

# The RHA IN FOCUS

Newsletter 2022  
AUGUST



## CONGRATULATIONS TO STEPHANIE SUMMERS, SECTION 3 COMPLIANCE MANAGER

Congratulations to Stephanie Summers, Section 3 Compliance Manager. Stephanie Summers has recently been promoted to Section 3 Compliance Manager! She joined Rockford Housing Authority as the Jobs Plus Employment Specialist in 2021. Previously Stephanie worked at The Workforce Connection as an ELEVATE Career Planner for 4 years. She has over 15 years of direct Workforce Development experience in both Winnebago IL and Rock County WI. Stephanie has a bachelor's degree in Human Services.

Stephanie's primary role is to connect participants to gainful, long-term employment opportunities while contracting with local workforce entities to increase opportunities in the Rockford Housing community. She recognizes barriers that low-income families face and is prepared to utilize the Resident Based Approach to create resources that will lead participants to financial self-sufficiency.

Stephanie has 2 children and resides in Beloit WI. Although she is not a Rockford native, she enjoys working in the area. She believes Rockford is a special place that is willing to uplift its community through coordinating services for the betterment of the community. She knows that when 1 wins we all win and there is always somewhere to go for help. "Look for the helpers and you will always find people who are helping."-Mr. Rodgers. Congratulations Stephanie, RHA can't wait to see what the future holds for you and the RHA Section 3 Program.



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# BECOME AN RHA HCV LANDLORD!

Becoming a landlord with RHA and the HCV program is possible! With becoming a landlord with RHA, you can accept tenants with Housing Choice Vouchers. The Housing Choice Voucher Program voucher is provided to an eligible family or individual, which allows them to locate housing of their choice, including single-family homes, townhouses, apartments, and mobile homes.

The participant is free to choose any housing that meets the requirements of the program and where the landlord is willing to accept the voucher payment. Initially, the housing must be located in the City of Rockford, but after one year, participants may move anywhere in the country where there is a voucher program.

“As a single mother of 6, there were times that I didn’t have a job and without this program I don’t know where me and my children would be.” Current HCV tenant states.

Being a landlord with RHA you still have your own properties, we assist in inspections, references, tenants, and applications.

The piece of mind with land lording with RHA is that there is guaranteed money in your account at the beginning of the month. “The people here at RHA, the inspectors, everyone are phenomenal. They care about the residents and the landlords.” States Mary Snyder, President of The Rockford Apartment Association.

With the HCV Landlord Program, you have the guarantee of knowing you are getting a tenant knowledgeable about the rent being on time, the rules of the apartment or home, and the life skills to be a respectful tenant. The program is beneficial for the community as well as the landlord and resident. When the HCV participant chooses to live in a certain spot of the community and a certain landlord, they take ownership of it and take care of the home like it’s theirs as in many cases this could be a participants first home.

To quote a long time HCV landlord of 15 years at another surrounding housing authority; “Home means a lot. What I really enjoy about “home” is when a participant opens those doors and you see the appreciation and happiness it’s all worth it. They take care of it like their own home.”

As RHA’s mission statement “A quality home is the foundation of society & community: quality home life provides hope and the pathway to our goals.” We are happy to have this opportunity for our participants and landlords

How to apply:

Rental property owners who participate in the RHA’s HCV program must:

- Screen and select tenants.
  - Provide a lease that conforms to all state and local laws as well as to the HCV program’s HAP contract.
  - Maintain the rental unit in compliance with HUD Housing Quality Standards.
  - Collect the tenant’s portion of the rent. RHA pays the subsidized portion of the monthly rent directly to the owner—generally, this is the difference between a predetermined payment standard and 30 percent of the tenant’s adjusted monthly household income.
  - Comply with all requirements of the HAP contract and lease. The terms of a lease cannot be changed without the RHA’s written acknowledgment.
- For more information on becoming an RHA HCV Landlord please visit:  
<https://rockfordha.org/housing/landlord-information/>





# NATIONAL NONPROFIT DAY

On August 17th, we observe National Nonprofit Day. This is a day set aside to recognize the immense effort nonprofits and charities put into making an impact in their communities and across the globe. Nonprofit day started when the Tariff Act was signed into law on August 17th 1894. It provides exclusions from the federal income tax levied on corporations for charitable organizations and charities. Despite changes over the years, the exemptions remain stable.

