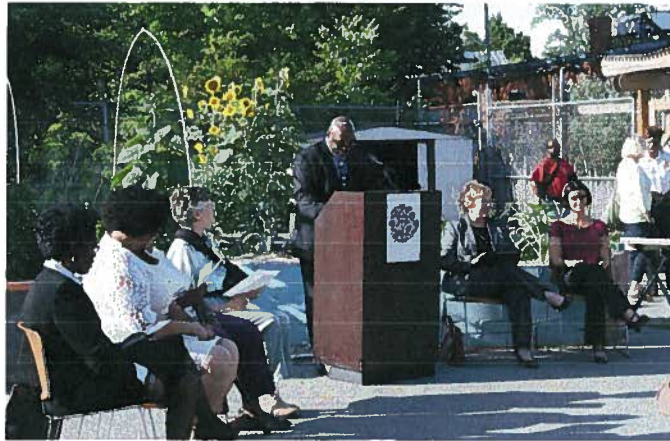


## GREATER FULTON IS NEXT UNITED FOR PROGRESS NEIGHBORHOOD

On June 8, the Greater Fulton Neighborhood Planning Selection Committee, comprised of residents, business owners and church representatives, announced their choice of the Neighborhood Resource Center (NRC) as the first United for Progress Neighborhood convening agency in Richmond.

NRC's mission is to strengthen individuals and communities by providing opportunities for neighbors to build relationships, access resources, and develop the skills to enhance their lives and determine the



Bobby Vickers at podium. Other speakers included Council woman Cynthia Newbille, NRC President Angie Carey, Mary Ellen Otto, Rose Pollard, LISC Executive Director Candice Street and NRC Co Director Annette Cousins.

fate of the community. A grassroots educational and cultural center fostering personal growth and

community change, the NRC was created by and for the people of Greater Fulton, a low-wealth

Continued on page 2

### Inside this issue:

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Greater Fulton          | 1 |
| AmeriCorps              | 1 |
| NFL Playing Field Award | 2 |
| Battersea Visioning     | 5 |
| New ROPCDC Director     | 5 |
| Fun Day                 | 6 |

### Mark your Calendar

- July 29, 2010 Vision Day in Battersea (Petersburg)
- August 20, 2010 Community Development Forum with Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond and Partnership for Affordable Housing
- November 4, 2010 LISC Virginia 20th Anniversary Celebration

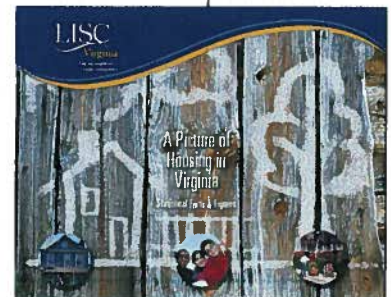
## MEET OUR AMERICORPS MEMBERS

The Virginia LISC AmeriCorps members are performing services at ElderHomes, Pathways, Southside Community Development and Housing Corporation and Virginia Supportive Housing

(VSH). In this quarter's newsletter we are introducing members Melinda Petrimoulx, Ashley Sykes, Daniel Johnson who work at Pathways in Petersburg.

Pathways is a non-profit community development corporation based the Battersea Neighborhood in Petersburg working to rebuild and strengthen the city of Petersburg and the sur-

Continued on page 4



LISC's new report and overview are available online  
[www.virginialisc.org](http://www.virginialisc.org)

## GREATER FULTON CONTINUED

neighborhood in Richmond's East End. Co-Executive Directors Mary Lou Decossaux and Annette Cousins lead the NRC, which offers a Montessori preschool, adult programs that range from GED classes to healthy cooking classes, and after-school programs for ages 6 to 17 years of age.



"The Neighborhood Resource Center has deep roots in our community and extensive involvement across the whole spectrum of our residents. Tapping into these relationships will give a great advantage in accomplishing the goals of the United for Progress Neighborhood project," said long-time resident Mary Ellen Otto.

United for Progress Neighborhoods is part of a new strategic revitalization program

of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) to help create healthy and sustainable communities. The Greater Fulton neighborhood is the first of three Richmond



Learning to grow carrots in NRC's learning garden

Continued on page 3

## NFL/LISC GRASSROOTS PROGRAM AWARDS \$50,000 GRANT TO REFURBISH GRASS FIELDS AT PETERSBURG'S ALBERT JONES ATHLETIC FIELD AND FITNESS COMPLEX AND

As part of the NFL Grassroots Program, a partnership between the NFL Youth Football Fund and LISC, the Washington Redskins Charitable Foundation just awarded the Good Shepherd Baptist Church's Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) and City of Richmond's Parks and Recreation Foundation each a \$25,000 grant. "The Redskins are pleased that these organizations will receive funds for field improvements that will provide safe places for children to get active and play," said Washington Redskins Owner Daniel Snyder.

