

The RHA IN FOCUS

Newsletter 2022
OCTOBER



CONGRATULATIONS, ANISHA GRIMMETT, NEW RHA BOARD MEMBER

Anisha strives to give an excellent performance to drive effectiveness within the business and translate her experience, knowledge, skills, and abilities into significance for organizations she associates with while capitalizing on obtaining the best out of people and often seeking continuous improvement and growth opportunities through diverse partnerships.

She has been a devoted wife for 18yrs and has two sons, ages 16 & 18; and is very active within her church, Gethsemane Christian Church, and helps with many of their youth and women's international programs. She graduated from Auburn High Schools Gifted Program and attended DeVry Institute of Technology, majoring in Electrical Engineering Technology. She recently earned her Stylist Certificate and launched a personal styling business focused on helping women and teenage girls learn how to develop their signature style and empower them to style the life they want to live with purpose.

Early in her career, she worked for a Fortune 50 company, UTC Aerospace Systems, now known as Collins Aerospace, for 20 years in various engineering, Human Resources, and leadership roles. This led to her opportunity as the Executive Director of Alignment Rockford, a non-profit that uses the voice of the community, businesses, and students to implement a collective impact model to facilitate and implement solutions that align with the Rockford Public Schools strategic plan.



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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE MTW

The Rockford Housing Authority will host an in-person and virtual public hearing on Thursday, October 27, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. to receive public comment on the RHA MTW Supplement Plan. The purpose of this hearing is to allow residents, landlords, program participants, agency partners, supportive service providers, and the general public an opportunity to comment on the Authority's MTW Supplement Plan prior to submission to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The MTW Supplement Plan identifies the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program waivers that the RHA will implement to incentivize landlord participation in the program, improve program performance, and enhance cost efficiencies.

The Plan is available on our website at <https://rockfordha.org/contact-us/resources/>. A hard copy of the plan is available at RHA's central office, located at 223 South Winnebago Street, Rockford, IL 61102. Request for a written copy can be made to evore@rockfordha.org or by written request to RHA Chief Executive Officer, Laura Snyder, at the below address.

<https://rockfordha.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/ROCKFORD-HOUSING-AUTHORITY-MOVING-TO-WORK-PLAN.pdf>

Time: Thursday, October 27, at 3:00 PM Central Time
In-Person Location: 223 South Winnebago Street, Rockford, IL 61102

The virtual public hearing can be attended via teleconference by logging into Zoom in the following manner:

Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://www.zoom.us/>

Dial by your location
1 (346) 248-7799 US | Meeting ID: 893 4633 4111; | Passcode: 988097

The public has the additional opportunity to express their concerns and comments in writing. Written comments must be received no later than Monday, November 3, 2022, by email to: evore@rockfordha.org with the subject "MTW Supplement Plan", or the United State Postal Service to the following address:

Laura Snyder, Chief Executive Officer
RE: MTW Supplement Plan
Rockford Housing Authority
223 South Winnebago Street
Rockford, IL 61102



PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE STRATEGIC PLAN

The Rockford Housing Authority will host an in-person and virtual public hearing on Thursday, October 27, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. to receive public comment on the RHA 5-Year Strategic Plan. The Rockford Housing Authority has completed the planning process for the 2023-2028 Five-Year Consolidated Plan as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Consolidated Plan aims to identify goals, objectives, and strategies for addressing housing and community and economic development needs, including those of the homeless.

The plan is available on our website at <https://rockfordha.org/contact-us/resources/>. A hard copy of the plan is available at RHA's central office, located at 223 South Winnebago Street, Rockford, IL 61102. Request for a written copy can be made to evore@rockfordha.org or by written request to RHA Chief Executive Officer Laura Snyder at the below address.

<https://rockfordha.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Strategic-Plan-Final-Chart-1.pdf>

<https://rockfordha.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/50075-5Y-Plan-Submission.pdf>

Time: Thursday, October 27, at 2:00 p.m. Central Time
In-Person Location: 223 South Winnebago Street, Rockford, IL 61102

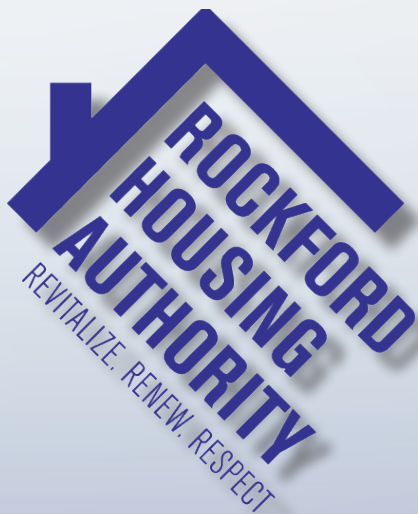
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Dial by your location
1 (346) 248-7799 US | Meeting ID: 881 7667 1862; | Passcode: 788861