Sherita J. Herring, an author, and respected speaker launched National Nonprofit Day. Its goal was to educate and empower everyone to be the change we want to see in the world. Recognizing that there are individuals in our midst that require assistance is the first step toward positively changing our society. According to the National Center for Charitable Statistics, there are 1.8 million registered organizations in the United States. These organizations play a vital role in community development by offering services such as food banks, affordable housing, medical care, legal counsel, and education.

As a Nonprofit agency, RHA would like to thank the many individuals and organizations that help our agency everyday to provide a safe and sufficient life for our residents. Following one of the RHA's 10 core values, Caring, as part of the RHA corporate culture, is a practice for creating conditions that bring out the best in people and situations. It is a method that helps people respond to circumstances in ways that create what is possible. To paraphrase John Quincy Adams, "your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more."

RHA not only models our work through caring we have also shown it by our actions in the community. RHA not only cares about providing safe and affordable homes, we care about building a safe and sustainable community. Rockford Housing Authority has promoted numerous events for the betterment of the community and will continue to do so with strategic community partners.

## HOW TO OBSERVE NATIONAL NONPROFIT DAY

### 1. Research your community's needs

Determine what is needed in your neighborhood and how you might help to improve things. It might be as simple as beginning a project or spending your time in a local business.

### 2. Volunteer

You may help out at a local food bank or homeless shelter by volunteering. Many nonprofit groups operate on a shoestring budget and would be delighted to receive free assistance.

### 3. Raise awareness

Contribute to the efforts of nonprofits around you by posting on social media to raise awareness. You can also start a blog to showcase the charity or nonprofit to the world.



## DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT

Mr. Troy Hadie has been with the Rockford Housing Authority for three decades. Throughout his career, he has experienced years of changes in the public housing industry and remains dedicated to the mission & vision of RHA. Mr. Troy has assisted countless families in maintaining a quality home.

His dedication, consistency, and willingness to assist our residents are traits deserving of the Director's Spotlight Award for June 2022. He exhibits excellence in his daily duties and is willing to take the necessary steps to ensure the success of the developments and assist colleagues or residents in need. Mr. Carandus Brown states, "Troy demonstrates the agency's core values by his willingness to take care of concerns at that very moment. He goes the extra distance to solve the problem".

Troy is genuinely committed to the agency's success and always striving to improve his leadership as a Maintenance Foreman. We are very fortunate to have Troy as a loyal team member; his knowledge, hard work & dedication is greatly appreciated!

Congratulations & thank you for demonstrating the mission & vision of RHA!

## PEER-TO-PEER

Mr. Carandus Brown's gratitude for staff & co-workers is demonstrated in his detailed nominations as recognizing those that go above and beyond their duties. Carandus's teamwork, enthusiasm, and support of team & co-workers truly embody the RHA Core Values, which is the importance of the Screenwriter's peer-to-peer recognition!





# WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

August 26th, 2022 is Women's Equality Day! Congress designated August 26 as "Women's Equality Day" in 1973. The date was selected to commemorate the 1920 certification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote and this year, 2022, marks the 102nd anniversary of the 19th Amendment.

In the early 19th century, American women, who generally couldn't inherit property and made half of a man's wages in any available jobs, began organizing to demand political rights and representation. In the U.S., the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was first introduced in 1878, but it failed to gain traction. To win the right to vote, women circulated countless petitions, gave speeches, published newspapers, and travelled the country to win support. They were frequently ridiculed, harassed and sometimes attacked by mobs and police; some were thrown in jail, and then treated brutally when they protested. Still they persevered. It wasn't until women living during World War I, made their contributions painfully obvious that women's suffrage finally gained enough support. Women aren't done fighting for equal rights. Today, the wage gap between men and women still impacts women's economic power, and gender-based discrimination is still common in the workplace.

