



Charlotte Housing Authority

Building Community, People & Partnerships

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Charlotte Agencies Join to Give A Stable Home to Children

Housing vouchers and services provided for the City's homeless children

(Charlotte, NC – November 23, 2015) – The Charlotte Housing Authority (CHA), A Child's Place (ACP) and Charlotte Mecklenberg Schools (CMS) have partnered to create **A Stable Home**, an initiative established to serve the increasing numbers of homeless children within the CMS school system. **A Stable Home** will create opportunities for homeless children and their families to achieve stabilization through housing and supportive services through the collaboration of the three agencies. In addition to housing vouchers, families will be provided academic enrichment and enhanced parent interaction within their children's scholastic life.

"An increasing number of educated and working families are not able to make ends meet forcing them into devastating circumstances and children suffer," said CHA President and CEO A. Fulton Meachem Jr. "Our goal is to help homeless children and their families go from crisis to stability and from stability to normalcy so that they may succeed in life"

According to the Point in Time (PIT) count, a federally-mandated effort to determine the prevalence and characteristics of persons living on the streets or in shelters in our community, homeless families with children continue to outpace our current service and housing capabilities. At the end 2014, 4,131 homeless children were identified within the Charlotte Mecklenburg school system. Lack of housing stability significantly impacts a student's ability to thrive academically in school. The National Center for Family Homelessness reports that children experiencing homelessness are often two to three grade levels behind their peers.

"Imagine trying to study for a reading quiz in an overcrowded motel room or trying to get a restful night sleep on the floor of a friend's apartment. This unique set of challenges makes it difficult for our students to succeed in the classroom," said Susan B. Hansell, Executive Director of A Child's Place. "By working together, **A Stable Home** will not only help families find stable housing, but also help our students overcome issues around absenteeism, improve their school performance and develop a passion for learning."

"Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools is proud to partner with The Charlotte Housing Authority and A Child's Place to create more stable housing opportunities for children and families we jointly serve. **A Stable Home** for some of the most vulnerable and fragile families will provide not only housing but educational benefits as children move beyond the stress of where they will sleep on any given night," said Ann Clark, Superintendent CMS. "The stable home allows children to return to the focus on education as a place of learning surrounded by people there to support them. Homelessness is a community problem with far-reaching consequences."

CHA has set aside 50 housing vouchers for families identified through **A Stable Home's** initiative. A Child's Place families within the program receive school-based services for children and parents for up to three years after the family has moved into their CHA-subsidized home, or for as long as the family's children remain enrolled in one of the A Child's Place schools and/or the **A Stable Home** program. In addition, CMS will provide families free child nutrition, transportation to and from school, and limited extended day academic support through the After School Enrichment Program subsidy.

If there's a child experiencing homelessness and attending a participating school, families should contact the ACP social worker in that school. Participating schools include:

- Ranson Middle School
- Allenbrook Elementary
- Thomasboro Academy
- Bruns Academy
- Westerly Hills Elementary
- Ashley Park Pre K-8 School
- Reid Park Academy
- Walter G. Byers School
- Druid Hills Academy
- Hidden Valley Elementary
- Martin Luther King Middle
- Lawrence Orr Elementary
- Sedgefield Middle School
- Sterling Elementary
- Billingsville Leadership Academy

If there is an organization wishing to partner with **A Stable Home**, please contact **704-343-3790**.

To learn more about helping with affordable housing, **contact Charlotte Housing Authority contact 704-336-5183**.

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