

# HOME MATTERS

Fall, 2017



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### Introducing Our New GHA Board Member: Taneka Deas - Her Success Story



I was born and raised in Georgetown, and am employed with the Georgetown County School District for over 10+ years. I'm also a single mom of three boys, ages 4-19. I have my BA Degree in Business Administration and am a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., and also the Honor Society - Alpha Sigma Lambda. I also have the privilege of being a Board Member of GHA. My journey to success was not easy, but if it had not been for GHA and the support of my family and friends, my story would be a lot different.

I graduated from high school at the tender age of 17. My desire was to go to college, but I became a mother before that could happen. I know that I needed to provide for my child, but I was only getting paid \$7.25 an hour (minimum wage). I knew that the only way we could survive was if I applied for public housing. It was based on income and it provided assistance with utilities. Therefore, in the summer of 1997, I applied for housing and was approved. It was the best thing that could have happened for a single mom. I continued to work full-time, but I realized that I needed more education if I wanted to make life better for my children, so I enrolled in college for the first time. Soon after, I was expecting my second child, and I had to stop college and focus on my children.

I continued to work full-time over the years and along the way I experienced unemployment, lay-offs, and many other hardships. Fortunately, being that I was blessed to have housing, I had peace of mind knowing that my children would have a roof over their heads, utilities, and food. As years went by, I found out about online college degrees and I decided to enroll back in school. Things were going well. I continued to work full-time and attend online classes for about 3 years and maintained a 3.3 GPA. But just as I was 9 classes away from graduating with a degree, I was expecting my third child, after 13 years. I had to put my degree on hold again to welcome my new baby. After 3 years of solely nurturing my son, I decided to re-enroll back in college while working full-time. As of March 20, 2017, I'm proud to say that I am a college graduate with a bachelor's degree.

It has been a blessing to have been a tenant of GHA throughout this journey. If I didn't have the security of housing and food for my children, there is no way that I could have pursued my education. Thank you GHA for giving many parents, like myself, an opportunity to provide for their families and pursue their dreams of success. For anyone that is thinking about furthering their education, please do so! It's NOT easy, but it's WORTH

### Learn a Skill

Who knew learning could be so much fun? Looking for a job? Free classes and activities are happening now at your local library. Classes include basic computing, resume building, interview skills and more. Don't miss periodic job fairs featuring local businesses. Online resources are available such as SC Works at [scworks.org](http://scworks.org). Any questions, just visit your local library or call 843-545-3300 for additional information.





## Children & Parenting Summer Camp Program

The Summer Camp Program was a success! The children had a summer full of activities including arts and crafts, computer exercises, science projects, and reading.

## Back to School Party

A Back to School Party was held on Thursday, August 10th. There were games, prizes, and refreshments, which included snow cones provided by the local police. Everyone had a good time even though this event was held inside due to rain. A big thanks to our Resident Advisory Council who sponsored this event, and hopes to hold another event like this again soon.

## After-School Program

The After-School Program kicked off in August with a great turn out! The children seem eager to learn with the help of the GHA family. The time is filled with fun after-school activities, snacks, and completing homework. We are looking forward to another great year!



## In Your Neighborhood Eastern Carolina Homelessness Organization (ECHO)

ECHO operates as a full-service agency and continuum of care providing and supporting permanent housing, case management, supportive services, and temporary financial assistance to the homeless and at-risk of homelessness families and Individuals in the 12 county area of the upper eastern portion of South Carolina, which includes Horry and Georgetown counties.

One of their programs is Veterans Assistance. ECHO has agreed to have someone come to GHA three times a week and share the Veterans Office. ECHO currently owns five units in Georgetown. They will assist in getting veterans back on their feet. It will be a great asset to have them working here.

If you need further information you can contact ECHO at 843-213-1798, toll free -844-705-0316, by email at [frontdesk@echomeless.org](mailto:frontdesk@echomeless.org), or visit them online at [www.echomeless.org](http://www.echomeless.org).

## Help Your Local Veteran

GHA has partnered with Myrtle Beach Housing Authority, Veteran Affairs of Myrtle Beach, ECHO (Eastern Carolina Homelessness Organization), and the Low Country Veterans Group to offer VASH vouchers to Georgetown County veterans.

