



NEWS FROM THE CHA



MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING CEO :

Happy 2020 to all. A new year offers us a chance for a fresh start but also a time to reflect on accomplishments in 2019.

This newsletter offers a look back at a busy and productive fall season.

I'd like to start out by welcoming our new Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners, Angela Hurlock, who was appointed to the position by Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot in September and presided over her first board meeting in November. As Executive Director of Claretian Associates, a community development organization that provides affordable housing to residents of South Chicago. Chairperson Hurlock is familiar with CHA and is uniquely qualified to lead the agency into the new decade.

We continued to pursue our goals and build on our mission to bring more housing opportunities to communities across Chicago. The theme of the season was innovation.

In October, we opened Oso Apartments in Albany Park, and helped open the first phase of redevelopment at Lathrop, one of CHA's oldest and most historic family housing communities.

You will read more about Oso and Lathrop in this newsletter, as well as our first groundbreaking of 2020 at Ravenswood Senior Living.

But we continue to do more than bricks and mortar. We handed out 7,500 coats to residents at the 12th annual Operation Warm event in October; saw CHA children receive Christmas gifts not only from the Chicago Bulls as part of the annual Kids Holiday Party, but also as part of the "Santa For a Day" program. And, we were happy to join 1,800 seniors and help them "Roar into 2020" at the 35th annual Senior Gala.

I would like to thank everyone for their support and partnership in 2019, and extend my best wishes for a productive and happy 2020.

James L. Bebley
Acting Chief Executive Officer

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON:

Hello. My name is Angela Hurlock, and I am the new Chairperson of the Chicago Housing Authority.

Since my appointment in September, I have spent the last few months acquainting myself with my new surroundings: meeting with my fellow Commissioners, partaking in divisional orientation sessions and visiting CHA properties. I also participated in Operation Warm and the Senior Gala; and it was an honor to be invited to the CAC/LAC inauguration luncheon. It has truly been a pleasure meeting many of you, and I can't wait to meet more of you in 2020.

As the Executive Director of Claretian Associates, I know the importance of working with resident stakeholders firsthand. At Claretian, we provide affordable housing and vital services that benefit the safety and well-being of residents and families in South Chicago, and I am responsible for its development and ongoing services to 3,000 families a year. Now, at CHA, I get to help an additional 63,000 families a year, and I'm very excited about that.

I'm hoping that my legacy here at CHA can be meeting the needs of the people, and taking it to the next level - whether it be building more units, providing more wrap-around services for families, or providing more opportunities for people to become entrepreneurs and build their own brand through working with CHA.

Those I have met so far are passionate and dedicated, and I am looking forward to a very productive and exciting 2020, as we work together to make sure we meet the needs of families.

Angela Hurlock
Chairperson



CHA, PARTNERS BREAK GROUND ON CO-LOCATED SENIOR INDEPENDENT AND SUPPORTIVE LIVING DEVELOPMENT

CHA joined City of Chicago, HUD and its partners Evergreen Real Estate Group, Synergy Construction Group and Illinois Housing Development Authority in January for a groundbreaking of Ravenswood Senior Living, a project that will convert the former Ravenswood Hospital – which has been vacant since 2002 – into an innovative affordable housing development at 4515 N. Winchester in the Ravenswood neighborhood. Located between Damen and Ravenswood avenues, the 10-story building will bring 193 affordable rental units to the strong North Side neighborhood, including 74 one-bedroom units for CHA residents and 119 units for seniors through the Illinois Supportive Living Program that is administered by the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services.

[**Read the press release**](#)



A REVITALIZED LATHROP

The elements couldn't dampen the spirits on a rainy day in October, when CHA officials joined residents, Related Midwest, Lathrop Community Partners, the City of Chicago, local elected officials and development partners to celebrate the completion of the first phase of redevelopment at Lathrop, one of CHA's oldest and most historic family housing communities.

At a community ceremony overlooking the Chicago River, the project was celebrated for all that it brings to residents and the community. The project was developed by Lathrop Community Partners, a development team comprised of Related Midwest, Bickerdike Redevelopment Corp. and Heartland Housing.

"We dreamed this dream for a long time," said Juanita Stevenson, a 35-year resident and the President of Lathrop's Local Advisory Council.

[**Read the press release**](#)



NEW FIELD HOUSE AT WILLIAMS PARK

On a sunny fall day in October, CHA joined the Chicago Park District, 3rd Ward Ald. Pat Dowell and the Public Building Commission for the ribbon-cutting at Williams Park Fieldhouse at Dearborn Homes.

Located at 2820 S. State St., the 11,200-square-foot fieldhouse features a half-court gymnasium, a 1,600 square-foot multi-purpose room and spaces for art, education, performances, meetings and exercise.

CHA and the Park District partnered to fund the construction of the \$9.3 million project.

"Nothing is more important than providing CHA residents and the larger community with a modern, recreational space for youth," said CHA Acting CEO James Bebley. "It is an example of CHA's commitment to building not just housing – but strong, vibrant communities, throughout this great city."

