



# OUTREACH

Summer 2008

*Ensuring that all people have access to safe and affordable housing*

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## *In the words of Sandra Hamlin, Executive Director*

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

I retired from the RCCR at the end of June. I will move to Atlanta in July to be with my daughter, Jennifer. Even as I look forward to a new adventure, it is with sadness that I say goodbye to the RCCR and to you, our supporters and friends.



It is with great joy and much pleasure that I have had the opportunity to serve in the affordable housing arena. Not just because of my small personal contribution but because of the many amazing people and organizations I have had the privilege of working with.

To contribute in the affordable housing arena requires us to strike a balance between confidence and humility - enough confidence to know that you can make a difference, and enough humility to ask for help. And have I ever had help.

I have had the help of a great many people and organizations, and none more so than the religious organizations that make up our membership, our donors and supporters, financial community, foundations, and a host of so many individual people. But you know who you are.

I have also been blessed with a great staff at the RCCR and a board who has supported me along the way.

In a small 'nutshell', it has been my honor to serve as Executive Director of the RCCR. But that honor would not have been possible without so many, many people and organizations responding to my cry for help. I thank each of you. I thank you for your help, I thank you for what you do in the affordable housing arena, I thank you for your encouragement, I thank you for your commitment. You helped me to grow and to understand how very critical housing is to the well being of our community.

In Maslov's hierarchy of need, first there is the physiological needs of breathing, food, sleep, etc.; and once those are satisfied, the individual's safety needs take over and dominates behavior. These needs manifest themselves in such things as housing. I remind you of this because it is important that we understand that providing affordable housing for everyone, but especially for low wealth families, is critical to their becoming fully empowered in this society. And so what we do matters and makes a difference in the lives of the citizens of our community.

And that difference matters whether it is housing for the homeless or the mentally ill or substance abusers or first time home owners or rental housing for families or the elderly. Each of us must have our housing needs met to move upward in Maslov hierarchy of needs.

A Greek philosopher said "day by day, what you choose, what you think, and what you do is who you become. I have met some amazing people who have **chosen** the hard work of providing affordable housing, who **think** that each citizen of our community has a right to decent housing and who have **become** Affordable housing providers who make a difference.. If you do not know, know that we made a difference... and I know that you will continue to make a difference in our community.

Thank you again for all you do for the RCCR.

The board has chosen Debra Payne as my replacement. I know that you will continue your support and encouragement of her as she takes up the mantle of affordable housing in our community.

With much affection,

Sandra J. Hamlin

## RCCR Mission



Acting cooperatively from our various faith traditions the Religious Coalition for Community Renewal develops projects and programs which help renew our community by identifying, addressing and overcoming the obstacles which keep people from decent, affordable housing.

*WELCOME  
DEBRA A. PAYNE  
NEW RCCR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR*



My name is Debra A. Payne and I am the new Executive Director for the Religious Coalition for Community Renewal (RCCR). The legacy that Sandra Hamlin left is a great one and I am excited to be a part.

I moved to Charleston in December 2007, when my husband took a promotion with Huntington National Bank. My husband and I are natives of Columbus, Ohio. However, for the past eighteen years we lived in a suburb of Columbus called Gahanna. While living in Gahanna, I served on City Council for fourteen years. As a council member, I was responsible for the fiscal health of a city of 36,000 people and an annual budget of about 50 million dollars. Besides serving on city council, I owned a computer consulting business for fifteen years and taught computer classes, and am still teaching, at Franklin University.

I feel that my work on city council along with my board affiliations helped prepare me to take on this position. Many of the boards I served on were for not for profit organizations that had a housing component. One of the boards was the Metropolitan YMCA Board, which has a 400 bed facility for men in downtown Columbus and has an annual budget of 3.4 million dollars. I also served on and was past chair of CHOICES, a not for profit organization that provides housing and support services for victims of domestic violence. One of their functions is to maintain a 34 bed facility for women and children who are leaving a violent home situation. CHOICES operates on an annual budget of 1.4 million. Another board that I served on and was past chair of was the Mid Ohio Regional Planning Organization (MORPC). MORPC is an intergovernmental agency where member governments pay a per capita dues based on population. One of its many functions is to manage and disperse Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the federal government.

When we moved, I wanted to look for an opportunity that would allow me to serve the community in a more hands on way. I find that being the Executive Director of RCCR is allowing me to do that through our Samaritan Inn transitional housing program, Smith Street Station rental facility, and our Jubilee Housing home owner education and development project.

I know that funding will be our biggest issue as it is for all not for profits serving a similar population, but I am enjoying the position and am up for the challenge. I look forward to working with our current supporters and plan to expand our support base by sharing the RCCR story with as many people as I can.

### ***JUBILEE HOUSING NEWS***

#### ***2007 Statistics:***

- ***26 families received homeownership education***
  - ***133 families received counseling services***
    - ***30 families purchased homes***
    - ***Average family income \$25,350.***

***413 families have purchased homes since the homeownership program began***

WWW.RCCR.ORG 346-6398 RCCR@RCCR.ORG

**RCCR Staff:** **Debra A. Payne** RCCR Executive Director, **Wanda Crooms** RCCR Executive Assistant, **Kim Statome** Jubilee Housing Director, **Rosie Priddy** Jubilee Housing Counselor, **Becky Morgan** Bookkeeper, **Judy Snyder** Smith Street Station Resident Manager, **John "Buz" McCormick** Samaritan Inn Social Services Director, **William Hairston** Outreach Service Coordinator, and **Gerald Mills** Samaritan Inn Social Services Coordinator.

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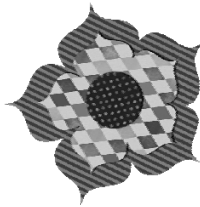
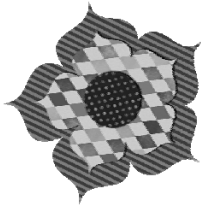
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**WE REMEMBER DONNA REED  
AND  
APPRECIATE HER YEARS OF SERVICE ON  
THE RCCR BEAN DINNER COMMITTEE**



**God's Heavenly Garden**

Sometimes God picks the flower  
That is still in full bloom;  
Sometimes the rosebud's chosen  
That we feel He's picked too soon.  
Sometimes the flower is fading  
With petals floating down,  
But God knows the perfect time  
To gather flowers from ground.  
There is a heavenly garden  
In which God takes great pleasure  
Because He's placed within it  
The loved ones that we treasure.  
He walks among the blossoms  
Giving them eternal rest,  
And I know that it must please Him  
Because He chose our very best.  
- - - Dorothea K. Barwick



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