



# DOORWAY

**BCHT: Better Community Housing of Trenton, Inc.** (formerly Martin House)  
Opening Doors in Housing and Community Development in Trenton

Vol 2-1

*BCHT's mission: to create safe, quality housing in Trenton that local people can afford to buy or rent and to support community development in at-risk urban neighborhoods.*

May/June '14

## ***The Community Connection***

**A sense of community can make the difference between a thriving neighborhood and a decaying one** in an area like the Wilbur section of Trenton. Known for years as a struggling city, Trenton has experienced cutbacks and loss of services in recent years that have led to even higher crime rates and greater poverty. Communities need to be proactive and self-aware in order to survive and hopefully, grow. **Bi-monthly community meetings at BCHT** are starting to make a difference in the Wilbur community. Since October 2013, neighbors have been gathering to **discuss issues and create solutions to make the community a better place to live.** The neighborhood has become **proactive by sponsoring community events and cleanups.**

## ***Making Greg Grant Park An Asset***

Neighbors see the new Greg Grant Park on East State Street as a focal point in the community. They realize that the park can be an asset only if it is kept up and there are events that attract neighborhood children and adults. To accomplish this, neighbors have planned **movie nights and block parties for the summer** and have taken responsibility for cleaning the park.

The Brian McCormick Homeowners Association (HOA) has officially adopted the park and is responsible for keeping it clean. Eastward Councilwoman Reynolds-Jackson donated rakes, bags, and gloves and helped organize a community cleanup.



*Community and high school volunteers ready to clean park*

## ***Easter Egg Hunt, Games, and Fun***

About thirty (30) children joined the fun on April 19 at an Easter Egg Hunt planned and sponsored by BCHT and the Fr. Brian McCormick HOA. The children busily searched for over 400 eggs at Greg Grant Park and competed for prizes in games such as Easter egg relay races and Bible trivia.



*Enjoying the prizes of the day*

The day concluded with the children finding the "Resurrection Eggs" and reading the story of Jesus' Passion and Resurrection.



*The Easter egg relay race begins*

## ***Doorway to Hope, Inc. Family Shelter***

Doorway to Hope now proudly displays new exterior doors for all of its 13 housing units at 827 East State Street. Thank you!

**IN OUR NEXT ISSUE:** Rehabs, Sweat Equity, BCHT Homeownership Program, Movies, Nat'l Night Out

# Letter from the Director

By Pearleen Waters, Executive Director of Better Community Housing of Trenton

**Easter is the time of Resurrection and Hope.** Sometimes when we reflect on the state of things in Trenton we need to remind ourselves to focus on the fact that there is hope - hope for our homeowners, our neighbors, our city, and hope for eternal life with our Risen Lord. As BCHT undertakes to fulfill our mission with only one paid staff member and some dedicated volunteers, the task can feel overwhelming at times. That is when **I see the blessings and God-given gifts before me.** We have to move forward, one step at a time, cherishing those moments and people that make the steps possible. Let me share some of these moments so that you, our supporters, will know the blessings of continuing to pursue the worthy mission of BCHT. **Just yesterday I received the blessing of gratitude from one of the homeowners** that my volunteer Advisory Board and I have been working with. She and her husband now have their budget on track to address tax liens and possible foreclosure on their home. She told me how grateful she is that BCHT has given her a second chance. I am happy to report that, with our help, six homeowners have either paid off their liens or are working with BCHT on a Reinstatement Plan. Another blessing is **our new contractor, Jeffrey Borges,** who will be helping us **renovate several homes,** one of which is already underway. And in the past few months we have received **donations from some loyal supporters,** enabling us to continue our mission in these areas.



Pearleen Waters

## Volunteers Are Vital to BCHT and Doorway to Hope, Inc.

**MLK Service Day** brought many volunteers to BCHT and DTH to help us get our facilities in shape. They painted, cleaned, organized clothing and furniture in the Thrift Store, and cheerfully did any chore that needed doing. Thank you to the Bonner Center of The College of NJ, Isles Youth Institute, and all others for your great help.

BCHT couldn't get along without its volunteers. We are grateful to our regular volunteers who help in the Thrift Store and warehouse and with the day to day office operations, bookkeeping, accounting, and cleaning.



Volunteers combine painting and fun



Outside BCHT after a day of service

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

*I UNDERSTAND THE NEED AND WANT TO JOIN THE EFFORT:*

A **Keystone Pledge** of \$30,000 = \$21,000 to co-sponsor a home + \$9,000 to support vocational training

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

I/We want to support **BCH of Trenton/Doorway to Hope/the Thrift Store.**

Enclosed is a gift of:  \$1,000  \$500  \$250  \$100  Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (OPTIONAL:) Designated for: \_\_\_\_\_  
PLEASE PRINT:

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_ (Enclose matching gift form)

**Donate online 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 under section 501©(3). This charitable organization is also 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.

Email us from the mail icon on the website at [www.BCHTrenton.org](http://www.BCHTrenton.org) or email [bchtINFO@gmail.com](mailto:bchtINFO@gmail.com)