The public has the additional opportunity to express their concerns and comments in writing. Written comments must be received no later than Monday, November 3, 2022, by email to: evore@rockfordha.org with the subject "5 Year Plan", or the United State Postal Service to the following address:

Laura Snyder, Chief Executive Officer
RE: 5-Year Strategic Plan
Rockford Housing Authority
223 South Winnebago Street
Rockford, IL 61102



PARTNER INFOCUS



JUREA CRUDUP/ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (FOUNDER)

Awaken Foundation L3C was founded as a measure to uplift some of the most challenging sectors within the Rockford community that are facing generational poverty, violence, and unemployment at an alarming rate. They offer high-quality experiences and outcomes-based innovations combined with the technology we use to ensure change that is appropriate to the community and our fast-paced, ever-changing environment.

The foundation cultivates partnerships with businesses, civic & community groups, and governments that enhance Rockford's economic, cultural, and educational development. They aspire to "AWAKEN" advocates, who will be change agents contributing to a healthy urban environment. They primarily serve the Rockford area but are open to surrounding communities.

They are a committed foundation supporting the Rockford Housing Authority through the Jobs Plus Program Initiative & Section 3 endeavors. Awaken knows that as a community partner, our support and a successful RHA Jobs Plus Program Initiative & Section 3 Program will encourage residents to achieve new occupational and educational levels that are currently not common in the community.

Awaken supports the Rockford Housing Authority with a commitment to supportive services such as Construction, Culinary Arts, Hospitality & Landscape Pre-Apprenticeship & Apprenticeship; and commits to providing a helping hand to the Rockford Housing Authority Residents, which helps to overcome barriers & challenges families face in today's environment



DIRECTOR'S SPOTLIGHT

Mr. Jeff Jaworowski has been a valued team member of the Rockford Housing Authority for nearly 25 years. Throughout the years, Jeff has been an integral part of our maintenance team and is currently assigned to our Park Terrace and Low Rise developments as the maintenance aide.

As the maintenance aide assigned to this development, Jeff is responsible for the overall maintenance of all locations and ensuring that other maintenance members perform to the best of their ability and provide a level of service to our residents, directly or indirectly, that is second to none.

Peer and property Brian Dugan recently stated, "Over the years of experience, he has gained a lot of knowledge and skill which provides a Sage-like advisor to the Management team and a guidebook for the newer members of the Maintenance teams.

Part of the core values of RHA are Collaborative, Integrity, Consistency, and Accountable... "During his more than two decades at RHA, Jeff has shown a level of dedication and adaptability, second to none during the inevitable changes that have occurred over the years that were expected but unpredictable. His perseverance has always shown through as he continues to serve those in need of his many skills." States Joe Spinello, Foreman and direct supervisor to Jeff.

The entire RHA team is grateful to have Jeff as a part of our maintenance team and is proud of the extraordinary example he displays of who we are, what we do, and why we do it.



PEER-TO-PEER

Offering sincere compliments is a great way to show people kindness and support both in and out of the workplace and helps with the success of the agency. The Peer-to-Peer initiative was created specifically for that purpose in mind. The program is a way to recognize individual staff who demonstrate and live the RHA Core Values on a daily basis in the workplace.

Mr. Brian Dugan a Property Manager for RHA, understands the importance to make a conscious effort to praise his coworkers for their continued efforts and accomplishments. Peer and property Brian Dugan recently stated, "Over the years of experience, Jeff Jaworowski has gained a lot of knowledge and skill which provides a 'Sage-like' advisor to the Management Team and a guidebook for the newer members of the Maintenance teams. In his nomination for the Peer-to-Peer tribute, Brian recognized that throughout the years, Jeff has been an integral part of our maintenance team and is currently assigned to our Park Terrace and Low Rise developments as the maintenance aide.

