



Community Action

a Skyline CAP Newsletter

Executive Director's Message

Happy Spring! As usual, we have a lot going on here at Skyline CAP as you'll see in this issue of CommunityAction. There's been a flurry of unexpected events, including a visit from Congresswoman Abigale Spanberger's office and wildfires that threatened our property, all while finally beginning extensive renovations to our new office space in Madison. It has really kept us hopping!

As we enter the month of April, we are observing Child Abuse Prevention Month as well as Fair Housing Month – two national observances that are pivotal to our operations. You'll find more information about both of these important monthly events later in this newsletter.

Thank you all for your patience as we deal with both the expected and the unexpected in our daily work. Your hard work, flexibility, and commitment to helping others is nothing short of inspiring!

Simon

Promoting Equality and Access to Housing

April marks the observance of Fair Housing Month, a time dedicated to reflecting on progress made in ensuring equal access to housing opportunities for all and reaffirming our commitment to eliminating housing discrimination in all forms. This month holds significant historical importance, as it commemorates the passing of the Fair Housing Act on April 11, 1968, a pivotal moment in the ongoing struggle for civil rights in the U.S.



The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of housing based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status, and disability. This landmark legislation was a response to decades of systemic housing discrimination that marginalized minority communities and perpetuated segregation across the nation.

Housing plays a critical role in shaping individuals' lives, influencing their access to education, employment, healthcare, and other essential services. As we observe Fair Housing Month, we must continue to recognize the importance of fostering inclusive communities where everyone has access to safe, affordable, and quality housing. By ensuring fair housing practices, we not only uphold the principles of justice and equality but also foster stronger, more vibrant communities.



Skyline CAP has increasingly turned to manufactured housing as a means of providing clients with affordable, stable, and well-built homes.

Creating a Safer World for Children: The Significance of Child Abuse Prevention Month



Childhood should be a time of innocence, exploration, and growth, yet for too many children, it's marred by the traumas of abuse and neglect. April marks Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness and fostering action to prevent child abuse and neglect. It begins with education, equipping individuals with the knowledge and resources to recognize the signs of abuse. It also involves supporting families, providing them with the assistance and services they need to thrive and create safe, stable homes. This is where Healthy Families Skyline CAP comes in.

In 1992, Prevent Child Abuse America launched Healthy Families as a family support program committed to the prevention of child abuse and neglect. Today, the program is responsible for a number of successful initiatives resulting in benefits to families enrolled in the program. Healthy Families strengthens parent-child relationships, providing parents with the confidence to interact more positively with their children and create safer and higher quality home environments. See the chart below for information on the positive outcomes of children and families enrolled in Healthy Families programs.

HFA demonstrates positive outcomes for children and families, including reductions in child abuse and neglect. These positive outcomes represent findings from independent researchers replicated across multiple studies, including randomized control trial and quasi-experimental studies. This growing body of independent research shows HFA decreases child maltreatment.

OUR OUTCOMES HFA HELPS PREVENT CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

Eight studies show that HFA has **early impacts on child maltreatment prevention** among children ages 1 to 3 years old, including:



Eight studies looking at families with children up to 3 years old show that HFA has **impacts on child maltreatment prevention**, including:

HFA HELPS REDUCE CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES INVOLVEMENT.



HFA INCREASES POSITIVE PARENTING PRACTICES.



HFA parents had more confidence in themselves as parents and did more to promote healthy child development, such as having **more positive interactions with their children.**

HFA parents also used more positive discipline with less yelling and **less physical punishment.**

HFA's Child Welfare Protocols maintain the expected rigor and fidelity requirements providers have expected from HFA for almost 30 years. HFA sites that have received national office approval to utilize **Child Welfare Protocols** are able to extend enrollment for families with a child up to 24 months of age referred by the child welfare system. Consistent with HFA requirements, voluntary services will be offered for a minimum of three years, regardless of the age of the child at intake.

HFA's evidence of effectiveness and the flexibility of enrollment offered make HFA a great prevention choice for states and child welfare organizations seeking to strengthen families and reduce the number of children placed in foster care.

Healthy Families Skyline CAP provides services in Fauquier, Madison, Orange, and Rappahannock counties. Referring someone to Healthy Families is easy; just scan the QR code and complete the form on our website. To learn more, contact Shelley Hensley, Healthy Families Supervisor, at extension 440.



Transformation in Progress: Renovations Underway for New Housing and HR Office Space

Excitement is building now that the new office space in Madison is finally getting its long-awaited face lift! The day after receiving board approval to move forward, crews were in place to rip up old carpet and remove walls in preparation for new office spaces for our Housing and Human Resource staff.

The nearly 1,800 square foot building next door to our administration building was previously owned by MESA, initially housing its thrift store before being rented to a local business. The renovated space will feature secure office areas, space-saving pocket doors, and walls with rounded corners that will be less likely to chip or dent from accidental bumps. Work is progressing quickly. The photos below are just a few that show the demo and renovation in progress. It shouldn't be long before we unveil the finished space!



Exterior view of new office in Madison which will provide much-needed space for Housing and Human Resources.

Before



Demolition



Renovations in Progress



Project Discovery Visits George Mason University

Eleven students in our Project Discovery program recently captured a glimpse of university life with a visit to George Mason University located in the heart of Northern Virginia. Known for its commitment to diversity, innovation, and accessible education, the students discovered the school wasn't just a place of learning, but a community filled with opportunities and innovation. Along the way, the students completed several Project Discovery touchpoints, including activism, honoring diversity, and college/university. Whatever path they decide to take following graduation - pursuing a college education, going to trade school to learn a much-needed skill, or entering the workplace - the students will very likely remember this trip and others like it from their days participating in Project Discovery.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

Skyline CAP Visited by Congressional Representative

We were recently honored to receive a visit from Congresswoman Abigale Spanberger's office. Shawn Meredith, Grants Manager and District Coordinator for Congresswoman Spanberger, stopped by on March 11 to learn more about Skyline CAP and hear about our programs and services that led to us receiving the Hometown Heroes Organization of the Year award. He also shared important information on grant opportunities and ways in which Congresswoman Spanberger can support our mission. We greatly appreciate them being a champion for community action!



