

your turn

August 2002

News for great people with great expectations

Jane Larkin, Manager
Special Programs

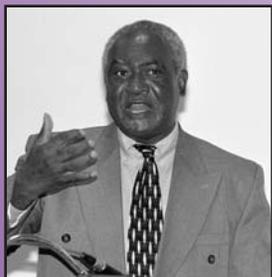
Your Turn is published for participants
in CHAC's Mobility & Special Programs

Joyce Short, Manager
Mobility Program

Congressman Danny Davis kicks off Personal Development Conference

CHAC was proud to have Congressman Danny Davis (D - 7th District Chicago) join us for our first Personal Development Conference held at the University of

Illinois at Chicago in June. The purpose of the conference was to highlight the wealth of services avail-



able to participants in the Chicago Housing Choice Voucher Program through CHAC's Mobility and Family Self Sufficiency Programs.

continued on back page...

Mark your calendar for FSS Job Fair

the Family Self-Sufficiency Program's (FSS) annual job fair will be held on Friday, September 20th from 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. at CHAC offices located at 1000

South Wabash. The job fair gives participants the opportunity to submit resumes and applications to not just one, but several companies who are actively looking for new employees—all in the span of a few hours. Fairs make the job search process much easier, by eliminating much of the

travel and footwork, often involved in looking for a job.

Last year, 13 employers and more than 200 FSS participants attended the fair. The employers represented all sectors of the business community—from entry-level service jobs to manufacturing and professional positions. Participants were able to talk with recruiters, submit resumes, and fill out applications. Some participants

continued on back page...

Secretary Mel Martinez's visit gives CHAC's homeownership program a boost

US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Mel Martinez stopped in the Pilsen community for a press conference to promote homeownership among minority families. He was joined by representatives from CHAC, the Chicago Housing Authority, Freddie Mac, Fannie Mae, and the City of Chicago.



CTO Participant Crystal Mack (I) with HUD Secretary Mel Martinez

Last year, under Secretary Martinez's leadership, HUD adopted new rules that facilitated the creation of homeownership programs nationwide, by allowing participants in the voucher program to use their voucher to pay a portion of their mortgage, the same way they use it to offset their rent. Under CHAC's Choose to Own Program, families can use the voucher to subsidize their mortgage for up to 15 years.

For CHAC, one of the highlights of the homeownership press conference was the opportunity for William Riley, Executive Director of CHAC and Crystal Mack, a participant in Choose to Own, to meet Secretary Martinez. Crystal is one of 61 families in CHAC's

continued on back page...

CHAC

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FSS job fair

...continued from front page

even scheduled interviews right on the spot.

There are some specific steps you can take now to prepare for the job fair. Start by reviewing and updating your resume. If you are a member of FSS and need assistance preparing or revising your resume, attend our job club meeting this month. It's also a good idea to prepare 3 or 4 good references. You'll need them when filling out applications. Make sure that all the contact information such as the company, title or position, address and phone number is current. Finally, when you receive your invitation, determine which employer(s) you want to visit. Then do your homework. Learning about the companies and their products and services will help you relate your skills and experience to the specific needs of each company.

We'll have more tips for job fair success to share with you in the next issue of "Your Turn." In the meantime, watch the mail for your invitation.

Personal Development Conference

...continued from front page

"My message is believe in yourself," said Congressman Davis in his keynote address. "No matter what your circumstances are, if you develop the right mindset, and you're not afraid to accept a little help, then you can achieve your goals." Congressman Davis' inspiring message of self-sufficiency and self-determination resonated with conference participants and set the tone for the day's events.

CHAC would like to thank all guests and corporate sponsors who helped to make the conference a success, including: FSS graduates Ulaine Bynum, Cynthia Baldwin, and Eugene Reynolds, business owners Buford Dixie and Trina Averetta and Chicago Commission on Human Relations, Chicago State University, Chicago Women In Trades, Day Care Action Council, Hargrove Hospital, Harris Bank, Hull House Small Business Development Center, Illinois Employment and Training Center, Mayor Daley's Skill Builders, Money Management, Inc., STRIVE, University of Illinois F.A.S.T. Learning Center, and Westside Technical Institute.

Secretary Martinez's visit

...continued from front page

homeownership program. Crystal has completed the required training and is in the process of securing a mortgage. At the press conference, Secretary Martinez presented the aspiring homeowner, with a symbolic welcome mat.

The next Choose to Own orientation session will be held on August 17th at CHAC offices. But, remember orientation sessions are by invitation only. If you are a member of FSS, contact your client service representative to establish homeownership as one of your goals. Participants who are referred to the homeownership program will receive a personal invitation. If you are interested in Choose to Own, but are not a participant in FSS, you should contact Debra Thomas at 312.986.9400, ext. 4096.

AUGUST

Calendar of Events

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2

10:00 A.M. - NOON

Money Management Workshop
Presented by Harris Bank

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7

12:30 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.

Bankruptcy Workshop will explore the difference between Chapter 7 and 13 and the advantages and disadvantages of each.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21

10:00 A.M. - NOON

Home Maintenance & Decorating Workshop

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20

2:00 P.M.

Informational session with Chicago's One Stop Career Center. Free job listings, copying, faxing, telephone, and internet services for job seekers. The Center also provides seminars on resume writing. (FSS participants only)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22

2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Job recruitment session with Securitas for people interested in working in the security field. (FSS participants only)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22

3:00 P.M.

Job club meeting will focus on resume writing. This is the perfect opportunity to prepare for the Annual Job Fair. (FSS participants only)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28

10:00 A.M. - NOON

"After the interview" will cover proper follow-up procedures, including thank you letters and phone calls.

Here's how to register. FSS participants should call their client service representative to register. If you're in the Mobility Program, call your housing counselor. All other voucher holders call Angela Ellis at 312.986.9400, ext. 4076 to register for an event.