<https://rockfordha.org/peer-to-peer-recognition-program/>



NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Every October since 1985, we observe Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Breast cancer is the leading cause of death for women worldwide and is the most common cancer; one in every eight women is affected by cancer. Breast cancer may touch your life whether you realize it or not, it can affect your grandma, mom, sister, aunt, or even a friend, and it is vital that you and everyone you know understands the warning signs of breast cancer. View this link to see the warning signs:

www.nationalbreastcancer.org/early-detection-of-breast-cancer/



The month was established in 1985 as a partnership between the American Cancer Society and the pharmaceutical division of Imperial Chemical Industries. Betty Ford helped kick off the then-week-long event, as she is a breast cancer survivor. Before the end of 1990, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation began incorporating pink into the cause by handing out the light pink ribbon we see today. The foundation was the first to use pale pink, but they weren't the ones to popularize it; that happened in 1992 when Self Magazine teamed up with Estee Lauder. They created a Breast Cancer Awareness issue, and that year over 1.5 million pink ribbons were handed out, and the cause produced 200,000 petitions that urged the White House to put more funding into cancer research.

Although breast cancer in men is rare, it can happen. There are three different male breast cancer groups, Out of the Shadow of Pink, A Man's Pink, and the Brandon Greening Foundation for Breast Cancer, joined together to globally establish that the 3rd week of the month of October is known as Male Breast Cancer Awareness week.

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**susan G.
komen®**



**NATIONAL
BREAST
CANCER
FOUNDATION, INC.®**



Today, there are many ways that you can support yourself or someone you know with their breast health.

1. Once a month, doctors recommend that you do a self-exam: www.nationalbreastcancer.org/breast-self-exam.

Have a conversation with your doctor about receiving a mammogram.

2. Ask your doctor to get the BRCA 1 & BRCA 2 tests. If you have a history of breast cancer in your family, it can be detected: www.nationalbreastcancer.org/what-is-brca.

Donate to Help Women Now. By providing breast health education, early detection services, and a helping hand to those facing breast cancer, NBCF is there at every step of the journey. This is what sets NBCF apart from other organizations and you can be a part of this! NBCF is committed to treating your gift with integrity. On average, over 80% of our spending is directed back into our programs that support women facing breast cancer. Join in Helping Women Now by making a gift today.

No matter what you decide to do, know that every cent raised goes to help end breast cancer altogether. If you want to know more about breast cancer and how you can help, please visit www.nationalbreastcancer.org/.

ECONOMIC EDUCATION MONTH



The month of October is known as Economic Education Month. Economic Education Month was started in 2021, to help promote the importance of teaching economics in the K-12 schools. According to the Council for Economic Education, 40% of Americans have less than \$300 in savings. Well, economics are all around us today. The education of economics started to help students have a better understanding of the basic principles in order to make educated decisions.

Many students lack the basic financial skills needed to thrive in live. This month teachers have the opportunity to teach their students how to prepare for their future economic roles as workers, entrepreneurs, borrowers, investors, consumers, and savers. Knowing economic education is the key to living a productive life. This is important of all ages K-12 because it helps teach them about the business decisions of everyday life. The decisions we all make when we are spending, saving, or investing while we are faced with different resources.

You can observe and support National Economic Education Month by:

- Having a conversation about how you and your family can make decision for your homes.
- Teachers can invite the community and business leaders to share with their students tips on how to be economically smart.
- Business and government leaders can offer help in promoting quality economic education in schools.
- Teachers and parents can visit www.econedmonth.org to learn about economic Education.

For more information about Economic Education visit www.councilforeconed.org/ or www.econedmonth.org



Council for
Economic Education



Economic
Education Month



NATIONAL ECONOMIC MONTH WITH RHA

The RHA Human Services department provides, develops, and implements programs that reflect the needs of the residents as well as the community. Counseling, intervention, and life-skills training, are either provided in-house, through referrals or collaborative case management with support agencies, as well as private sector businesses and organizations. Here are some of our educational resources:



Jobs Plus: The Jobs Plus Program is a free program aimed to help you gain higher wages and increase your income without increasing your rent.



Bridges Out of Poverty: Bridges Out of Poverty is a national antipoverty organization that helps people move toward upward mobility.



The Housing Choice Voucher: The HCV homeownership program allows families that are assisted under the HCV program to use their voucher to buy a home and receive monthly assistance in meeting homeownership expenses.



Family Self-Sufficiency: The Family Self-Sufficiency Program is a voluntary program established by HUD to promote economic self-sufficiency among RHA participating families.



Lifeforce Development Institute: LDI's Job/Career Readiness Skills-based training to both RHA Clients and Community Members.

