MESSAGE FROM THE CEO :

Dear Friends,

I hope you have had an exciting, safe and fun-filled summer – we certainly have at CHA. From investing in our youngest residents, to advancing partnerships that facilitate stronger communities, to closing the digital divide, CHA has been busy – and we plan to keep up the pace.

This summer over 3,000 youth participated in paid learning and work experiences. These ambitious young individuals earned more than $3 million collectively over the past few months and many took advantage of expanded programming being offered for the first-time this year as part of CHA’s Year of the Youth campaign.

I’m proud to say that CHA services are also ensuring the economic self-sufficiency of CHA residents through opportunities like the Choose to Own (CTO) program. This program helps CHA residents become homeowners – many for the first time - and in August, CHA’s 500th CTO participant purchased her very first home. It is thanks to programs like these and other extensive personal and professional development opportunities CHA offers - including a recent hiring event at the soon-to-open Mariano’s in Bronzeville, that 62 percent of the CHA population is now employed with better incomes and prospects for the future.

As a part of our comprehensive approach towards community investment and development, we are also celebrating the advancement of exciting community assets like the Arts and Recreation Center at Ellis Park, a new library and 218 fully renovated units at Altgeld Gardens and progress on the world class XS Tennis facility located at 54th and State streets on the former Robert Taylor Homes site. We have expanded affordable housing for veterans at the 65th Infantry Regiment “Borinqueneers” Veterans Housing on the Northwest Side, and we are on track to have 25,000 units delivered or under construction by the end of 2017 across Chicago.

The CHA has a bright future, and an important part of our success comes from the hard work of our residents and the support that you provide as a CHA partner. Together we can ensure that housing and community assets create stronger Chicago neighborhoods that serve CHA residents and the larger community for decades to come.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Eugene Jones Jr.
Chief Executive Officer
Building Stronger Communities, One Partnership at a Time

Ellis Park is now home to a new $17.5 million arts and recreation center that boasts a full-size gymnasium with two basketball courts, an indoor pool, art and educational rooms, a fitness center and studio, meeting halls and more. The 32,482 square foot space serves families in the Oakland, Douglas and the Bronzeville communities, and is the result of a development and financing collaboration among the Chicago Park District, Chicago Housing Authority, the City of Chicago and The Community Builders, Inc. (TCB).

A new library is coming to the Altgeld Gardens community to serve CHA residents and the local community as part of a larger master plan for the area. CHA is wrapping up the modernization of 218 units in 25 buildings at Altgeld Gardens, one of CHA’s oldest and most historic developments.

The new library will meet the needs of all ages with an early childhood learning space; access to certified teachers and free, small- group and one-on-one homework assistance; creative programming and computer classes; enhanced technology resources and expert coaching to build digital literacy skills for youth, adults and seniors.

Altgeld Gardens Library

A library is a key community asset that offers the kind of services and programs that our residents and all Chicagoans need to succeed. Strong, healthy communities require community anchors like this and CHA is proud to invest in this project as we leverage our resources to help build better neighborhoods.” - CHA CEO Eugene Jones, Jr.
A WORLD-CLASS TENNIS FACILITY IS COMING TO CHICAGO’S SOUTH SIDE

This August, construction began on a 112,000-square-foot space at 54th and State streets on the site of the former Robert Taylor Homes in the Washington Park neighborhood. When finished in the fall of 2017, the $16.9 million dollar facility will connect more than 5,000 students to the sport of tennis and feature 10 courts, a fitness center, a running track and classrooms.

65TH INFANTRY APARTMENTS OPENING:

Housing for veterans is expanding on the Northwest Side. In early August CHA celebrated with Hispanic Housing Development Corporation (HHDC) and state, federal and community partners as veterans took center stage for the opening of the 65th Infantry Regiment “Borinqueneers” Veterans Housing building. This development provides 48 permanent rental-housing units to low-income veterans and their families in a vibrant and strong community.

“For me, I never felt any guilt about survival, but I did feel this responsibility to do the best I could with what life I had left to live. It’s going to be a place of hope that will work on healing people whose lives have been destroyed by war.” - Hipolito Roldan, HHDC President and 73-year-old Vietnam veteran.
A SUMMER 2016 RECAP

This summer was sizzling for CHA youth. Youth learned what it takes to be a CEO of a multi-million dollar corporation, worked with award winning film professionals to make their own documentaries, and presented policy recommendations to the CEO of the CHA. In total, over 3,000 youth participated in a wide variety of paid summer work and learning opportunities and collectively CHA youth completed over 300,000 hours of paid learning and work experience earning more than $2 million over the last few months. Final details on the impact of the program and dollars earned by CHA youth will be forthcoming.

Exciting opportunities for youth this summer covered a wide range of interests, with many NEW programs available as part of expanded CHA Year of the Youth programming:

BMO HARRIS FINANCIAL LITERACY AND LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (FLLI)

Twenty-five CHA high school students spent six weeks speaking with executives at multi-million dollar companies and learning what it’s like to be the CEO of a multi-million dollar corporation. Through a partnership with the Department of Management at DePaul University’s Driehaus College of Business, this is the third consecutive summer CHA youth from around the city have come together at DePaul’s Loop campus for this graduate level opportunity.

6TH ANNUAL TAKE FLIGHT COLLEGE SEND-OFF TRUNK PARTY

About 150 public housing and Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) students attending 75 different schools participated in CHA’s sixth annual “Take Flight College Send-Off.” This year’s class was the second largest since CHA started the event in 2010, and students went home with the supplies and confidence needed to start off school right.