The grant is part of \$2.5 million in field refurbishment awards allocated this year by the NFL Youth Football Fund and Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) in NFL market areas around the country. Funds will be used to install bleachers,

scoreboard, public address system, goal posts and reseeding the field at Albert Jones. At Oakwood, the funds will be used to bleachers, team benches, scoreboard and goal posts.

The NFL Grassroots Program, a partnership between the NFL Youth Football Fund and LISC, the nation's leading community development support corporation, has resulted in the construction or renovation of 225 football fields nationwide in the past 12 years. During

*"Our focus at LISC is on building sustainable communities- good places to live, work, do business and raise families," said Michael Rubinger, LISC president and CEO. "Developing recreational opportunities is a key part of that, and the NFL has been a committed partner in making it happen."*

Continued on page 3

## GREATER FULTON CONTINUED

neighborhoods that will be a part of the United for Progress Neighborhood Initiative.

This comprehensive, neighborhood-driven approach brings together strategies for the development of both "places and people" concentrated in specific neighborhoods. Residents and community stakeholders will create and implement a quality of life plan that will increase opportunities and choices for families who live, work and raise their children in Greater Fulton.

According to Bobby Vickers, resident and pastor at a local church, "LISC will be key in working with

our neighbors, children, neighborhood leaders, and the police department to put in place what we believe to be best for the community. These are exciting times as well as historic for the Fulton community to be involved in a project of this magnitude."

LISC Virginia will provide NRC with a two-year grant to administer the multi-year program that plans to expand capital investment in the area while building family income, improving educational access and developing a healthier living environment. "NRC is a grassroots educational and cultural center with successful partnerships and collaborations that have furthered their delivery of quality services to families in the Greater Fulton community. We are pleased to provide NRC with this opportunity to convene their neighbors and lead this neighborhood planning effort", said LISC Executive Director, Candice Streett.



**UNITED for PROGRESS**  
NEIGHBORHOODS

## NFL CONTINUED

that time, the NFL Youth Football Fund has granted more than \$28 million to revitalize playing fields in underserved neighborhoods. Funds come from contributions by NFL team owners and the NFL Players Association. Fields are newly built or significantly renovated, with improvements such as irrigation systems, lights, bleachers, scoreboards, goal posts and turf. Grassroots grants are issued once established funding thresholds are reached for each project.

LISC identifies local, nonprofit, neighborhood-based agencies that have an interest in building or refurbishing football fields in schools and parks in under-

served neighborhoods. Through the program, the local agencies are provided with the necessary financing and technical assistance to improve the quality and safety of fields in their neighborhoods. The local agencies oversee the construction, maintenance and programming of the fields.



## AMERICORPS CONTINUED

rounding counties.

### **Meet Daniel Johnson**

Daniel is currently crew leader for Pathways' weatherization program. "We air seal homes so that heating and air condition systems run more efficiently thus reducing utility bill costs" said Daniel. He has also worked at Pecan Acres renovating apartments for low-income families.

He found the job listed on *Craigslist.com* and applied...and is glad he did. He said this job has taught him so many skills from building houses, painting murals, building closets and constructing classrooms.

After the AmeriCorps program, Daniel wants to build playhouses for kids. He has already registered the name of his business and is looking forward to building pirate ships and other creative playhouses. He is also recommending AmeriCorps to his graduating friends.

### **Meet Melinda Petrimoulx**

Melinda is currently conducting lead hazard screens at Pathways... a



LISC AmeriCorps Member Daniel

hundred of them in houses in the community. The hard part of the job is recruiting residents to let them enter and screen the house. The interesting part of the job is seeing what types of housing typically have lead paint.

Melinda found the job on the AmeriCorps website. After graduating from Florida State, a friend told her about AmeriCorps. Since she was moving to Virginia with a friend, she looked at all the jobs available in Virginia. After seeing the LISC AmeriCorps job at Pathways, she did a search and saw all of the programs in which Pathways was involved.

After AmeriCorps, Melinda is planning to go to South America to teach English for a few years and then to graduate school.