See all of the programs RHA has to offer on <https://launchmyfuture.com/>



JOIN US FOR TRUNK OR TREAT, OCT. 31ST 4PM-6PM AT RHA MAIN OFFICE

The "Trunk or Treat" event is organized by Rockford Housing Authority and will be held at the Central Office, and our RHA Employees will be in attendance facilitating activities and collaborating to make the event memorable and terrific for our residents. This is offered as a safer alternative to the traditional door to door trick or treating. "The continuous goal is to ensure our children have a very safe and fun "Trunk or Treating" experience," states Carandus Brown, RHA Human Services Manager.

The children of our residents receive treats and have lively enjoyable interactions, which is the purpose of the community collaboration. We want to ensure that our residents have the same opportunity, because it can only be fun if it's also a safe Halloween. This event hosted by the Rockford Housing Authority's is an endeavor

to move our kids forward and upward through partnerships such as these. and endeavors such as these.

Ways you can get involved in the Rockford area with your kids!



BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH

Bringing awareness to children that have been or are being bullied is why Bully Prevention Month was established. During the month of October, PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center hosts events and activities to raise awareness on the local and national level. According to the National Prevention Center, 'one in every five children, either yours or your child's friends, report being bullied in school.' 49.8% of tweens (nine to twelve years old) said they experienced bullying at school, and 14.5% of tweens shared they experienced bullying online. (Patchin & Hinduja, 2020)

Prevention Month is a grassroots effort to stop bullying, and it starts with you. During this month, you can learn how to recognize that your child may be getting bullied.

Bringing awareness to bullying is the highlight of the month. The PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center designates the third Wednesday of October, this year lands on October 19th, as Unity Day! You can demonstrate and express your support for your child by wearing orange on Unity Day. By wearing orange, you show your child that you are supportive of acceptance, kindness, love, and inclusion.



UNITY DAY

SHARE KINDNESS

+

PROMOTE ACCEPTANCE

+

ENCOURAGE INCLUSION

=

BULLYING PREVENTION

 PACER's
National Bullying Prevention Center.
Create a World Without Bullying | PACER.org/bullying

As an adult who parents, you play a vital role in your child's life. While 'bullying is not a nice thing' and has lifelong consequences, it can also lead children to bouts of depression, truancy, and suicide. As a parent, you must be diligent and vigilant on all levels of your children's social behavior.

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Stopbullying.gov
website





PACER's website



1. Help, assist, teach and empower your children about bullying and its damage and impact on another person. You want to teach them that the behavior is unacceptable. At the same time, you also want to ensure that your children get help and support immediately if your child is the recipient of bullying behavior, whether in person or in or on cyber/social platforms.
2. As a parent, you already know the vast importance of keeping the lines of communication open. For example, a continuous daily and weekly dialogue engages your children and demonstrates your feelings and caring about what they think and how they feel. Starting, it may feel somewhat awkward and, in their face, to ask outright, "What did you do in school today?". You will be surprised at the results!
3. Encourage kids to do what they love. Giving your child something that they love to do will help boost their confidence and empower them to make the right future choices in their life. Finding opportunities that engage your children will also encourage and assist them in making new friends. As a potential outcome, it may keep your child protected from bullying behavior.
4. Last but not least, be a model of how to treat others. We show our children that these rules are not just for them but for us as well. As a parent, your behavior is what your children will emulate in their daily and future adult life. You are demonstrating and modeling the proper behavior by teaching by example to treat others with love, caring, and kindness. As parents, we too can fail even with our best efforts; however, this does not go unnoticed. It also teaches your children how to apologize and repair after a mistake or moment of disconnect.

KEY TAKEAWAY

By utilizing the four action items described above, you have the potential to create an atmosphere of kindness. Well-liked children display more positive, less bullying behaviors when they become teenagers and grow into adults. As a result, happier kids are more likely to show higher academic achievement.

To learn more about Bullying Prevention Month, please visit stopbullying.gov. or www.pacer.org/bullying/





Rockford Housing Authority
223 S Winnebago Street
Rockford, IL 61102

LDI GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENT

We welcome you to join us in celebrating our LDI Graduation on October 27th, 2022. It will be held at the Nordlof Center.

The Rockford Housing Authority proudly supports and recommends the Lifeforce Development Institute's Job/Career Readiness Skills-based Training. They suggest this to RHA clients and residents. The LDI curriculum helps with the foundational skill gap in the workforce with a 12-week program. It is a hands-on learning program that covers job/career readiness skills to meet the community's workforce goals.

The LDI program includes:

- All the Materials Used in the Classroom
- Light Snacks
- Transportation, if needed
- Mentorships
- Job Shadowing
- Will Help Find Resources



If you have any other questions or would like more information, please visit Launchmyfuture.com or email cbrown@rockfordha.org.