



DOORWAY

Volume 11
Issue 1

BCHT: Better Community Housing of Trenton, Inc.
(Formerly a Part of Martin House)

Nov/Dec
2022

BCHT is a doorway to hope and opportunity, whose mission is to create safe, quality housing in Trenton that low-income people can afford to buy or rent and to support community action and development in at-risk urban neighborhoods.



Tyrell Project Moving Forward – More Miracle Houses

BCHT's Tyrell Avenue Housing Project is coming out from under the cloud of COVID. Action is taking place to counteract the blight of abandonment on this one-block street, which leads to the proposed new Assunpink Creek Park (Amtico Square). In the past year the city of Trenton has torn down a number of houses on the street, and BCHT will be building two duplexes on eight of the cleared lots, which we will be purchasing from the City of Trenton.

After several stops and starts, BCHT is currently rehabbing the house at 42 ½ Tyrell, with Fieldco Construction now taking charge of the work. The inside gutting and the demolition of the old kitchen addition have been completed, and new permits are being obtained for rehab. Four other houses on the block are also in the process of renovation by private owners, one of which already has a new family living there. Several vacant lots on the street will most likely be used as parking for the new park. Little by little, the blight is disappearing.



The mission of BCHT is to provide houses that low-income families can truly afford. So, we sell our houses to qualified low-income families for \$40,000, a fraction of the cost to build, with 0% interest on Installment Sale Agreements between purchasers and BCHT. No one else matches this!

60-68 Tyrell.....Will soon look like this

Our houses are known as Miracle Houses to many. BCHT's homes provide needy families with the stability to pursue education, employment/career, and family values.

With your help we are making a difference

3rd Annual Planter Day Brings Brightness and Smiles

Flowers bring brightness and hope to even the most run-down neighborhoods.

Planter Day has become an institution in East Trenton. This year BCHT's Planter Day was held as part of East Trenton Collaborative's Community Day on May 21 at George Page Park.

Once again, residents of East Trenton gathered to make their own personalized planters for their front stoops. Better Community Housing of Trenton provided supplies and instructions for the residents, who then designed their own planters.



Resident enjoys Planter Day at George Page Park →

BCHT Sponsors Winning CYO Team



The CYO East State Street (formerly Martin House Learning Center) provides educational and recreational programs for our local Trenton children. Better Community Housing of Trenton continued its tradition of sponsoring a basketball team in the 2022 Future Stars Basketball League.

This year's BCHT team was made up of both boys and girls. Our staff and volunteers cheered them on as they won the second-prize trophy.

PLEASE HELP US CONTINUE TO BUILD OUR MIRACLE HOUSES!

Donate on our website at www.BCHTrenton.org

or mail donations to BCHT, 802 E State St, PO Box 298, Trenton, NJ 08602

Call 609-989-0271 or Email us at BCHTinfo@gmail.com for more information

Better Community Housing of Trenton, Inc. (BCHT)

Executive Director: Pearleen Waters; Board of Trustees: Dorothy Holmes, President; Jacqueline Meyers, Secretary; John Sterbinsky, Treasurer; Bruce M. Sattin, Esq.; Kellie Malloy Foerter; Tamika Young, LSW; Founder: Fr. Brian McCormick; Editor: Linda Smythe Oliaro

From the Heart of the Director

By Pearleen Waters, Executive Director of BCHT

Beloved Friends of BCHT,

As we come to the close of our 50th year of building Miracle Houses, we thank God for all of you and your faithful support, prayers, and, of course, for your patience. The past two years have been particularly challenging with COVID issues, but with the help of all you wonderful people, we have persevered, and our blessed work continues.



On another note, we are happy to say that the book about our founder, Fr. Brian McCormick, *A Radical Heart* by Mary R. Callahan, is available on Amazon.com, and **the Kindle version is free!** Or, with a donation of \$15 to BCHT, you may request a book directly from us.

Again, thank you all for your faith in us and the generosity you show in keeping BCHT’s mission alive!

In the Spotlight – Intern Helps Bring Social Media Upgrade to BCHT



Better Community Housing of Trenton has a NEWLY-DESIGNED WEBSITE, as well as new social media pages, which you can follow for future updates from our organization – Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube – thanks to the efforts of BCHT’s social media intern, Momolu Dorley, under the mentorship of webmaster Julia Callahan. Momolu, or Lu, to most, is a student at Penn State, Abington. He is a resident of Trenton and has been a dedicated volunteer for BCHT over the past two years. When we decided we needed to upgrade our web presence, Lu told us it would be a great opportunity for him to do his senior internship. **PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR NEW SOCIAL MEDIA SITES!**

Momolu Dorley

The talented Julia Callahan, president of Multichannel Marketing Innovation, stepped in to upgrade our website and train Lu on how to create and manage BCHT’s web presence in a way that should bring us more recognition, especially among younger people. Thank you, Lu and Julia!

Thrift Store News - Holiday Sharing

BCHT’s dedicated team of thrift store volunteers, led by Gloria Phillips, works very hard each year to coordinate our annual Thanksgiving and Christmas giving projects, which supply local needy families with hundreds of Thanksgiving and Christmas meals and Christmas gifts for the children. Thanks to the team, we supplied turkeys for 109 families this year and are now organizing our Christmas sharing program.

Volunteers delivering Thanksgiving Turkeys →



THANK YOU for your donation to the Thrift Store. It is a blessing!

Please call 609-222-5537 to donate Christmas gifts - or gift cards from ShopRite or Walmart

YOU CAN HELP! WE NEED YOUR MONETARY, SPIRITUAL, AND VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

Consider a **CO-CREATOR’S Pledge** of \$10,000 to support housing for the poor and community action in the inner-city

I UNDERSTAND THE NEED AND WANT TO JOIN THE EFFORT:

I/We pledge \$ _____ over 1 year 3 years... in monthly payments of \$ _____ Starting on: _____ (DATE)

I/We want to support **BCH of Trenton**: Enclosed is a gift of:

\$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 Other: \$ _____ (OPTIONAL:) Designated for: _____

PLEASE PRINT:

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Company: _____ (Enclose matching gift form)

Donate at BCHTrenton.org or mail to: BCH of Trenton, PO Box 298, Trenton, NJ 08602 (Make all checks payable to BCH of Trenton, Inc.)*

*BCH of Trenton, Inc. is qualified by the IRS to receive contributions that are deductible for federal income tax purposes. This charitable organization is registered with the Attorney General of the State of New Jersey. Information may be obtained by calling: (973) 504-6215. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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