Welcome!
In this issue, we continue sharing how Neighborhood Development is working in our community.

We stepped into the office of Elizabeth Danley, Homelessness Prevention program coordinator for the Neighborhood Development Department, to learn more about programs and initiatives to be on the lookout for in 2020. Here’s a snippet of that Q&A.

Q: What does homelessness prevention mean to you?
A: It means taking a holistic approach to supporting our neighbors in the Greensboro community who live paycheck to paycheck, so that they never have to experience homelessness. It’s not just about managing homelessness, but about building up the needed infrastructure to end it.

Q: What are some of the major challenges around addressing homelessness?
A: Homelessness is a complex issue and a one-size fits all approach rarely solves the underlying problem. This can make forming the right partnerships a challenge, but there are several leaders building excellent collaboratives in our community. Neighborhood Development is becoming one of those leaders.

Q: What are some priorities for the Homelessness Prevention program right now?
A: One of our top priorities is getting everyone educated on the importance of the upcoming census. It’s important that everyone is counted, including persons experiencing homelessness. When people aren’t counted, our state doesn’t get the funding necessary to provide programs residents need most. We’ll be sharing more on the census soon.

Q: What would you like to accomplish in 2020?
A: We want to continue doing the things we know work well for our residents and build on them. We want to share the stories of real people who succeed with the help of our program. I want to continue seeking out where Neighborhood Development’s Homelessness Prevention program best fits in Greensboro, and how we can support our partners in getting the work done. We are already seeing a lot of movement during the first month of 2020. I believe we will see much more. Lastly, I want to invite those in the community who are interested in serving homeless individuals and families to reach out to our program. Let’s talk about your ideas! As your advocate and guide, I’m ready to help.

Q: Are there any initiatives people should be on the lookout for in 2020?
A: We are working to increase permanent supportive housing options for people transitioning from homelessness to stability. In February 2019, we partnered with NCWorks and Salvation Army of Greensboro to test a program called Welcome HOME. This program combines Rapid Re-Housing with other services to help residents get stable. Strengthening the permanent supportive housing process will be our focus through 2020.

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Finally Home

Wonder what it might be like to go through Neighborhood Development’s Homebuyer Down Payment Assistance program? Here’s a real story...

Shani Gaylord had been on her journey to finding a home since age 14. Not having a permanent address was a big part of her past, but she refused to believe it would be her future. Shani describes her upbringing as difficult, even accounting for the time she spent in a homeless shelter as a child. But, she still found a way to let the love she has for her family drive her search for a place to call home.

When Shani came to Greensboro, she immediately fell in love with the city. She worked in the City Manager’s office for some time. She looked forward to finding a home and settling into the area.

“I always find my own way,” Shani said. “I’ve always saved money. I think deciding that I loved Greensboro meant this was the right time to find a home. I simply needed to find the right opportunity.” In June 2019, Shani discovered that the City’s Neighborhood Development Department offered a first-time homebuyer’s program. She did her research, found a realtor, and started the process which began with a one-day home buying class.

The entire home buying process only lasted a few months, but not without some disappointment. “The first house I picked, I didn’t get. I cried every day about it, but I kept looking. Luckily, the program makes you more competitive in the buying process because they equip you with everything you need...especially the down payment assistance.” Eventually Shani found a four bedroom, three bathroom house in Willow Oaks—a City of Greensboro redevelopment zone.

“I had several goals that were important to me. I went from being a college drop-out to graduating with three degrees, and now I’m in a PhD program. But, more than anything, I wanted to show my family that it was possible to own a place we can all call home.”

Check out the Homebuyer Down Payment Assistance program!

DID YOU KNOW?

The City’s 2019 campaign to turn renters into first-time homebuyers tripled its original goal. From January to December 2019, the Neighborhood Development Department and Housing Consultants Group (HCG) helped 317 families purchase homes.

Do children spend time in your house?

As little as 10 minutes a day spent in a home where lead is present puts a child at risk for health problems. We can help!

LEAD SAFE PROGRAM

336-373-3624

Call or visit our website for information on grants that can help qualified homeowners address unsafe lead conditions.

Code Compliance

What’s Next?

Focus group meetings with community partners and stakeholders are on February 6.

The final Housing GSO plan will be presented to City Council for adoption. The adopted plan is expected to be available in April.

In case you missed it...

The Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing (AI) provides a detailed look at fair housing planning and specifics on patterns of fair housing complaints in Greensboro. Neighborhood Development submitted the AI to U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in December 2019. Read the Final AI Draft on our website.

The City of Greensboro is developing a 10-year affordable housing plan called Housing GSO and we’re not doing it without YOU.

You can take the Housing GSO Survey until February 12 at 5 pm.

Take the Housing GSO survey by 5 pm February 12 and share your opinion on affordable housing in Greensboro. Your responses will be incorporated into the Housing GSO plan.

If you knew your opinion could help change ANYTHING (or EVERYTHING) about affordable housing in Greensboro, would you tell us?

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DID YOU KNOW?

Over the Christmas holiday, our Code Compliance Division staff organized a donation and gift-giving effort to bring joy to the grandchildren of support group members in the Guilford Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program.

Inspectors Logan Rustan and Larry Roach, Interim Field Supervisor Roddy Covington, and Division Manager Troy Powell participated in game events with the children, helped serve meals, passed out gifts, and took photos with Santa.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren is offered by Senior Resources of Guilford and supports grandparents, and other relatives age 55 and over, serving as parents.

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Do you have news that the Neighborhood Development Department needs to know about? Contact Rashelle Brooks.