



# Lynchburg Covenant Fellowship *News*

412 Madison Street P.O. Box 6016 Lynchburg, Virginia 24505-6016 (434) 847-9059 November 2014



## **WE DID IT!**

**We met our challenge grant from the Easley Trust and raised \$20,000 thanks to all of our wonderful donors, board members and everyone who bought raffle tickets. We will begin the much needed exterior renovations at our office at 412 Madison Street early spring 2015.**

Special remembrance goes to long time board members Reverend Donald Johnson and Bill Long, and long time friend and supporter Jesse Seiferth who will never be forgotten. They will all hold a special place in our hearts.

### 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.

### Vision Statement

Lynchburg Covenant Fellowship is guided by the Judeo-Christian ethic of compassionate commitment to and advocacy for the poor with a view to building an inclusive community in Central Virginia marked by diversity, equal opportunity, fairness, and social justice for all humanity and respect for God's creation. We are called to be a catalyst for emerging ministries, taking risks to address human need.

### We would like to thank:

**The Greater Lynchburg Community Trust** for providing the funding for our new telephone system.

**The Andrew Horsley Easley and Anne Easley Charitable Trust** for the challenge grant of \$20,000 to enable us to have much needed brick repair done to our office at 412 Madison Street.

**Our generous donors and our LCF board** who donated and all those who purchased tickets for our raffle to help us meet the above challenge grant.

**Avante'** for hosting a hot dog cookout fundraiser.

**Centra Health** who is partnering with LCF to bring a mobile health clinic to Lynchburg High on a regular basis.

**Horizon Behavioral Health** who is partnering with LCF to bring HIV/AIDS testing and education to our communities.

All our great volunteers and donors like you who keep us strong and ready to meet the next challenge.

### Volunteer Spotlight

Jim Kitchen is one of the best volunteers we could ask for. Jim volunteers his talents and hard work on a regular basis at LCF. He also works for many other organizations in the community; Park View Community Mission, Rebuilding Together, United Way, Central Virginia Continuum of Care, The Healing Place and anywhere else he sees a need. We are so blessed to have a person like him in our community helping us accomplish our mission of providing safe, decent and affordable housing to those in need.

We would like to welcome the clients of DePaul Community Resources to our Amherst Group Home.

## Two Down and One To Go

Some might say we are a glutton for punishment, but the truth is we want the best housing possible for our residents. As we are wrapping up the renovations at Shalom Apartments we are rolling up our sleeves and moving on to our elderly community known as Frank Roane Apartments.

With the award of Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) and a permanent mortgage with the Virginia Housing Development Authority, the residents at Shalom are enjoying energy efficient apartments with central heat and air conditioning, new windows, new appliances including dishwashers, new bathroom fixtures, new cabinets, new flooring and newly painted walls. Our innovative architect, Dan deBettencourt, figured out how to turn five apartments into units that meet the Section 504 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. Since Shalom has steps everywhere from the parking lot to the inside of every building, this was quite a feat. Shalom now is home to residents with disabilities who can enjoy their homes the same as everyone else. Additionally, the entrances to these apartments created a beautiful new landscape to the Harrison Street side of the buildings. We are working to wrap up all the loose ends at Shalom as we expect to begin renovations at Frank Roane in December.



As so aptly stated in Galatians 6:9, "Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Although we had hoped to receive Low Income Housing Tax Credits in 2010 for Frank Roane, God knew what He was doing by having us receive them only for Lynchburg High. Now that we have been successful this year in receiving tax credits, we realize all of the intricacies involved in this project because it also has federal and state historic tax credits and HOME funds.

We also have a construction loan with Virginia Community Capital and each funding stream comes with its own set of requirements.



This beautiful, historic building was built in 1899 and used as a high school and then as an elementary school for many years. Lynchburg Covenant Fellowship (LCF) purchased the school in 1979 and subsequently converted it into 26 apartments in 1980 for elderly people age 62 and over.

Several of the residents have called Frank Roane their home for over 15 years. Although no one is looking forward to packing up and temporarily relocating while the renovation takes place, the elderly residents understand that some inconvenience will reap great rewards once the renovation is complete. They are all looking forward to having new energy efficient homes.

Although new windows would be great, we must rework them and install storm windows to meet the historic tax credit requirements. However, the windows will be much more energy efficient than they currently are. Other work will include refurbishing the elevator, installing central heat and air conditioning, new cabinets, new energy star appliances, new bathroom fixtures, a new intercom system, a new call bell system, new flooring and painting throughout the apartments and common areas. All of the apartments will have Universal Design features and five apartments will be accessible meeting the Section 504 of the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. Universal Design involves designing products and spaces so they can be used by the widest range of people possible. As the saying goes, "they don't make them like they used to," which exemplifies the building's great structural condition. Some of the masonry of this majestic building will be repointed and exterior surfaces will be repaired to top off the new face lift. We hope to return all the residents to their newly finished homes in time for them to enjoy the summer with central air conditioning.