LISC AmeriCorps Members Melinda and Ashley

"This has been such a great experience and I would not trade it for anything" said Melinda who is telling her friends to apply for AmeriCorps.

### **Meet Ashley Sykes**

When Ashley graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a degree in urban studies, she hit the career and job posting sites at VCU. Pathways had a job advertisement for "green" construction, so she applied. She also saw the State's AmeriCorps job posting at Pathways and applied for the part-time position. When she started at Pathways, Ashley was the construction assistant.

When the LISC AmeriCorps job opened, she started working with the weatherization crew. Since she started later than the others, her

position will not end in August, but rather in October and it has already been discussed with her to stay on with the weatherization crew.

Ashley said that "this has been a good experience be-

cause of the opportunities to participate in all the other areas of Pathways". She has worked with the gardening initiative and the environmental building crew. Ashley has shared with her friends that AmeriCorps is a great learning experience and a giving to the community experience.

### ***New AmeriCorps Award***

*The Virginia LISC office has just been award 12 new AmeriCorps positions for the 2010–2011 service year that will begin on September 1, 2010.*

*Please contact Barbara DuVal at [bduval@lisc.org](mailto:bduval@lisc.org) for information*

## RESTORATION OF PETERSBURG CDC HIRES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AS GROUND IS MOVING AT CLAIBORNE SQUARE

Restoration of Petersburg CDC has just hired Cynthia Martin as its first executive director. Cynthia most recently has been a consultant working with non-profits in community development and serving as adjunct professor at Virginia Union in Richmond. Just prior, Cynthia was the Executive Director at the Arlington Community Action Program in Arlington, Virginia. Cynthia will start in her new role on July 12, 2010.

Claiborne Square is the joint ROPCDC and BHC senior housing project being constructed adjacent to Tabernacle Baptist Church in the

Halifax neighborhood in Petersburg. This is the first multifamily housing development to result from the LISC community engagement process nearly two years ago and resulting community plan which was supported by the Cameron Foundation and the City of Petersburg. Claiborne Square Apartments will include 43 apartments in the main building and a cottage with four additional units. The complex will be certified under the EarthCraft Multifamily program and incorporate green building technologies which go beyond EarthCraft such as installing solar hot water heaters.



View of Proposed Senior Building



## PATHWAYS WILL HOLD BATTERSEA VISIONING DAY ON JULY 29, 2010

On July 29 Pathways' Amy Bushman and Terry Ammons, *studioAmmons*, will facilitate Battersea's Visioning day. This day will provide an opportunity for residents and other stakeholders in the community to review the information that has been gathered over the last few years on the Battersea Neighborhood by Pathways, LISC, Habitat for Humanity, Rebuilding Together, City of Peters-

burg and the Petersburg Housing Authority.

Visioning Day allows neighborhood leaders and potential leaders to come together in a resident led process to think about the past, present and most importantly plan for the future of their community. Residents and stakeholders in Battersea will organize, plan and set priorities for Battersea.

Visioning is the first step in LISC's United for Progress Neighborhoods program to aid in developing the Quality of Life plan, an outline to guide the development of the community.

For further information: Veronica Jemmott at 804.358.7602 ext 12.

413 Stuart Circle  
Suite 300

Phone: 804.358.7602  
Fax: 804.358.7603  
[www.virginialisc.org](http://www.virginialisc.org)

**Save the Date**—November 4, 2010  
LISC's 20th Anniversary in Virginia  
will be celebrated at CenterStage.

# 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary LISC Virginia

*Helping neighbors  
build communities*

## PECAN ACRES FAMILY FUN FAIR

On Saturday May 15, 2010 the Virginia LISC AmeriCorps members brought fun, games and prizes to the residents of Pecan Acres Estates in the Blandford neighborhood of Petersburg. The Fun Day lasted for over 4 hours and was attended by Petersburg Mayor Annie Mickens and over 100 kids.

The event was made possible through donations from local businesses and was a joint effort by Virginia LISC and the Resident Services Coordi-

nator of the Petersburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority.

On hand for the day were clowns, a moonwalk bounce, basketball games and relays. Long lines formed for hot-dogs, popcorn and cotton candy. As

the afternoon temperatures became warm, participants moved inside for more games, crafts and face painting. There was also the Pecan Acres Talent Show where one lucky young man was chosen as the winner and took home a bike to

ride. This was a day of joy for residents of Pecan Acres Estates.



LISC AmeriCorps Members with Mayor Mickens



Two youngsters enjoy the egg relay.

For more pictures, visit our [facebook page](#).