[**Read the press release**](#)



OSO APARTMENTS: NEW HOUSING FOR ALBANY PARK

CHA joined Evergreen Real Estate, 35th Ward Ald. Carlos Ramirez-Rosa and the Illinois Housing Development Authority in October for the grand opening of the Oso Apartments, which provides 48 units of affordable housing to the Irving and Albany Park communities, including 32 for CHA residents.

The remaining 14 will be for households earning 60 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI), with two units reserved for those earning up to 50 percent of the AMI. CHA approved the \$10 million project in 2018 as part of the RAD program.

Jewell Walton, the Deputy Chief of the CHA's Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program, said: "This beautiful new building was made possible through Project-Based Vouchers that support developments through long-term affordability. It's another tool we use to reiterate our pledge to deliver greater housing opportunity to all of Chicago's 77 community areas."

[**Read the press release**](#)

CHA AND OPERATION WARM DISTRIBUTE 7,500 COATS TO RESIDENTS AT 12TH ANNUAL EVENT



CHA and Operation Warm partnered for the 12th consecutive year to give away 7,500 new winter coats to children living in public housing and participating in the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program.

Participants also enjoyed a resource fair with nearly 30 organizations offering services and giveaways such as flu shots and books. They included Wells Fargo, Pepsico, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Comcast and ComEd. CHA and Operation Warm have given out more than 100,000 coats to some 26,000 families over the last 12 years.

CHA Board Chairperson Angela Hurlock, Executive Director of Claretian Associates, was on hand and helped distribute coats.

"Residents can get a coat here, they can get a flu shot, they can see CEDA, they can do a lot of different things that are just as important as the bricks and mortar and walls that we provide," Hurlock said. "This is amazing, but it's also a challenge, knowing the needs are great. We can't just do it by ourselves, and that's why the sponsors we have are tremendous, bringing together all of the things we couldn't do by ourselves."

[**Read the press release**](#)



ROARING INTO 2020: SENIOR GALA

The holiday spirit was on full display at CHA, where residents spent the day celebrating at the annual Senior Gala where they "roared into 2020" with a nod to the roaring '20s. This popular event drew 1,800 seniors from across all of CHA's senior properties for a day of food, fun and, of course, dancing – the highlight of the event!

[**Watch the fun here**](#)

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AT CHA: SANTA FOR A DAY

At CHA family developments, children received gifts donated through the “Santa For a Day” program that spreads joy and ensures children have gifts to open on Christmas Day. For the second year in a row, Santa for a Day founder Rich Gentile selected CHA children to benefit from the charity’s largesse.

Children began writing letters to Santa in November. The Santa for a Day website connects donors to the wish lists and the connection to purchase the gifts online. This holiday season, nearly 2,000 letters were answered, with gifts fulfilled, wrapped and delivered in time for Christmas.

[***Watch this heartwarming news story on the program***](#)



CHA'S RAD PROGRAM FEATURED BY HUD

CHA's successful repositioning of its properties under the RAD program is gaining attention, most recently with a feature on Chicago's efforts that show the impact it has on residents and CHA's properties. CHA was granted one of the largest RAD awards in the country with more than 10,000 units in 2015 and to date has transitioned nearly half of those to a new RAD Project-Based Voucher platform. This new program, supported and encouraged by HUD, helps public housing authorities manage their aging portfolios and gives them ways to leverage external resources and take on rehab projects that create improved housing for residents.

[***Read more here***](#)



A FAIR AND EQUITABLE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW CANNABIS LAW

CHA, Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot and the City of Chicago are working together to ensure a safe, responsible, fair and equitable implementation of the law and how the new law relates to federal laws governing the use of marijuana in public housing.

CHA's goal is to make sure residents remain in compliance with their lease. The Authority's focus has been and continues to be housing stability. CHA will seek to maintain a balanced and reasonable interpretation of the new marijuana law and address matters involving the use and possession of marijuana on a case by case basis with a thoughtful consideration of circumstances.

CHA will be working with all residents, property managers, Housing Choice Voucher program participants and landlords and applicants for housing to ensure that everyone understands their rights under the new Illinois law.

The City of Chicago has created a Cannabis Information Center website that provides more details, information and resources for all Chicagoans about the new law. It can be accessed [here](#).

Additionally, the City in partnership with the Chicago Department of Public Health also has created Cannabis Facts Chicago, a website to provide precautionary guidance for the new law. You can access that information [here](#).

In 2020, be counted.



CENSUS 2020



IN 2020, BE COUNTED!

CHA joins Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot in encouraging every Chicagoan to be counted in the 2020 census.

Information from the census shapes our communities and influences Chicago's voice in Congress.

Census data are used to determine what resources communities need. Funds are provided to state and local governments that use that money to fund programs and infrastructure like healthcare, housing, education, and transportation.

An accurate census ensures equal political representation and fair allocation of government resources. The City of Chicago relies on population counts to make important decisions about local policies and funding.

CHA is working to ensure that all of its residents are counted and reminding them that information they share with census takers *is not shared* with CHA and that federal law prohibits census takers from asking about anyone's citizenship.

Additionally, If you would like to help make sure that every Chicagoan gets counted, [get involved](#) and check back regularly for opportunities to help your community be counted.

Watch a message on the importance of the census from Mayor Lightfoot [here](#)