



Laconia Area Community Land Trust

~ Celebrating 15 Years of Affordable Housing Development ~

Thresholds Newsletter

Transitional Housing Program Update & Grant Acknowledgements



Transitional Housing Building Located at
85 Elm Street Laconia

Over the course of the past several months, structural repairs were made to our Elm Street Transitional Housing Building. In order to make the repairs, families living in the building were moved into our permanent housing. While the units were unoccupied, we took the opportunity to make a number of capital repairs. These included repairing and repainting the front porches, replacing flooring and appliances, and repainting the apartments.

Special thanks to the following organizations for providing us with grant funds to assist with these projects: The State of NH Department

of Housing & Homeless, the Congregational Church of Laconia, the Franklin Savings Bank Fund, and the Meredith Village Savings Bank Fund. We also recently received vital program funding from the Cogswell Benevolent Trust and Wal-Mart in Gilford.

The apartments are now fully occupied with four families. Families participating in the program work with our Resident Services Coordinator to create individualized plans for obtaining permanent housing within two years. Plans identify all obstacles facing the family, potential resources for increased capacity, and goals such as improving job skills, securing

[Continued on Page 2](#)

Executive Director Honored with Zonta Rose Award

Linda Harvey was selected as a recipient of the Zonta Club's Rose Award. The Rose Award is presented to women who are advancing the status of other women locally. Linda was recognized for her work at LACLT creating and delivering programs that serve a great many women.

The club has made a \$250 donation to LACLT in Linda's honor.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Grant for Gardening Projects

Facts on Homelessness

Seminar & Workshop Schedule

Resident Profile

NH 9th Most Expensive State for Renters

Hold the Dates - NeighborWorks® Week Events



Transitional Housing (Continued)

increased income, finding affordable day care, addressing past housing debt, and establishing a positive rental history. Our Resident Services Coordinator facilitates residents' access to benefits, services, skills, and tools needed to implement their plans through case management and individual and group work. Families are also provided with basic life skills training in areas such as basic budgeting, communication skills, assertiveness, and problem-solving.

When a family has achieved its goals, the family will have the skills, jobs, resources, and positive housing history and reference to make them a qualified candidate for permanent rental housing. Families successfully completing the program are given priority placement in our permanently affordable rental housing. Although families can stay in the program up to two years, most achieve their goals and move to a permanent home within a year.

LACLT is the only transitional housing provider serving the greater Lakes Region that provides long-term housing with aggressive case management and has an inventory of permanently affordable housing units in which to place families who successfully complete the program. This model is effective as both a prevention and solution to homelessness. Fifty-two (52) homeless families have benefited from this program since 1993.

Resident Group Awarded Grant for Gardening Projects



A group of Land Trust residents, who attended the NeighborWorks® America Community Leadership Institute in Boston last Fall, applied for and received a \$1,500 grant from NeighborWorks®.

The team's goal was to develop a project that would increase neighborhood pride, increase the curb appeal of their homes, and that would encourage a hobby which would bring residents together to meet these challenges.

Under their *How Does Your Garden Grow* project the group will offer gardening projects for our residents to enjoy with their family and neighbors.

Plots will be leased at the community gardens, and a vegetable gardening club will be formed. Residents will work together in the community garden to grow their own vegetables.

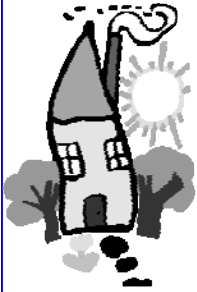
Flower Power Beautification Grants will be available to residents for the purchase of flowers and supplies to spruce up their porches, balconies and entryways.



The group has also planned a planting party to introduce children to gardening.

FACTS ON HOMELESSNESS

- In 2007, more than 20% of those sheltered in NH state-funded homeless shelters were children.
- In a sample survey of NH public schools, the NH Department of Education identified over 1,000 school children who self-reported as being homeless. This figure is conservative because many students will not admit they are homeless.
- It is difficult to identify homeless persons in rural areas like NH. Many uncounted homeless individuals and families move from one substandard, overcrowded, and/or cost-burdened housing situation to another, often doubling or tripling up with friends or relatives.



