



Lynchburg Covenant Fellowship *News*

412 Madison Street P.O. Box 6016 Lynchburg, Virginia 24505-6016 (434) 847-9059 November 2013



Newton Gordon Cosby

1918-2013

This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Reverend Gordon Cosby who passed away on March 20, 2013. Gordon preached sermons for over sixty years and touched many lives and left the world a better place for having been in it. He also touched many lives right here in our own city and surrounding community as he was a founding board member of Lynchburg Covenant Fellowship that was formed in 1950. He was a kind and faithful servant of the Lord and will be greatly missed by all.

It's Not What You Gather, But What You Scatter That Tells what Kind Of Life You Have Lived !

Mission Statement

The mission of Lynchburg Covenant Fellowship is to express the values of our respective faiths, helping to facilitate a diverse community by providing affordable housing, education, and advocacy for the poor, the disabled, and the disadvantaged, including children, youth, the mentally challenged and the elderly in Central Virginia.

We would like to thank:

Lester Lamb for a refrigerator donated to our programs.
Randy Nelson for a 37 inch Sony television donation.
Hope Snell for carpeting and other flooring to be used at our 412 Madison Street office.
Sandy and Bob Knodel and **Faye Sellick** for all their hard work and dedication to LCF.
Sam William's Estate gift for providing much needed support over the last two years.
All our donors and volunteers.

There but for the Grace of God go I...

Imagine if you will...

You went in to work today and found the plant you have worked at since high school – 25 years – is shutting down. You are out of a job. How will you and your family get by? WHAT WILL YOU DO? Well it should not be too bad. You are a hard worker, never missed work and have a good record.

Six months later...

You have applied everywhere. You just can't find a job. You are behind in your bills, especially your mortgage. If you don't find a job soon...

Three months later...

You lost your home. You and your family spent last night in your car. You never thought this could happen to your family. What do you do now? What address are you going to give when you fill out applications to find work? How will you get your life back? Where do you go now?

In this economy anyone can lose a job through no fault of their own. Factories are shutting down leaving a great many unemployed. A family member might have a serious illness or an accident resulting in heavy financial burdens.

LCF has a long history of providing safe, decent, affordable housing and many of you have been a big part of that history. As you partner with our organization you help us to provide warm homes to the elderly, families in crisis, and disabled individuals. **Together we can make a difference.**

If you have already made a gift this year, we thank you for your support. If you have not, we ask you to help us continue our mission. Are you looking for the perfect gift for a loved one? Consider making a donation in their honor. We are committed to providing the best housing we can. Please see page two for an update on our newest project. On behalf of our staff and board of directors we appreciate your generosity.



IT IS MAKEOVER TIME AT SHALOM APARTMENTS

The name Shalom comes from a word meaning peace and is rich in significance in the Jewish and Christian faiths. Harmony, integrity, well-being and spiritual security go hand in hand with these words.

The Shalom community consists of 46 apartments with one, two and three bedroom units. It is located at 702-716 Federal Street and is in the heart of Lynchburg's Old Town area. Shalom is within easy walking distance of churches, schools, city bus transportation and downtown shopping.

After much work, and many prayers, Lynchburg Covenant Fellowship has been awarded Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) for the renovation of our Shalom Apartments. The apartments were built in 1970 and have been well maintained, but are long overdue for a face-lift and upgrades.

Renovations will include central heat and air conditioning, new roofs, flooring, kitchen cabinets, energy efficient kitchen appliances, dishwashers, bathroom fixtures and new plumbing lines. New energy efficient windows will replace the old, drafty windows. This is an Earth-Craft project similar to the Lynchburg High renovation project. Residents at Lynchburg High have realized a 30% to 50% energy savings so it is hoped that Shalom residents will realize comparable savings.

Five new accessible units complying with Section 504 of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) will also be configured. Three of these will be one bedroom units and two will be two bedroom units. These units will have lower cabinets, accessible kitchen appliances and bathrooms with roll in showers. Landscaping and a new playground will finish off the improvements making the Shalom community one in which people will be able to live comfortably and call it home.

In addition to the LIHTC funding, a construction loan from Virginia Community Capital will provide funding during construction. The Virginia Housing Development Authority will provide the mortgage once construction is completed.

Since this is a total renovation, residents will be relocated to temporary homes during rehabilitation. Construction is planned in four phases with the residents in the first phase already moved to their temporary apartments. Usually it is a quiet community with the most noise being children playing, but soon there will be all of the sounds associated with construction as the project proceeds.

As with our first LIHTC project at Lynchburg High, My Guys Moving Company, formerly known as Two Guys and A Truck is moving all of our residents and giving us a special rate. Construction will begin near the end of 2013 and be completed in 2014.