### Point of view from the eyes of a volunteer

It was a cold blustery day on January 16, 2014. I had agreed to assist the Central Virginia Continuum of Care in conducting a count on the homeless population in the city of Lynchburg. I met several people with various levels of need. One was a gentleman with three children who had lost his job in August 2013 and had very recently found his family on the streets trying to find a place to live. I made him aware of various locations where he could possibly receive help. I also met a gentleman who said over a twenty-eight year period he had been homeless most of the time. Of all the people I interviewed on that day a common theme was evident. They all needed a place to call home and identification cards. Without a permanent address how can they apply for state identification cards, what address could they give? Without a place to call home it is almost impossible for them to start over. When applying for a job what address do they give? Where will their children be sleeping tonight? I am sure there are many families in similar situations and the road back starts with having a place to call home.

With your help LCF is working to meet the need for housing.

### National Day of Caring

The United Way Day of Caring (DOC) event is always a special blessing to our organization. It is a time when we get to meet new volunteers who donate their precious time to our properties and help with spring clean up at many of our sites. This year DOC was held on May 21st and was truly a "Day for Caring". This year we welcomed volunteers from Horizon Behavioral Health who worked at three of our properties; our office at 412 Madison Street, Rockbridge Apartments, and the Western Hotel. We also welcomed back Genworth to two of our properties, Carey House and Frank Roane Apartments. These groups worked very hard pulling weeds, mulching, trimming hedges, and planting flowers to give our properties great curb appeal.

Thank you to the United Way for bringing all the volunteers together for this much needed and appreciated "Day of Caring". We want to thank each of the hard-working volunteers who help us every year and we look forward to "Day of Caring 2015".

Be on the lookout for our updated Website. It is a work in progress, and we hope to have it completed soon.

[www.lyncburgcovenantfellowship.org](http://www.lyncburgcovenantfellowship.org)

**Remember to send a gift to LCF this holiday season.**

### Hope II After School Program Sixteen years and still going strong

Crystal Harrison leads our HOPE II After School Program. She works very hard to provide activities designed to offer encouragement to the HOPE II children by challenging them to get better grades, to learn to love reading and to expand their horizons. The current age of the children served is five and up. Children from Lynchburg High Apartments, College Hill Apartments and the surrounding neighborhood attend the program. We would like to thank Mr. Joe Nelson for his support of our after school program this year and for helping us to provide this much needed service.

### Resident Services

As our Resident Services Coordinator, Crystal schedules a wide array of get togethers covering educational, recreational, cultural, and health related programs and special events at our Lynchburg High, Shalom and Frank Roane apartments. This gives our residents opportunities to participate in exercise, blood pressure checks, health tips, breast cancer awareness, parenting and budgeting. We also have family movie nights and other special events and programs. Monthly bingo and birthday celebrations are popular. The residents enjoy giving back to the community by spending time cutting out donated coupons to send to our military. Crystal is our liaison connecting our residents and their families with resources in the community to meet their needs and enhance their lives.

Please call Crystal at 455-0066 if you would like to be a mentor for the Hope II Program or present a program for our residents.



Lynchburg Covenant Fellowship  
412 Madison Street  
P.O. Box 6016  
Lynchburg, VA 24505-6016

Non-Profit Org.  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
Lynchburg, VA  
Permit No. 43

**Return Service Requested**

**Board of Directors**

*Terrell Cosby – President  
Nathan C. Brooks, III – Vice President  
Anne Gibbons – Secretary  
L. Vincent Sawyer, Jr. – Treasurer*

*Tina Barnes, Vivian M. Camm,  
William R. Cardwell, Diana L. W. Coleman,  
Sheron White Colston, Mike Daly,  
Rodney Ferguson, Patrick Haley,  
William P. Harris, Arelia S. Langhorne,  
Herbert R. Moore, Jr., Elliot S. Schewel,  
Stuart J. Turille, Angilee W. White*

**Honorary Members**

*Mary Campbell Cosby  
Peter Guerrant Cosby III  
Mildred Edmunds Long  
Ida Gordon Cosby Poole*

**LCF Staff Wishes You A  
Happy Holiday Season**



**Please Send Your Tax  
Deductible gifts to:**

**Lynchburg Covenant Fellowship, Inc.  
412 Madison Street  
P.O. Box 6016  
Lynchburg, VA 24505-6016**

**Lynchburg Covenant Fellowship is a  
501(c) (3) not-for-profit  
organization and contributions are  
tax deductible. A financial statement  
is available from The Office of  
Consumer Affairs, Department of  
Agriculture and Consumer Services,  
Commonwealth of Virginia, P.O. Box 1163,  
Richmond, VA 23218**