

◀ VIRGINIA ▶

**Hampton Housing Venture
"One Stop"***

246 Olde Hampton and Pasture Pointe are two Hampton neighborhoods that suffer from old houses in poor condition. The Authority offers programs to assist residents, but — after years of promotion — many don't know they exist. Others are unable to come to City Hall or other City buildings to make applications. To resolve this problem, the Authority acquired one of the old homes in the Olde Hampton neighborhood and restored the home to its former glory. Now, the home is being used as a One Stop for housing programs to disseminate information for all of the residents of downtown neighborhoods.

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**Looking Within Our Authority
to Assist Others**

247 Mississippi and Alabama were recently devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Our employees came together to create a fund raiser that used their time and talents to make a difference. One employee built a "Money Machine" complete with whirling winds (supplied by several fans), flashing lights, and gift certificates. Employees paid to enter the machine and grab certificates swirling around their heads. Other employees donated or solicited items for an auction; some brought baked goods to sell. The event raised \$316 in an hour and brought together employees from all departments.

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Suzanne E. Jones Computer Lab

248 The Suzanne E. Jones Computer Lab is a community-based, after school program and adult resource center. The center serves HRHA residents from ages three through elderly. It includes after-school tutoring with homework assistance, a math and reading tutor, snacks and educational programs. Adults have access to literacy tutoring, keyboarding and computer classes; it is a senior navigator site to assist the elderly in accessing needed services. The lab offers special programs during the school breaks such as the "Protect Our Kids", a violence prevention program.

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**Lucy F. Simms Center for
Continuing Education***

249 The Authority led a design team in the renovation of the Lucy F. Simms Center — a historically significant, but severely dilapidated regional African American School. The revitalization, modernization, and rehabilitation of the building have given the surrounding community a facility adequately equipped to provide recreational, entrepreneurial, and adult educational activities. New additions to the Simms Center also include a new building automated system, communication network, gymnasium, and teen center. At the same time, it provides a home for the local chapter of the Boys and Girls' Club and the Arc OpShop, an organization for the mentally disabled.



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**Volunteer Income Tax Assistance
(VITA) Program**

250 The IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) offers free tax preparation and on-line filing to public housing and Section 8 Family Self-Sufficiency residents of the Authority. The program targets all residents and their families who were employed during the tax-filing year. The goal of the VITA program is to reduce the number of residents filing taxes with paid tax preparers and instead provide residents with an alternative through the free services offered by the VITA Program. VITA volunteers are properly trained on tax law and basic federal tax return preparation.

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**Broad Creek Resident
Relocation Program**

251 Norfolk's \$250 million Broad Creek mixed-use, mixed-income redevelopment project, anchored by a \$35 million HOPE VI grant, required relocation of 553 residents from two former public housing neighborhoods. Based on resident surveys, some 29% of households wanted to return. The national average for returning residents to HOPE VI projects is 11%. NRHA knew it had to implement a superior program.

To date, resident tracking stands at 100 percent and 141 households. More than one-third have returned. A final return rate of about 40% is predicted.

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Builders and Designers Guild*

252 Norfolk is making a substantial investment of public dollars to attract private dollars to restore and build new housing in many neighborhoods. To protect and enhance that investment, NRHA “sets the standard” in architectural design and construction integrity for private sector emulation. In that regard, NRHA established a Builders and Designers Guild comprised of builders, architects, and qualified designers who share a common belief that superior customer service, quality design, and craftsmanship are integral components of creating great neighborhoods.

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Homearama 2005 at Broad Creek*

253 Broad Creek is the first mixed-use, mixed-income community in the Hampton Roads region. Focus group research identified wide-spread misconceptions about mixed-income neighborhoods among realtors and potential homebuyers as a major barrier to new home sales in Broad Creek. To address this, NRHA successfully positioned Broad Creek with the Tidewater Builders Association (TBA) as the site of Homeroom 2005, the state’s largest new homes showcase. Almost 100,000 visitors attended as well as generating significant in-kind advertising and media placement.

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**Senior Citizens Home Safer Home Outreach Fair 2005**

254 Suffolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority, in partnership with the City of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Department, presented a “Home Safer Home” program to address home safety issues, to provide resourceful information and to educate our Senior Citizens on how to prevent fires and falls. In assessing the needs of our senior citizen program participants, we discovered that they faced numerous safety barriers within their home settings. Research statistics show that people age 65 and older are twice as likely to die in a home fire as the population at large.

