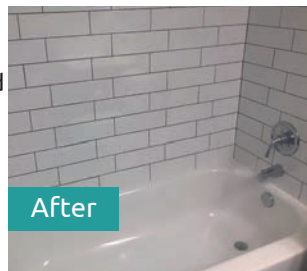


515 Thayer, Silver Spring

Our current renovation project at 515 Thayer will preserve 96 apartments as affordable for lower income families; create larger units with more bedrooms, increasing affordable housing opportunities for larger households; and increase accessibility by making four units fully ADA accessible and creating an accessible community center. MHP program staff and residents are determining what education and programming will be offered to residents so that we are not only fulfilling our mission of housing people but empowering families as well.



Before



After



Before



After



Hillwood Manor, Silver Spring

Hillwood Manor is a 96-unit rental apartment property built in the 1940s and was acquired by MHP in 2016. Some of the upcoming renovations for this property include replacing and upgrading flooring, tiles, cabinets, and fixtures in all unit kitchens and baths; installing new energy-efficient appliances, lighting, and windows; installing water-efficient toilets and split system heat pumps; and insulating all exterior walls.

Improvements to common areas will include the creation of an accessible leasing office and community room along with an upgrade to the laundry room. Exterior renovations will include repairing exterior walkways, new roofs, sealing and restriping of parking lot, new property-wide security system, and landscaping enhancements.



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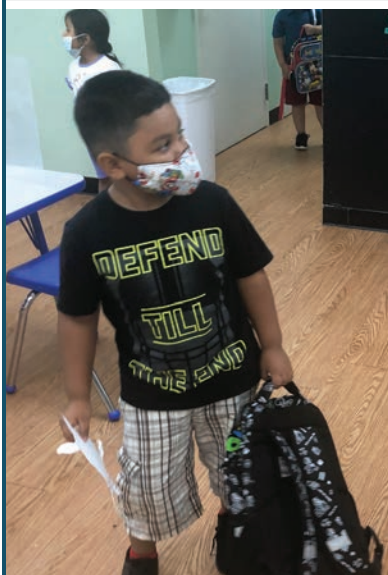
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GETTING BACK INTO THE COMMUNITY

Having a sense of community can provide a source of support during a crisis. After many cancelled events in 2020 due to the pandemic, we were excited to plan and host several community events that were safe and continued to build on the solidarity that we have formed with residents, businesses, and partners over the years.

Long Branch Festival

MHP organized another successful Long Branch Festival. Residents had fun dancing to live music and tasting the delicious food from local restaurants, and children enjoyed activities designed just for them and their friends. The festival is a collaborative partnership involving MHP, the Long Branch Business League, Montgomery County Planning Department, and the Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Development, with substantial support from Montgomery Parks, Cafritz Foundation, and Purple Line Transit Partners.

With the goal of strengthening neighborhoods and building our community, we coordinated entertainment for children and adults; selected food vendors and artists; decorated the park; designed the layout and agenda; and oversaw volunteers, setup, and cleanup. Each participant at the festival celebrated the dynamic neighborhood, businesses, and culture of Long Branch. The event also highlighted the crucial role of shared public spaces and the value of locally owned stores, and reminded us just how diverse and welcoming the Long Branch community is.



Worthington Woods Community Day

MHP hosted a community day at Worthington Woods apartments in Washington, DC, that included a food truck, ice cream truck, games for children, a DJ, face painter, and various service providers. We also used this time to host a backpack drive and vaccination clinic. Our goal was to not only help students prepare for school but to provide health equity and accessibility for residents.

"Because we were expecting several hundred people to turn out for the backpack drive, we saw this as a great opportunity to make getting vaccinated as easy as possible," says Chris Gillis, MHP's Policy and Neighborhood Development Director.

Due to the generous contributions to MHP's backpack campaign, more than 184 children received backpacks, and more than 140 households received \$25 gift cards to purchase school supplies.

MHP, in collaboration with Mary's Center, also used this opportunity to provide Covid-19 vaccinations to residents at Worthington Woods. MHP has hosted several successful vaccination clinics in MHP's communities. Our partnerships have contributed to hundreds of MHP residents successfully receiving vaccinations.



Glenville Fall Festival

MHP's Glenville Fall Festival returned this year with great anticipation. Glenville Road is a small cul-de-sac in the Long Branch area of Silver Spring, and MHP has worked to make improvements in the neighborhood over the years. This work has included cooperating with neighboring apartment owners to jointly make physical improvements and establishing a homework club and summer enrichment program for local children.

The festival helped to create a continued sense of community in Glenville. This year, the festival included many socially distanced activities for families to enjoy, including pumpkin painting, balloon sculpting, participating in raffles and dancing to music played by a DJ.



BACKPACK CAMPAIGN

Thank you to all the supporters of the Fall backpack campaign. Now that our students are back to in-person learning, we are especially grateful that they have returned having the tools and supplies they need.



Montgomery Housing Partnership
12200 Tech Road, Suite 250
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Return Service Requested

To learn more about MHP
and how to get involved,
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