Our residents are excited about the transformation of the Shalom community and are looking forward to living in their newly renovated homes.

National Day of Caring

The annual Lynchburg Day of Caring event was held on May 22nd this year and was truly a "Day for Caring". This annual event is a blessing for area non-profits in which the Lynchburg business community and their numerous volunteers spend a day "caring" for non-profits in the city and surrounding areas. Each year we look forward to meeting new faces and always love to welcome back old friends who have volunteered for another year to work at our properties. This year we welcomed back two old friends, Robert W. Baird & Co. and AECOM and one new group, PepsiCo. These groups worked tirelessly in the hot May sun at three of our properties; Shalom Apartments, Rockbridge Apartments and our LCF Management Office. This year we had a special surprise when we learned that our past director Herb Moore's daughter, Lee Ann, was volunteering at our Management Office located at 412 Madison St.

A simple thank you and a cold bottle of water just doesn't seem adequate enough after watching someone work tirelessly in the hot sun. What's even worse is when you know they have to go back to work at their real job after they leave there. We want to thank each one of those hard-working volunteers who help us every year and we look forward to making new friends and seeing old ones yet again.

Note from Faye Sellick on her pending retirement...

The path to Lynchburg Covenant Fellowship (LCF) began long before I came to work for the organization. My course was set in motion many years ago as I came in contact with so many people who were involved in some way with LCF. More than 30 years ago, I began hearing about LCF from people who helped paint 700 Federal Street or was the director at Camp Kum-Ba-Yah or whose family was instrumental in providing support for many of LCF's programs. I once attended a Christmas dinner meeting at Joseph Nichols Tavern and enjoyed a delicious dinner served by the actors who entertained us following our meal. Also, I began hearing about the Cosby family.

When I first started at LCF in December 1990, Herb Moore was the Executive Director. Irma Seiferth and Dorothy Watkins taught me much about housing with the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). One of the lessons Irma always taught was to provide the best housing we could and to treat everyone with dignity, equality and respect. There was only one computer which was shared with Accounting and the majority of our paperwork was done by hand or on a typewriter. During this time, LCF began to grow by adding two new properties to its portfolio. When I left in early 1993 to resume my roots in corporate America, little did I realize that in September 1995 that I would return to LCF. It started with a telephone call to Irma, the new executive director of LCF, to congratulate her on winning an award. This telephone conversation led to an offer to return to LCF. Upon my return, much had changed with the paperwork for all HUD properties was now being generated entirely on computer, and LCF was providing even more housing for those in need.

Susie Kitchen, our current executive director, brought LCF into a new age as she sought ways to improve our aging housing for our families. When we were awarded tax credits in 2010 for Lynchburg High, I was so excited for the residents that this unique and beautiful building was going to be renovated and become energy efficient with central heating and air among other improvements. I must say that my jaw dropped (I had always loved the building) when I started to see this old 1911 building springing back to life. Seeing the renovated apartments made all of the blood, sweat and tears expended by all staff members worth it. Now as I prepare to leave, new life will once again come to another complex – Shalom Apartments, as LCF was again awarded tax credits.

Susie made sure housing staff was well trained to bring LCF into the future by enabling us to attend classes over the past three years so that LCF could continue to provide decent, safe and affordable housing for those in need.

I cannot end my time with LCF without remembering Bev (Cosby) and his ability to enter a room and bring with him such a feeling of peace. I remember every year just before Christmas he would show up with a poinsettia for our desk. I will always remember P.G. (Cosby) coming to the hospital on a snowy day to be with me when a family member was undergoing major surgery. Also, I am still amazed at his remarkable memory. Bless you, P.G.

We would like to thank Faye for her many years of hard work and dedication to our organization. She will be missed.

**Familiar Face to Lead Hope II Program and Update
About Resident Services**

We wish Sandy and Bob Knodel well as they begin their second retirement while we thank and say goodbye to them for their years of service and commitment to our Hope II After School Program. At the same time we welcome Crystal Harrison to our program.

Many of our residents and their families know Crystal who leads our resident services programs and is now leading our Hope II program. Last year's program ended with a visit to Amazement Square followed by a party. Plans for the Hope II Program include matching children up with volunteers who will mentor them similarly to the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program. Time for homework, journaling and field trips are planned this year.

Educational, recreational and cultural programs continue to be offered to the residents living at Lynchburg High, Shalom and Frank Roane apartments. Another critical element of the Resident Services Program affords residents with opportunities to learn of and connect to other community resources. Please call Crystal at 455-0066 if you would like to be a mentor for the Hope II Program or present a program for the residents.



Lynchburg Covenant Fellowship
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LCF Staff Wishes You A
Happy Holiday Season



*Please Send Your Tax
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Lynchburg Covenant Fellowship, Inc.
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