We hope you enjoy reading our news from 2016. Our community impact continues to grow, with the support of many partner agencies and funders. We look forward to working together with you in 2017 and beyond.

Sincerely,
Karen Jacobson, Executive Director
Raymond Godwin, 2017 Board Chair

In 2016, RCHA began offering a program to rapidly re-house homeless residents of Lewis, Upshur, Barbour and Randolph counties. RCHA’s Housing Case Manager works with people to find and lease apartments and then to address the problems that lead to homelessness in the first place. Funds are provided by HUD through the WV Coalition to End Homelessness.

This program wouldn’t be possible without a strong coalition of community partners, first in Randolph County and now in all four counties, including: North Central WV Community Action, Appalachian Community Health Center, Legal Aid of WV, Catholic Charities and Mountain Cap. The program began in October and by the end of the year had helped 19 people with housing solutions.

By the Numbers

- **835** households served with Housing Choice Voucher rental assistance in six counties
- **6,822** AmeriCorps hours donated by YouthBuild members to community projects
- **$316,918** in non-federal support leveraged by DOL-YouthBuild program
- **30+** crew members participated in YouthBuild
- **3** new homeowners at Highland Meadows
- **94** seniors enrolled in Healthy Home Program
- **237** landlords participated in Housing Choice Voucher program
- **23** Family Self-Sufficiency Program participants
- **19** residents seeking homelessness services were helped
- **113** rental units under management
- **$2,483,000** in rental assistance paid to landlords

**New Help For The Homeless**

This make-shift tent is an example of how the homeless in our area are living.
The RCDI program was initiated late in 2014 and hit its stride in 2016. Working with funds from USDA’s Rural Development program, RCDI builds the capacity of eight local nonprofits by expanding their impact as it relates to downtown redevelopment. The program helped Historic Beverly Preservation to create pre-development plans for three underutilized or vacant buildings in Beverly’s downtown historic district. It helped New Historic Thomas to support the Thomas Planning Commission, add a beginner bike trail to the city park and begin redevelopment on several downtown properties. Woodlands Community Lenders was able to increase the number of loans and technical assistance provided to commercial building owners in Thomas, Davis, Philippi, and Belington.

This is a program RCHA offers every 3-5 years to build nonprofit strength to address community problems.

The Healthy Home Program expanded to six senior housing sites, bringing care coordination, health education, exercise programs and social support to residents 55 and older in Randolph and Tucker counties.

The program provides a Care Coordinator and Wellness Nurse at each site who work with participants on a range of goals they set in order to maintain or improve their quality of life, live safely in their homes, and avoid costly and traumatic emergency and institutional care.

The program more than doubled in size in 2016, ending the year with 94 participants. This program was founded by the Wellness Collaborative, whose members include RCHA, Davis Health Systems, Randolph County Senior Center, Randolph-Elkins Health Department, and Cortland Housing Association, and which is supported by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

Three Housing Choice Voucher (HCV or “Section 8”) participants completed their Family Self-Sufficiency Program employment plans and were provided with checks ranging from $700 to $13,000 in 2016.

This program, only available to households receiving HCV assistance, helps heads of households set and reach employment goals that increase their income and decrease their need for rental assistance. When their income increases, a portion of funds that would have been used for rental assistance is set aside, then provided back to the household once their goal has been achieved.

Section 8’s Family Self-Sufficiency Program Rewards Renters Who Meet Their Employment Goals

(L-R) Lisa Shaffer, Program Manager; Angie White, Occupancy & FSS Specialist; Laura Chenoweth, Inspector; Margaret Fassett, Receptionist; Heather Kittle, Occupancy & FSS Specialist

Rural Community Development Initiative Boosts Downtown Re-Development

Partners participating in the RCDI program take a tour of several projects in Beverly, including the Historic Beverly Antiques, which is located in the David Goff House.

Wellness Collaborative’s Healthy Home Program Expands

(L-R) Diane Baisden, Program Coordinator and Kathy Supak, Wellness Nurse at Cortland Acres

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(Wellness Collaborative’s Healthy Home Program Expands)
In September, RCHA’s Development Manager was honored with induction into the WV Housing Hall of Fame. At a reception during the WV Housing Conference, a crowd gathered to hear Pat Bond, of Federal Home Loan Bank-Pittsburgh, discuss Jay’s long and productive career in affordable housing.

Jay has been responsible for the construction or rehab of over 200 units of rental and single-family housing in Randolph, Barbour and Tucker counties. He has consistently led the charge to improve energy efficiency for affordable housing development, and in 2013 oversaw construction of the first LEED multifamily project in West Virginia—a Woodlands’ rental project that resulted in a LEED-Platinum rating, the highest rating available.

This honor formalized the long-standing reputation Jay has built—that his homes are the best in the state in terms of quality and energy efficiency. We are fortunate to have Jay on our team, leading development work for RCHA and its partner, Woodlands Development Group.

RCHA partners with Highland Community Builders to manage rentals in the tri-county area. In 2016, 10 additional units came under management, including Northview Apartments, a new senior development in Elkins.

RCHA’s YouthBuild program completed a triplex in Valley Bend, providing much needed affordable housing in a great location.

The Med Prep program, now in its third year, has helped 16 young people get jobs in the growing health care field here. Crew members donated countless hours of community service as AmeriCorps members, including assisting Catholic Charities with flood relief activities in Webster Springs and completing site improvements at 4H’s Camp Pioneer.

2016 kicked off the 21st year of offering the YouthBuild program in Barbour, Tucker, Upshur and Randolph Counties.
Thank you to the individual donors that contributed to our Homelessness Fund and our YouthBuild program.

Financing provided by:
- Fahe (On a Mission to Eliminate Persistent Poverty in Appalachia at www.fahe.org)
- Davis Trust Bank