Housing Partnership was master developer of The Park at Oaklawn, which is today a picturesque neighborhood with over 300 new rental and single-family homes. Other major collaborators were Crosland Development, SaussyBurbank Homes, the City of Charlotte, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Senior Centers, Inc., Wachovia Bank and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Housing Partnership President Pat Garrett welcomed dignitaries and guests from across the city and state to the event. N.C. House Representative Pete Cunningham spoke of Anita Stroud's legacy, recalling how through the years she taught hundreds of neighborhood children to read and write in her one-room apartment.

"The Park at Oaklawn is a human services success," said County Commission Chair Parks Helms. "You can build all the buildings you want, but this is an example of building hope."
"While providing affordable rental housing for Charlotte residents is a core focus of The Housing Partnership, we are committed to helping tenants work toward owning their own homes and reaping the rewards of home ownership."

CMHP Gets A Makeover

"Extreme Makeover" is the theme of The Housing Partnership's 2005 annual report, referring to our neighborhood revitalization efforts throughout the Charlotte area. But this theme also fits what's going on in-house this year as we've recently updated our marketing brand and moved to new offices.

Charlotte Mecklenburg Housing Partnership is now branded as simply "The Housing Partnership," which is reflected in a crisp new logo with fresh colors and a more up-to-date typeface.

Moving is never easy, especially after more than 10 years in the same address, but the new offices are beautiful, and the offices are light-filled, stylish and spacious with plenty of room for growing. "It's a makeover that does more than scratch the surface," said Pat Garrett, president of The Housing Partnership.

Wells Fargo Underwrites Homebuyer Education

The Housing Partnership has received a grant from Wells Fargo Home Mortgage under the Homebuyer Education workshops at our rental communities. The Fannie Mae Homeownership Education program supports the housing council's multi-phase approach to the homebuying process from qualifying for a loan and creating a family budget to closing on a new home.

"While providing affordable rental housing for Charlotte residents is a core focus of The Housing Partnership, we are committed to helping tenants work toward owning their own homes and reaping the rewards of home ownership," said Pat Garrett, president of The Housing Partnership. "This program, along with the Homeownership Education workshops we've received grants from the City and County of Charlotte, is a great way to help families move toward homeownership."

This $11,500 grant from Wells Fargo is the latest in a series of grants the mortgage service provider has awarded The Housing Partnership over the past few years. Other grants have been used to upgrade technology, enhance customer service and launch a new Housing Partnership website.
The Housing Partnership has responded quickly to opportunities as they arise and has not shied away from complex projects or those that stretch the capacity of the organization.

In other news, the Housing Partnership was awarded a $460,000 NeighborWorks® grant to support a 192-unit apartment development in southwest Charlotte. This South Oak Crossing site was transformed to accommodate a new apartment development. Completed in late 2007, this affordable and safe development serves low-income households.

Funds from NeighborWorks grants support other Housing Partnership programs as well, including homeownership education, neighborhood revitalization, community development, and technical assistance programs. Founded in 1978, NeighborWorks operates through 240 community development organizations, providing grants to increase homeownership, produce affordable, high-quality rental properties, empower consumers through homeownership education, reduce foreclosures and revitalizing communities.

The Housing Partnership underwent a full-scale review this spring by NeighborWorks America, a longtime national partner, which covered the following six areas: planning, resource, organizational, financial, contract personnel management, production/program services and technical operating systems. Expectations were exceeded in five areas with many noteworthy achievements recognized.

"The Housing Partnership has clearly earned its reputation as the leading affordable housing provider in the state by sustaining a high level of performance in each of its major lines of business and by its success in attracting and retaining the skills of professionals and in achieving economies of scale in its operations," remarked R. Ellen King, management consultant for NeighborWorks® America and a member of the assessment team.

"The Housing Partnership has responded quickly to opportunities as they arise and has not shied away from complex projects or those that stretch the capacity of the organization."
Job Training Program Launched At Tyvola Crossing

Wachovia Corporation chose Tyvola Crossing Apartments on the city’s westside to roll out a special program that is bringing computer training and job skills to residents in neighborhoods throughout the area. The curriculum, called eCommunitiesfirst, is a series of six classes which focus on how to use a computer and the Internet.

The program will be taught locally by Charlotte Enterprise Community (CEC), a regional non-profit organization. Its mission is to bring economic opportunities to residents of Charlotte and the surrounding area.

The bank provided $2 million to finance the construction of Tyvola Crossing which was developed by The Housing Partnership. The financial literacy program was created by Wachovia in 2004 and is distributed to community groups in states where it operates bank branches.

The bank’s interest in Tyvola Crossing reflects its commitment to creating programs that are designed to improve communities and the lives of residents. Wachovia has a long history of supporting affordable housing initiatives and is committed to working with partners to create opportunities for residents.

For a schedule of dates and locations for all Career Cruiser stops in Charlotte, please visit www.thecareercruiser.org or call DeAnn Cunningham at 704-678-1195.

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Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing Partnership Inc. is a broad-based, private, non-profit housing development and finance corporation organized to expand affordable and well-maintained housing within stable neighborhoods for low and moderate income families in Charlotte and Mecklenberg County with a continuing interest in the ability of occupants to more fully enter the economic mainstream.

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