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Senior Citizens Prescription Drug Outreach Fair 05

255 Suffolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority, in partnership with the Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia Center for Aging, coordinated a “Senior Citizens Prescription Drug Outreach Fair” to familiarize and recruit seniors in obtaining certain prescription medications for persons who may not have sufficient income or assets, prescription coverage under any insurance plan, or military prescription benefits. Through the generosity of many pharmaceutical companies, certain medicines are available at no cost; however, extensive paperwork is required.

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SRHA University

256 The SRHA University is comprised of seven elements geared to provide a means of attaining self-sufficiency for our Public Housing and Section 8 residents and to give our young people choices in their off-school months for good, clean fun and camaraderie, as well as educational activities. Three residents closed on new homes during this period. Many of the volunteers have moved on to obtaining employment with reputable companies including our maintenance division. The young people participated in a summer camp



program and enjoyed many field trips with a picnic finale at Jamestown Park.

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WASHINGTON**Esther Short Commons***

257,258 The area around Esther Short Park had seen better days, affordable housing for lower-income workers was non-existent in a redeveloping downtown Vancouver, and Vancouver’s Farmer’s Market needed a new home. Working with private developers and community partners, Vancouver Housing Authority created Esther Short Commons, a mixed-use, mixed-income housing and commercial development that is also home to the Farmer’s Market. The result is an attractive, affordable development with 160 residential units and several businesses, a building that complements the refurbished park and a place that has become a destination for the whole region.

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Academic Achievement Awards Banquet

259 Working with families who have low incomes, statements such as “I wish I would have worked harder in school” are commonly heard. There are many regrets from residents about childhood education not taken seriously. The Housing Authority began an annual Academic Achievement Awards Banquet for the children at Homecrest Manor Apartments. Our main goal is to educate the children further on how important education is and let them know we support them in their efforts to achieve it. The children were presented with awards for their academic achievement, and they listened intently to words of advice from the local high school principal.

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Youth Service Learning Project

260 One of the Parkersburg Housing Authority's many goals is to promote self-awareness, accountability, and respect as well as to enhance the quality of life for our youth. During the summer of 2005, we challenged our teenagers with a two-week service learning project where they could implement ideas and take action to improve their community. The teenagers decided to improve the basketball court and playground areas. The finished product serves as a reminder of the abilities they possess and what can be accomplished when they work together.

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Summit Street Partnership

261 The Northern Wisconsin Center located in Chippewa Falls, a government facility that housed adults with developmental disabilities, was ordered to close. The Summit Street Partnership represents a partnership between the City of Appleton Housing Authority, Outagamie and Winnebago County Department of Health & Human Services, and REM Wisconsin II, Inc. in providing four of the residents with continued supportive services in an affordable residential setting. The result set a new standard in collaboration that strengthened the capacity of the disabled community to stay connected with permanent affordable supportive housing.

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Fairchild Senior Living*

262,263 Recognizing the possibilities for an abandoned nursing home in Fairchild, an economically depressed community of 516 people with a high population of low-income elderly residents, the Eau Claire County Housing Authority secured financing and contracted to convert the structure to low-income housing for senior citizens. The result is Fairchild Senior Living, a complex with 11 two-bedroom fully accessible apartments, common kitchen and living room areas, laundry facilities, and a beauty shop — created where senior housing never before existed. Public and private supportive services are coordinated by housing authority staff, allowing the residents to live independently.

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Family Self-Sufficiency Program

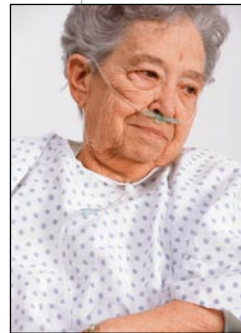
264 ICS sought to provide higher quality services within its Family Self-Sufficiency Program but was unable to fund program enhancements. By creatively marketing their FSS Program, ICS developed partnerships with various for-profit businesses and philanthropic organizations which support the mission of FSS. These partners gained a better understanding of FSS, then eagerly supported the Program. This allowed us to provide families with tangible services and products such as progress reports, log books, merit awards and job or life skill workshops. We are also able to keep clients and supporters informed through a quarterly newsletter generously funded by our partners.

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RSVP Special Sewing Project

265 The “RSVP” Special Sewing Project” was developed and implemented through a partnership between RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) and the City of



LaCrosse Housing Authority's Resident Services Department. The Resident Services Department and the RSVP Volunteer Coordinator incorporated the new special sewing project with already existing craft groups. Residents spend time on their

own and with groups creating handmade items for the needy with wheelchair/walker bags, caps and mittens, quilts, newborn, layettes, preemie caps, baby gowns, baby blankets and more.

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