What is VASH? Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing is a program in which qualified veterans receive Housing Choice Vouchers and veteran case management. It represents a unique and collaborative partnership between Veteran Affairs and HUD in an effort to prevent and end veteran homelessness. If you are a veteran, or know a veteran who is homeless or in danger of becoming homeless, let them know there is help!

Veterans interested in learning about the program should contact Kiara Logan, Section 8 Coordinator, at 843-546-9621 x223, or Christina Woodruff at x227.

Let's give back to those men and women who served so courageously for our country!



## October is National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month

About 28 percent of students ages 12-18 reported being bullied at school during the school year. Children with disabilities are two to three times more likely to be bullied than their non-disabled peers. One third of girls and one fourth of boys report weight based teasing from peers. Bullying can happen anywhere – cities, suburbs, or rural towns. Over the last three years there has been an 87% increase in cyberbullying/online bullying.

### Types of bullying:

Bullying comes in many forms. Children have to deal with bullying in school, outside of school, online and in various forms like name calling, verbal abuse and even physical bullying. With verbal bullying, it may start out simply as name calling, but the bullying comes full-fledged into play when the name calling is persistent, extends into verbal abuse, and takes on the form of slander, libel, and rumors. One of the ways verbal abuse becomes the most common is through cyberbullying. Many teens find that they can be bolder in what they say against their peers online because they can hide behind the front of a screen name.

### What should you do if you see a child being bullied:

Report the bullying to the parents. Children frequently do not tell their parents that they are being bullied because they are embarrassed, ashamed, frightened of the children who are bullying them, or afraid of being seen as a tattler. If your child tells you that he or she is being bullied, it has taken a lot of courage to do so.

If you as a parent suspect your child being bullied, try to draw it out of your child by not being judgmental, don't try to solve the problem, and most of all do not go ballistic. Ask your child what happened and how did it make him or her feel. Your child needs to know that he is being heard and that his feelings matter. Once you have got the whole story, depending on what happened, you can take your next step by working with your child to get through this. It is important to immediately notify your child's teacher and let them know how it is impacting your child. If the bullying has gone beyond verbal abuse and there is a physical threat, then you have a crime that needs to be reported to your local police. Be in touch with the school long before there is a threat of violence.

Check to see if your school has anti-bullying programs.



### Symptoms of being bullied:

- Comes home with unexplained injuries or with damaged or missing clothing or other belongings.
- Has change in eating habits.
- Makes excuses not to go to school.
- Has fewer friends.
- Feels helpless.
- Talks about suicide.
- Acts out of character.
- Avoids certain places or playing outside alone.
- Feels like they are not good enough.
- Has trouble sleeping.
- Blames themselves for their problems.

### Long-term results of being bullied:

Depression may lead to suicidal tendencies; difficulty with relationships, increased likelihood of substance abuse, academic failure, job termination, commit a crime, chronic health problems and poverty.

### Causes of bullying:

- Feeling Powerless in their own lives.
- Someone else is bullying them.
- Bullies are often jealous of or frustrated with the person they are bullying.
- Lack of understanding or empathy.
- Looking for attention.
- Bullies come from dysfunctional families.
- Bullies need to be in control.
- Bullying behavior gets rewarded.
- Bullies don't care how others feel.
- Bullies can't regulate their emotions.

Help your friends and family understand the common causes of bullying and spread the word on how to spot a bully before a situation spirals out of control.

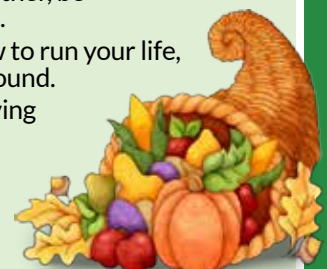
## November – A Time for Giving Thanks

Perhaps this November we might allow Thanksgiving to permeate our lives for more than just a day – how about the entire month.

### Ten things to be thankful for:

- Be thankful for growing older. Not everyone gets this opportunity.
- Be thankful that you can read these words. It is very sad that many people do not have the ability to read.
- If you have to wait in line at the supermarket for your Thanksgiving dinner, be thankful that you have the means to do so.
- Be thankful for the ability to pay your bills.
- If you have to get up before dawn to get to work, be thankful that you get to see another sunrise and have a job to go to.
- When you are stuck in traffic, be thankful you have a car to get where you need to go and the money to buy gas.

