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Highlighting a Community Partner: Easter Seals



Easter Seals serves children and adults with disabilities and offers a wide range of services. Easter Seals purpose is to change the way the community defines and views disability by making profound, positive differences in people's lives everyday, and also by helping their clients build their skills and access the resources they need to live,

learn, work, and play. Easter Seals offers a variety of services including: Accessibility Resources, Autism Services, Camping and Recreation, Day Care, Employment and Training, In-Home Care, Mental Health Services, Therapy, Veteran Reintegration, Senior Career Employment and Respite Services. Easter Seals also organizes outpatient program, social security representative payee program, transportation program, vocational program as well as workforce investment for at risk youth.

Easter Seals is located at 1110 Dr. Edward Hilliard Drive, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401 contact number (205) 759-1211.

Jackson Apartments Phase I Updates



Construction is currently underway for Jackson Apartments Phase I; this development will consist of 80 multi-family units and is scheduled to be completed by December 31, 2017. If you are interested in leasing please contact Hollyhand Realty at (256)560-0821.



HOMEOWNERSHIP: Springer Property

THA is excited to announce that Phase I infrastructure work has been completed on the Springer Property; Phase I will consist of five homes. Phase I is scheduled for completion by June 7, 2017. Phase II is currently in the planning stages and the number of units will depend on available funding.

If you're interested in home ownership please visit www.tuscaloosahousing.org and complete the online homeownership application.



Reconnecting the Dots

Reconnecting the Dots is an adult daycare that provides services for the elderly and adults with disabilities; the daycare caters to adults that cannot be left alone during the day and need supervision or assistance in maintaining activities of daily living, however, they do not require 24-hour nursing care. Reconnecting the Dots is structured to improve the quality of life for the participants. Reconnecting the Dots specializes in caring for adults with:

- Alzheimer's
- Dementia
- PTSD
- Stroke
- Brain Injury

The hours for participants are very flexible and can be as little as one day per week or as much as five days per week. Reconnecting the Dots is open Monday– Friday from 7:30AM–2PM.

The primary goal of Reconnecting the Dots is to provide social support, opportunities for friendships, and to decrease isolation. Reconnecting the Dots, also provides a fun filled environment with activities such as arts & craft, memory games, exercise and cognitive stimulation.

Reconnecting the Dots is located at 4415 18th Street, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401. Contact Executive Director, Stephanie Royster at (205) 758-1550 for enrollment.

Individual Development Accounts

Get up to **\$4,000** towards a home, college, or small business! All you have to do is save a minimum of \$25.00 per month and attend financial training classes.

IDA is a special savings program that allows you to save up to \$500 of earned income savings. Your savings is then matched with \$4,000 for education or \$6,000 for a home or small business.

The Program teaches the benefits of saving, provides financial education and credit counseling, and help develop life-long smart financial habits.

To qualify, you must have work income with an annual household income of less than \$47,100 for a family of four or \$22,980 for a single person household. Other household size income limits apply.

Contact the United Way at **2-1-1** or **205-345-6640** to see if you qualify and to open an IDA.





Smoke Free Housing

Tuscaloosa Housing Authority is going Smoke-Free



Resident Council & Community Updates

The Crescent East HOPE Initiative new meeting time is the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 12pm—1pm in the community room. The group hosted Councilman Kip Tyner and Police Chief Steve Anderson in February. The group would like to host a community clean up event soon. If you live in Crescent East and would like to assist with the effort, your presence is needed in April.

Hay Court Resident Council meets every 3rd Tuesday at 4:00pm in the Community Room. The Council is planning an End of School Year Celebration in May for the youth. Volunteers and support is needed as they congratulate the students on completing another year of school.

Hay Court Senior Citizen Wednesdays is still going strong. Activities begin at 10:30 am and ends at 1:00pm. The HOPE Initiative Group serves a FREE hot lunch at noon. If you are not a senior citizen, you are welcomed to attend. Join the group for bingo, exercise classes, community speakers, and other enrichment activities on a weekly basis.

Rosedale Resident Council meets every 3rd Friday at 12:00pm in the Rosedale I community room. The council welcomes the feedback and ideas of residents to help unify and uplift the community.

McKenzie Court Resident Council meets every 3rd Wednesday at 4:00pm in the community room. The Council recently hosted a Safety Event for senior citizens. A Community Wide Meeting will be held at the **PAL Gym on April 18th from 4pm—6:30pm**. Your ideas and suggestions are needed.

The **Branscomb** computer lab is open Monday – Friday, 8:00am - 5:00pm. If you are looking for employment or need help applying for job openings, assistance is available at the computer lab.

THA Resident Services

Do you have dreams that you want to achieve but don't know where to start? The Resident Services Department is here to help guide you along the path of success. The Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) Coordinator and Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Coordinators will help to make your dreams become a reality. Program coordinators provide direction, guidance, and support to keep you motivated on your journey to self-sufficiency.

The FSS Program provides coordination of services to public housing and Section 8 residents who are making an effort to become self-sufficient. The program is designed to work for you as you work to increase your earned income. As your earned income increases, HUD matches the increase in rent in an escrow (savings) account. Participants who successfully complete the program and its requirements are awarded the funds from the account. Escrow monies are often used as a down payment on a new home. To sign up, call Jackie Chaisson (public housing) at 758-6619, ext. 116 and Sylvia Belle (Section 8) at 758-6619, ext. 142.

The ROSS Program links public housing residents with valuable community resources that help to promote and secure employment, increase the level of education from certification programs, and provide assistance in areas required for maintaining self-sufficiency such as transportation and child care. If you are interested in obtaining your GED or college degree, locating and securing employment, managing your personal finances, or purchasing your own home, then what are you waiting for? Call the ROSS Coordinator, Jessica Alexander, TODAY at 758-6619, ext. 101.

If your dreams are waiting on you, then what are you waiting for?

Now Accepting Applications Head Start & Early Head Start

Do You Have A Child Ranging From Birth Up to 5 Years Old?

The Program Promotes School Readiness &
Empowers Families as your child
grows.

All services are provided at **No Cost**
to families!



You may apply online at www.cspwal.com OR
pick-up an application at one of their locations:

- Alberta Head Start
- Alberta Early Head Start
- Hargrove Head Start

Head Start is a division of Community Service

Summer Jobs Teens Age 16—21

Tuscaloosa County Summer Work Program
is now accepting applications at the Tuscaloosa
County Park and Recreation Authority (PARA) and
at the Tuscaloosa County Courthouse.

Applications are available at Downtown PARA (near
the Bama Theatre) and at the Tuscaloosa County
Courthouse (in the Basement at Personnel Office).

Applications are available:

Monday – Friday
9:00am – 4:00pm.

The deadline to apply is May 19th.

Eligible students must attend Tuscaloosa County or
City Schools (including May 2017 graduates). 1st
and 2nd year college students may also apply.