Pictured (L-R): Jana Roach, Brooke Lloyd, Fay Butcher, Gunnar Cain, Diane Rossen, Kim Rucker, Beckie Phillips, Carty Yowell, Simon Fiscus, and Shawn Meredith.

Skyline CAP Experiences Fiery Near Miss

Spring in Madison and Page counties came in like a lion this year and, unfortunately, brought fires with it. The fire in Madison hit a little too close to home and caused the evacuation of Skyline CAP's Apartments on Main located just behind our administration building. Fortunately for us, the fire was quickly contained with no damage to Skyline property and none of our tenants were displaced. The hockey rink behind the American Legion building was not so lucky and suffered serious damage. Meanwhile, fires in Page County caused unexpected school outages, including our Head Start classrooms there and in Shenandoah County. Let's hope that spring goes out like a lamb!



Pictured (top): All that remains of the hockey rink; (bottom) the fire in Page County.

Manage Stress With Training Opportunity

The work we do here at Skyline CAP is entrenched in addressing societal issues and advocating for vulnerable populations. However, the nature of this work often exposes us to emotionally charged situations, ranging from trauma and abuse to poverty and discrimination. These encounters can sometimes take a toll on our mental and emotional well-being. Knowing how to effectively navigate these challenges is essential not only for the welfare of clients but also for the sustainability of our own well-being. A webinar offered by CSBG on May 23, 2-3 p.m., will provide practical communication tools to help staff at all levels cope with tense situations that may occur in daily work life. Scan the QR code to the right to register (required).

How to Handle Emotionally Challenging Situations at Work

May 23, 2024
2-3 p.m.

It's crucial to master your emotions and communicate effectively, especially during tense situations. This webinar offers practical communication tools to help you remain composed and collected when others are overwhelmed emotionally.



Scan QR code to register (required).

Board of Directors SPOTLIGHT



PETER WORK

ORIGINALLY FROM

Montclair, N.J.

EDUCATION

- DePauw University, Indiana
- University of Chicago

OCCUPATION

Retired after 50-year career practicing law in Washington. Currently serves as pro bono attorney and volunteer legal advisor to various organizations (a role also performed for Skyline CAP).

CURRENT BOARD ROLES

Representative of the Public Sector, appointed by Madison County. Serves on Skyline CAP's Strategic Plan Committee and Building Acquisition Taskforce.

Getting to Know our Leadership: a Conversation with Peter Work

Over the next several months, we will be shining a light on members of Skyline CAP's Board of Directors to provide a glimpse into the leadership that drives us forward. We are launching the series with our longest-serving member, Peter Work, who is appointed by Madison County to serve on our board as a public sector representative. In the following Q&A, we learn more about Peter and the journey that led him to Madison County and Skyline CAP.

What factors influenced your decision to join the Skyline CAP Board of Directors?

My wife and I bought a farm in Madison County in 1987 and spent family weekends here over many years while living and working in Washington. I moved full-time to Madison following my retirement in 2014 and began exploring ways in which I might contribute to the County. Initially, I became a member of the County Planning Commission. Shortly thereafter, Jonathon Weakley, who then was a member of the County Board of Supervisors and a Board member of Skyline CAP, asked if I would be willing to serve on the Skyline CAP Board as the County's representative. I considered Jonathon's proposal an interesting opportunity for community service and have been on the Board ever since.

What is your favorite part of serving on Skyline CAP's board of directors?

I greatly enjoy the fact that service on the Skyline Board provides a window on the people of this area, their needs and aspirations, and how their lives can be enhanced with a boost from our organization.

Are you involved with other organizations and, if yes, what are they?

Yes, besides being a member of the Skyline Board and having served on two terms on the Madison County Planning Commission, I am/have been involved with these additional organizations: Madison County Comprehensive Plan Committee (Member - current); The Montpelier Foundation (Legal Advisor - current); Washington Tennis & Education Foundation (Legal Advisor - current); Support Hoover Ridge, Inc. (Board Member - current); and Shenandoah National Park Trust (Legal Advisor - previous).

Are you working on any special projects right now? What about them is meaningful?

I'm currently working on Madison County's 2024 Comprehensive Plan, and I previously worked on the County's 2018 Comprehensive Plan. The process is interesting and meaningful in that it requires analysis and understanding of where the County is headed and where, optimally, it should be headed.

Who or what inspires you?

I am inspired by some politicians (e.g., Franklin Roosevelt, Barack Obama), and many places (e.g., the Blue Ridge Mountains and Rocky Mountains), authors (e.g., Ann Patchett, novelist, Ron Chernow, biographer), and musicians (e.g., Beethoven, Renee Fleming).

Do you have any hobbies?

Across the expanse of my life (I'm now 84) my favorite hobbies have generally involved strenuous physical activity, ranging from myriad sports to caring for my farm. I'm now a bit hobbled so my physical activity, consisting of daily workouts, is a good deal milder than in the past, and I currently spend considerable time reading and listening to classical music.

What else would you like Skyline CAP employees to know about you?

I'd like them to know that I appreciate the good work they are doing on behalf of the people we serve.

If you could say something to Skyline's staff, what would it be?

THANK YOU!