



Charleston-Kanawha Housing Highlights

January 2010

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance



The IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) offers free tax help for taxpayers who qualify. Trained community volunteers may help with special credits, such as Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, and Credit for the Elderly or the Disabled. In addition to free tax return preparation assistance, most sites also offer free electronic filing (e-filing).

Individuals taking advantage of the e-file program will receive their refunds in half the time compared to returns filed on paper - even faster when tax refunds are deposited directly into one's bank account.

The VITA Program offers free tax help to low-to-moderate-income (generally \$49,000 and below) people who cannot prepare their own tax returns. Certified volunteers sponsored by various organizations receive training to help prepare basic tax returns in communities across the country. VITA sites are generally located at community and neighborhood centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls and other convenient locations.

Beginning January 11, 2010, volunteers will be available at the Orchard Manor Switzer Center at 900 Griffin Drive, Charleston on Monday's from 5:00pm - 7:00pm. Volunteers will also be available at Emmanuel Baptist Church at 1401 Washington Street, Charleston on Tuesday's from 5:00pm-7:00pm.

Resident Comment Line



We Want to Hear from You!

304-348-1096

All calls are welcome and remain anonymous.

First Impressions Classes

A series of seminars will be offered at the Orchard Manor Switzer Center beginning January 19, 2010 titled, "Winning First Impression: Cracking the Hiring Code". These seminars are offered free of charge to residents of Charleston-Kanawha Housing.

Participants in this series will learn:

- What business is about and how it works.
- What you're worth to employers, and how to increase your worth.
- How companies decide who to hire and who not to hire.
- How employers evaluate you.
- How to know what companies to apply with.
- What résumés are all about, and what works.
- What interviewers are really looking for.
- How to succeed after getting the job.

Participants will receive:

- Personalized certificate of completion, suitable for framing and display.
- Workbook with First Impression helps.
- Resource recommendations.
- Opportunities for personalized coaching.

Meet The First Impressions Trainer

Steve Davis is the president of a development studio committed to developing leaders who serve in business and in life. *Steve Davis* has over fifteen years of experience



working with leaders in business, civic, and religious organizations and continues to actively serve in leadership for a number of organizations, including as Atlantic Region Coordinator for Lead Like Jesus.

Steve Davis is an international speaker and trainer on leadership, career success, personal development, team building, and change and is the author of the upcoming book *Leadership Lines*, a collection of leadership wisdom from great leaders in business, religion, and politics.

Charleston-Kanawha Housing Authority Manager Assignments

DEVELOPMENT	PHONE	ASSIGNMENT
Washington Manor	348-6800	Shanda Brandon
Littlepage Terrace	348-6888	Teresa White
Orchard Manor	348-6888	Rhonda Wallace
South Park Village	348-8101	Eric Howard
Jarrett Terrace	348-6806	Pam McDaniel
Hillcrest Village	348-6407	Ed Schoettker
Lee Terrace	348-6804	Ed Schoettker
Lippert Terrace	348-8063	Eric Howard
Oakhurst Village	348-6436	Teresa White
Carroll Terrace	348-6808	Tammy Moffat
Wertz. Avenue Piedmont/Coal Branch Scattered Sites	348-6804	Ed Schoettker
Albert Harris	925-7940	Pam McDaniel
J. Douglas Anderson	768-2166	Pam McDaniel
Homes of Patrick Street	348-6888	Teresa White
Homes of Jarrett Terrace	348-6888	Teresa White
Homes of Griffin Drive	348-6888	Rhonda Wallace

Public Housing FSS Program

Public Housing Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) has several spots available for interested families. Charleston-Kanawha Housing’s FSS Coordinator, Amy Lewis, can sign you up to participate in this program.

The objective of the FSS program is to help MOTIVATED families move toward self-sufficiency. The process involves a five year contract between the family and Charleston-Kanawha Housing in which the individual states their goals & activities for achieving self-sufficiency. Two goals must be met under the contract:

- The family must be free of any AFDC, TANF or other welfare assistance checks and SSI payments that are subject to income eligibility tests (excluding transitional food stamps and medical card and SSI payments to guardians of disabled children) for one full year prior to the expiration date of the contract; and
- The participating family member must seek and maintain suitable employment and be employed at the expiration date of the contract.

Any other goals of the family can be added to the contract, such as:

- Improve credit
- Obtain GED
- Obtain job training
- Obtain child care, etc.

The Religious Coalition for Community Renewal (RCCR) will provide homeowner-ship and credit counseling to interested participants.

Once a participant obtains employment, or better employment, and the rent increases, they may choose to create an escrow account from the difference in their rent payment. The increase amount would be put into a savings account that would be available to the participant upon successful completion of the program.

If you are interested in finding out more about the FSS Program, contact Amy Lewis at 348-6451 ext. 214 to schedule an appointment.