

Burlington Housing Authority



Youth Employment Program:

The Youth Employment Program (YEP) entrepreneurship class began July 6 until July 30, 2021 and was held at 1209 Chandler Court Burlington NC. This program provided a place for middle school youth to become Junior Mentors in the summer camp program. The Junior Mentors will have the opportunity to gain leadership skills, collaborate with their peers, lead small groups and attend financial literacy classes by Truliant Bank. The facilitator spoke about "Solving the Mysteries of Credit", "Building a Better Budget" and the psychology of spending.

We had the opportunity to serve 16 middle and high school students attend financial literacy class. Over a 4-week session, the students were provided with opportunities for practical experience in classrooms with campers and included structured training facilitated by the Junior Mentor Coordinator. The training included group game facilitation, reading aloud to a group, and methods for incorporating scientific and critical thinking skills into camper interactions. As the program progresses, Junior Mentors will also have the opportunity each day to ask questions and share observations with the group regarding their experiences in camps the day before. The Junior Mentor coordinator facilitated these discussions and shared useful techniques to aid in the Junior Mentor's growth. After graduation they were able to tour the Burlington Auto Mart car dealership where the owner (Kevin Hooker) gave a presentation to the students about the importance of good credit.

Pre - Kinders Program:

The Pre-Kinders program is one of the many resources offered by Burlington Housing Authority that is available to all their residents. This program offers academic enrichment activities for BHA children ages 3-5, five days a week. Our mission is to improve the academic performance that will enable them to become kindergarten ready in terms of social & emotional development, numeracy, and literacy skills. We encourage respect and discipline in the children we serve, and they are provided with free transportation, a hot and nutritious breakfast, lunch, and snack.



Russel Scott (Education Coordinator): I have been employed with Burlington Housing Authority since 2016. I have a degree in Business Administration with a concentration in accounting. My goal is to provide the young students in our program with the skills necessary to succeed as they begin their academic career.

Martisha Williamson (Lead Instructor): I have been working in childcare since 2001 and have been with BHA since 2003. My education includes a degree in Early Childhood Education and various trainings. My goal each year is to love and nurture children to be their very best .



Portia McCollum (Lead Instructor): I have been with BHA Pre-Kinders program for 7 years. My degree is in Sociology and I hold Certificates in Early Childhood. Teaching has become a passion and I enjoy watching students grow.



Pre - Kinders (Continued):



Chanda Graves (Teacher Assistant): I have been working at BHA for 6 years. My education background is in healthcare and includes a variety of trainings in childcare. I enjoy watching the children learn and grow every day.

Strengthening Families Program:



The Strengthening Families Program (SFP) is an evidence-based family skills training program for people who are high risk populations. These various lessons have been studied in both non-experimental and quasi-experimental by independent evaluators. From this research, it has been found that the SFP courses reduce multiple risk factors like drug abuse and alcohol addiction, mental health problems and delinquency, and in turn, increase family involvement.

This past month, we traveled throughout most of our communities and provided several services like the SFP. The classes started in October 2021 and will continue for fourteen weeks. In one of our communities, we have had twelve participants. In addition, we will provide a program titled "Kaleidoscope Play and Learn". This is a free program which prepares children for success in school by providing support, information, and resources to support early development.

New Housing Managers:

Valeretta Roberts: My name is Valeretta Roberts and I am your new Housing Manager for Crump, Earl-Gerow and Pate Homes. I bring to this Agency 15 years of HUD experience with both the Housing Voucher (Section 8) and Public Housing Programs. I have a master's in Public Administration from North Carolina Central University. I am excited about this opportunity to assist the families of BHA.



Jeremy Melvin: Jeremy has been working at BHA since 2018. He was an intern at BHA from 2015-2016 while an undergraduate at The North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University. He is here to serve and inspire, and loves sports, sneakers, and working with people.



From Where I Sit:

Greetings,

While we are still navigating through this pandemic, I would like to thank all our residents for everything you do to protect yourself and others from getting COVID-19. Burlington Housing Authority cares about your health and strongly encourages those that haven't to get vaccinated. Please watch for additional information about site vaccination and booster clinics through BHA.

The local election occurred on Nov 3rd where a new Mayor and council member were elected. Please exercise your civic duty of voting in all local, state and national elections. Voting is a vital part of our democracy. Get registered and make your voice heard!

Our goal is to provide you with safe and decent affordable housing. As we end the Thanksgiving season, let's all remember to be thankful for life and those around us who support us. I wish you and your family a happy holiday and Happy New Year!

"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened." –Dr. Seuss

Newsletter Created by Elon University Interns Erica Milgram and Lily Marvin

Allen Blue, Director of Youth and Family Services