90 CHA INTERNS — LARGEST CLASS EVER - GAIN REAL-LIFE EXPERIENCE

When summer comes, most college students try to stay busy, either by working to earn money or by going to school. Some want a combination of the education/work experience, and what better way to do that than applying for an internship.

This summer, the Chicago Housing Authority addressed that need with 90 internship opportunities – the largest in CHA history. It is one way CHA is helping Chicago area students to strengthen their resumes and gain experience. The summer internship program is just one of the programs CHA has provided to young people this year as part of CHA’s “Year of the Youth.” CHA has completed its original goal for the internship program which was to help Chicago area students to gain valuable insight into their chosen profession, build a network of professionals in their field and add quality work experience to their resumes. Many interns have walked away with knowledge that will be beneficial for them in the future.
Sixteen young CHA women joined award-winning film professionals and used state-of-the-art recording equipment to create and present their own documentary films. The girls learned film making skills and partnered with professional filmmakers who help them shape their stories, which covered diverse topics such as teen pregnancy, neighborhood violence, single vs. dual parent homes and bullying.

“We are interviewing our friends and people we know. We’re talking to both guys and girls, and they’ve been very honest about how they’ve been impacted by this issue.” - 16-year-old filmmaker Aisha Horns

A paid summer internship opportunity that brought together 20 CHA high school students who recently presented thought provoking policy proposals to CHA’s CEO Eugene Jones, Jr. These young leaders advised the CEO on the best way to build on current programs to create year-round paid and unpaid educational opportunities for CHA youth.

“We established a youth council this year because I think it’s important that we listen to the youth and not just ourselves. We want them to be a standing body that has influence with CHA to talk about issues and how to confront those issues and assist us,” - CHA CEO Eugene Jones, Jr.

The Council is now looking to the future, and this September will be planning a citywide Youth Summit that will bring together CHA decision makers and youth to discuss and address the important issues facing young people today.

The “mobile maker labs,” operated by Chicago City of Learning (CCOL) and sponsored by Chicago Housing Authority and Best Buy, this summer connected over 3,000 youth to the digital world in over a dozen neighborhoods across Chicago. This was the first year the CHA’s mobile lab hit the streets, and it was fully equipped with computers and trained mentors who visited LAC fun days, parks, and back-to-school events in communities throughout the city. Using three years of programming data and in collaboration with CHA, the mobile labs focus on places where computer access and coding, design and making programs are in short supply.

Join CHA’s mobile maker lab this Saturday as CHA wraps-up summer programming at Jones College Prep! The Chicago City of Learning this Saturday September 10 is hosting a FREE Back to School Jam where the mobile lab will spend the day from Noon - 4PM.
Access to technology and the internet are essential in today’s world and they should be available to everyone. Thanks to CHA’s new partnership with Comcast, affordable internet, other digital learning services and even the chance to win a FREE laptop are now available to the 91,000 HUD-assisted homes in Comcast’s service area across Chicago.

According to a five-year progress report, Comcast’s Internet Essentials program has helped connect 172,000 low-income Chicagoans to low-cost, high-speed internet service at home with Internet Essentials service. In addition, this year CHA and Comcast have announced $125,000 to support enhanced digital learning opportunities that include a computer lab at Major Adams Community Center, a new mobile learning lab that will travel the city year-round, digital literacy training courses and 100 free laptops for HCV and CHA residents.

Vanessa Spraggins, a 16-year CVS employee, a mother of two and the grandmother of one, this month became the 500th “Choose to Own” (CTO) program participant to purchase a home.

The CTO program allows qualified public housing families or those participating in the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program to utilize the voucher to pay a portion of their mortgage — the same way families use a voucher to pay a portion of their rent.

Through a variety of community partnerships, participants are provided a comprehensive support network that includes financial assistance, homebuyer education, credit counseling and other services that help the families navigate the process and increase their chances of success as a homeowner.

“I couldn’t believe it,” said Spraggins of her new home at 4457 W. Washington. “When I stepped foot in there, it was like, ‘Oh my gosh! Did I do this? I’m really walking into my house. It was amazing. It was something that I had to pause to take in, because I couldn’t believe it. I still can’t believe it.”

The 14-year-old CTO program – an innovative venture that provides CHA residents and HCV participants the ability to pursue the dream of homeownership - has been a great success. CHA has the largest homeownership program in the country among public housing authorities.

“Congratulations to Ms. Spraggins on this huge accomplishment,” CHA CEO Eugene Jones, Jr. said. “It’s not easy to make the sacrifices required for this program, but Ms. Spraggins – and 499 other residents and participants - have done it, and it is a huge accomplishment. We are happy to provide the services needed to help residents and voucher holders navigate the process of homeownership and become examples of self-sufficiency. I couldn’t be more proud.”
Join us October 1, for the 7th Annual Owner Symposium. We’re bringing together approximately 1,000 property owners and managers who represent over 10,000 rental units to connect with current and potential Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program Property Owners. The day is an opportunity to learn about the best in housing education, network with experts and engage in innovative discussions about the property-management industry.

The schedule for the day includes breakout sessions with trusted service providers representing all aspects of property management and a keynote speech from Eugene Jones, Jr., CEO of the Chicago Housing Authority. Attendees will learn about valuable property management skills, strategies for rent determination, insights into property taxes and increasing energy efficiency, and about the benefits of partnering with the HCV Program.

New this year is a mobile app that can be personalized for each user and provides breakout session details, registration capabilities, a digital notepad and more all at the touch of a finger.

DETAILS:
WHEN: Saturday, October 1, 2016 from 7:30AM to 3:00PM
WHERE: At the Hyatt Regency Chicago - 151 East Upper Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60601

TO LEARN MORE VISIT: HTTP://WWW.CHAOWNERSYMPOSIUM.ORG/