Women's Equality Day is all about uplifting and empowering women, and marveling at how far women have progressed, defying all odds and oppression. RHA knows the value of having women on our team. CEO, Laura Snyder is the first woman to hold this title since the inception of the housing authority and our Board Members; Jessica Wilson, Vice Chairman, Sandra Sigal, Commissioner, and NeAngela Dixon, Commissioner.

This Women's Equality Day, learn more about the history of Women's equality, acknowledge the women role models in your life, and learn more about what inequality's they went through and how they overcame it. RHA wishes you an insightful and empowering Women's Equality Day.



## THE HISTORY OF LABOR DAY

Labor Day is celebrated on September 5th this year and pays tribute to the contributions and achievements of the American worker. The labor movement created Labor Day in the late 19th century and became a federal holiday in 1894. It has been celebrated on the first Monday in September since. It symbolizes the end of summer for many Americans and is celebrated with parties and a day off of work. Labor Day is an annual celebration of workers and their achievements. In the late 1800s, at the top of the Industrial Revolution in the US, the average person living in America worked a 12-hour day for seven days. Children as young as 5 or 6 also worked in mills, factories, and mines across the country, earning a fraction of their adult wages. Labor unions grew more popular and vocal in the 18th century and began organizing strikes and rallies to protest poor working conditions and wages. The idea of the "Workingmen's holiday" celebrated on the first Monday in September caught on in other industrial centers across the country, and many states passed legislation recognizing it. However, Congress legalized the holiday 12 years later when strikes and boycotts became more prominent than ever. The first Labor Day celebration was held on Tuesday, September 5th, 1882, in New York City. Labor Day



celebrations have a theme of parades, picnics, barbecues, fireworks, and/or a nice relaxing day off work. "The nation pays tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership – the American worker." – U.S Department of Labor. The Rockford Housing Authority would like to take the time to thank all of the RHA staff for keeping a positive attitude during these past couple of years, for helping residents and the community be the best they can be, and for continuing to keep RHA running smoothly. Happy Labor Day everyone, you all deserve it!

# ROCKFORD, 815 DAY!

Rockford Day is an annual celebration held on August 15th to showcase the people, places, and things that make Rockford great. There are many ways to celebrate Rockford Day;

- Shop local
- Many companies will have their Rockford Day offerings featured on the Rockford Day Facebook and Twitter pages, and may be included in various promotional media
- Celebrate with a walk down Sinnissippi bike path
- Eat local at one of the many bars and restaurants in Downtown Rockford
- Visit the Art Deli and grab some 815 merch

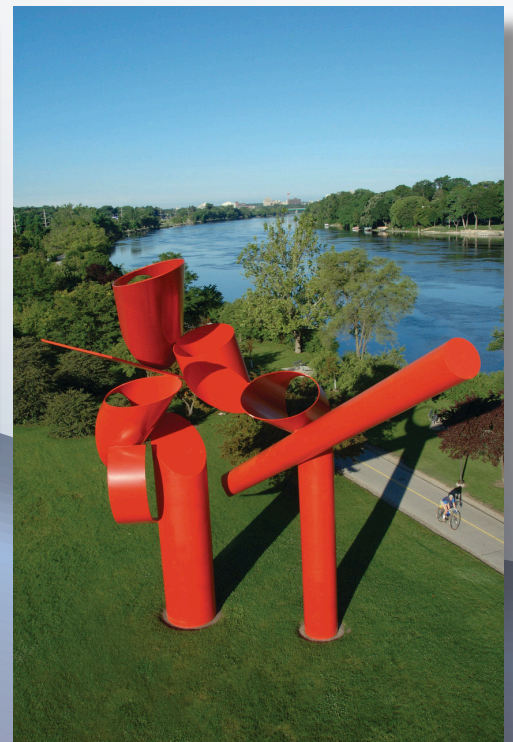
## History of Rockford

Rockford, Illinois, was first settled in 1834-1835 by Germanicus Kent, Thatcher Blake, and Lewis Lemon, who came from Galena and established themselves on the west bank of Rock River; and Daniel Shaw Haight, who founded a settlement on the east bank. (Lemon, a slave, later bought his freedom, but stayed in the area as a truck farmer.) Halfway between Chicago and Galena, the community was briefly known as “Midway”, but quickly became known as “Rockford”, because of the excellent ford across Rock River.