- When your loved ones become grumpy, be thankful for having love in your life.
- When the kids are screaming at each other, be thankful that you have children to love.
- When your parents are telling you how to run your life, be thankful that you still have them around.
- When you sit down for your Thanksgiving dinner, be thankful for everyone and everything that made it possible.





# UPCOMING EVENTS

## OCTOBER

- 1st – RENT, RETORENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE
- 6th – LATE CHARGES ADDED (morning)
- 10th – Board of Commissioners meeting 5:30 p.m.
- 15th – MAGISTRATE (for anyone who hasn't paid their bill)
- 19th – Resident Council Meeting 5 p.m.
- 26th – GHA office closed to the public

## NOVEMBER

- 1st – RENT, RETORENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE
- 6th – LATE CHARGES ADDED (morning)
- 9th – GHA office closed, Veteran's Day
- 13th – 30th – Pest Control/Housekeeping Inspections
- 14th – Board of Commissioners meeting 6 p.m.
- 15th – MAGISTRATE (for anyone who hasn't paid their bill)
- 16th – Resident Council meeting 5 p.m.
- 22nd – 23rd – Thanksgiving, GHA office closed

## DECEMBER

- 1st – RENT, RETORENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE
- 6th – LATE CHARGES ADDED (morning)
- 12th – Board of Commissioners meeting 6 p.m.
- 15th – MAGISTRATE (for anyone who hasn't paid their bill)
- 21st – Resident Council meeting 5 p.m.
- 25th – 26th – Christmas, GHA office closed
- 27th – 28th – GHA office closed to the public

## JANUARY

- 1st – RENT, RETORENT & REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS DUE
- 1st – New Year, GHA office closed
- 6th – LATE CHARGES ADDED (morning)
- 9th – Board of Commissioners meeting 6 p.m.
- 15th – MAGISTRATE (for anyone who hasn't paid their bill)
- 15th – MLK Day, GHA office closed
- 28th – Resident Council meeting 5 p.m.

## GHA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- |                                    |                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Mr. Richard Smith, Board Chair     | Mr. Kalib Moyer  |
| Mr. Tomas Langley, Vice Chair      | Ms. Betty Wilson |
| Mrs. Christina Woodruff, Secretary | Ms. Taneka Deas  |

## GHA MAIN OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday: 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1 – 6 p.m.

## PHONE DIRECTORY: (843) 546-9621

- |                                                  |                |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Christina S. Woodruff, Executive Director        | ext. 227       |
| Johanna Jefferson, Public Housing Manager - AMP1 | ext. 230       |
| Alissa Collington, Public Housing Manager - AMP2 | ext. 222       |
| Kiara Logan, HCV Coordinator                     | ext. 223       |
| Elaine Adesso, Administrative Assistant          | ext. 224       |
| Joe Geathers, Maintenance Director               | ext. 228       |
| Lois Parsons, Front Desk                         | ext. 221       |
| After hours' emergency work orders               | (843) 946-0908 |
| TTY / TDD                                        | (843) 461-3910 |

## December – Tis The Season

One of the most important things about the holidays is people connecting with people.

Make holiday gift giving meaningful for you and your children by exchanging simple gifts and actions that express heart-warming feelings. Take the emphasis off quantity and expense. Instead, place it on creative gifts, messages, and services. Getting back to the true meaning of giving is a gift you can give to your children that will last a lifetime.



## Holiday Safety Tips Christmas Tree Fire Safety

- Any string of lights with worn, frayed or broken cords or loose bulb connections should not be used.
- Always unplug Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to sleep.
- Choose a sturdy tree stand designed not to tip over.
- Do not place tree where it may block exits.
- When purchasing an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled as fire-retardant.
- Keep live trees watered.



## Identity Theft

Identity theft is a real and growing concern especially around the holidays. According to statistics, a person is effected every two seconds by identity theft. Your best defense is to prepare before it happens. Some ways are as follows:

- Shred financial documents.
- Protect your Social Security Number.
- Don't give out personal information on the phone. Never click on links sent in unsolicited e-mail.
- Don't use an obvious password.
- Keep your personal information in a secure place.



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