FREE Seminar & Workshop Schedule

Let us unlock the door to homeownership & financial success for you!

Financial Fitness Workshops:

May 13, 2008 to June 10, 2008 (Tuesdays) 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Tilton. (Sponsored by Northway Bank)

July 10, 2008 to August 7, 2008 (Thursdays) 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Tilton (sponsored by Citizens Bank)

First-Time HomeBuyer Seminars:

April 19, 2008 (Saturday) 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., in Laconia . (Sponsored by Laconia Savings Bank)

May 24, 2008 (Saturday) 8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Wolfeboro (sponsored by Citizens Bank)

June 28, 2008 (Saturday) 8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Laconia (sponsored by TD Banknorth)

Detailed information is available on our web site, www.laclt.org. Call or e-mail our Homeownership Director, Gail Engle at 524-0747 or gengle@laclt.org with questions or to register.

975 PEOPLE HAVE BENEFITTED FROM THESE CLASSES!

Resident Profile

You may not know their names, but they'll carry thanks in their hearts for your kindness and generosity.



Pictured: Kerry & Timothy McCarthy

A positive attitude and a cheerful disposition went a long way in helping Kerry McCarthy and her son Timothy, age 7, endure a period of homelessness which lasted from August to December of 2007. During that time, they lived at the Pemi Bridge House homeless shelter in Plymouth. "I had to keep a positive attitude for my son," says Kerry. "He never knew we were homeless, and I learned a lot about myself during that period."

Kerry and Timothy moved back to NH to be closer to family. They moved in with family members in Ashland while Kerry searched for a job. It soon became obvious the new living situation was not working out. Unable to rent an apartment without a job, Kerry and Timothy found themselves homeless for the first time.

Kerry has a background in office management. She spent her days at the Pemi Bridge House looking for a job in the Plymouth area. In her spare time, she worked in the office at the Bridge House and volunteered at Whole Village. Unable to find a job in the Plymouth area, Kerry was thrilled to be selected for our Transitional Housing Program.

Kerry has since completed the NH Works Work Experience Program. She got a car from the Good News Garage, and has found two part-time jobs--ironically working at the Pemi Bridge House and Whole Village in Plymouth!

NH RANKS 9TH ON THE LIST OF MOST EXPENSIVE PLACES FOR RENTERS TO LIVE IN THE U.S.!

It's getting even harder to get by in NH. In fact, renters in NH have to earn 16.3% more than they did in 2007 and 47% more than they did in 2000 just to pay the rent and utilities on a 2-bedroom apartment. This steep increase is the highest for any non-metropolitan area in the country, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition's latest report.

www.lactl.org
Fax: (603) 527-2514
Phone: (603) 524-0747
Laconia, NH 03246
658 Union Avenue



Board of Directors

Dwight Barton, Chair
Carol Bickford, Vice Chair
Stephan E. Nix, Treasurer
Karen Gallant, Secretary
Andrea Cattabriga, Vice Treasurer
Kim Cedarstrom
Amy Fanning
Gary Groleau
Elaine Miller
Alaina Slater
Peter Stewart
Melissa White

Executive Director

Linda L. Harvey



NATIONAL JUNE 7-14, 2008
NEIGHBORWORKS®
WEEK

**WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US FOR
OUR NEIGHBORWORKS® WEEK EVENTS
PLEASE HOLD THESE DATES:**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 6TH AT NOON
GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY - MEREDITH**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 7TH
NEIGHBORWORKS® PAINTS EVENT**

**RESIDENTS & VOLUNTEERS WILL WORK ON A NUMBER OF PAINTING PROJECTS
IF YOU'D LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO PAINT, PLEASE CONTACT NANCY McCURRY AT 524-0747**

DETAILS TO FOLLOW

Our Mission: To assist low and moderate income households achieve economic self-sufficiency through the development of permanently affordable housing opportunities and associated support programs.