Rockford is the county seat of Winnebago County, and until the 1850s was a sleepy country village. But in 1851 the Rockford Water Power Company was organized and in 1852 the Galena & Chicago Union Railroad reached the city. By 1860 Rockford had become a significant, growing industrial center, noted for production of the John H. Manny reaper and other agricultural machinery.

In the six years following the Civil War, Rockford became nationally known in baseball circles, with the remarkable success of its Forest City Baseball Club. Led by Albert Spaulding (pitcher) and Ross Barnes (infield), the team had become the most prominent western club and joined the first professional baseball league, the National Association, for the 1871 season. During the existence of the All American Girls Professional Baseball League, 1944-1954, the city supported the Rockford Peaches, the team featured in the 1992 movie A League of Their Own.

Share on social media how you plan to celebrate 815 Day and use the hashtags #RockfordDay2022 or #815Day2022. RHA hopes everyone has a great Rockford Day!





# BACK TO SCHOOL 2022!

It's almost time to get back in class for the 2022 semester of school! Here is a list of important dates for RPS 205 and Rock Valley College:

## *RPS 205*

### *REGISTRATION DATES*

August 17: 7:00 AM-3:00 PM

August 18: 10:00-AM-6:00 PM



### *PHYSICALS*

Students need a health exam/physical within one year of starting kindergarten, sixth grade and ninth grade -- or when entering an Illinois school system for the first time. All other high school students need a sport physical if they plan to participate in sports. Sports physicals are good for 13 months and do not replace the required ninth grade physical. Completed physical paperwork can be included in registration packets.

### *First Day of School*

September 1st 2022

Visit the RPS 205 website for more important dates and student information here: <https://www.rps205.com/>

## Rock Valley College

### *Fall Registration*

Last Day to register: August 12, 2022 at 5:00 PM

Schedule Adjustment Period: August 12th-19th until 5:00 PM each day

Follow this link to apply now and see other important dates and student information:

<https://www.rockvalleycollege.edu/Admission/apply.cfm>

# Rock Valley College





Rockford Housing Authority  
223 S Winnebago Street  
Rockford, IL 61102

## DID YOU KNOW?

Rockford Housing Authority and Project First Rate are excited to announce that we will be hosting The Women at Work Convention!

Registration will be needed to attend the event, and it is open to all RHA residents and Rockford community members. The convention will be in late fall and in person featuring “Tradespeople of Color and Construction Entrepreneurs.” The Women at Work Trade Convention is an opportunity to learn from women in the trades such as construction, painting, and electricians and to look at the Apprentice Trainee Positions available. The trades industry is a male-dominated career, but many women still manage, work, and love these jobs. This trade convention is a time to explore jobs that many women don’t think about strictly because they don’t know about them. Registration will be open soon, and we hope you join our presenters and us!



*THE ROCKFORD HOUSING AUTHORITY HAS BEEN SERVING THE ROCKFORD COMMUNITY SINCE JUNE 4TH, 1951. THROUGHOUT THESE LAST ALMOST 70 YEARS, RHA HAS MADE IT OUR MISSION TO CREATE A QUALITY HOME, AND WE BELIEVE IT IS THE FOUNDATION OF SOCIETY & COMMUNITY: QUALITY HOME LIFE PROVIDES HOPE AND THE PATHWAY TO OUR GOALS. RESPONSIBLE AND RESPECTFUL PEOPLE DESERVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTAIN A COMFORTABLE, QUALITY HOME AND NEIGHBORHOOD ALL CAN HAVE PRIDE IN.*