

# GOOD SHEPHERD HOUSING FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

*Celebrating 25 years of providing housing to the most vulnerable.*

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## CHOICES LIFESKILLS GRADUATION HELD



On June 27, 2015, four participants were celebrated during a ceremony for completing the *Choices* Life Skills Training Program. This 16 week program was developed by Executive Director, Karen DeVito from Catholics For Housing Inc. (CFH), and the classes were facilitated by CFH Life Skills Coordinator, John Kunu. During the ceremony, graduate Christine Winters shared with the audience, how the program has made an impact in her life and “the topics covered in class were helpful and relevant for my family.” Executive Director from GSHF, Pat Johanson and other dignitaries, gave congratulatory wishes as well.

*Choices* empowered each graduate with the confidence and the skills necessary to: upgrade their job skills in order to secure a job with a living wage, improve their finances, create a healthy lifestyle, and to maintain housing stability and self-sufficiency. All four of the graduates have experienced homelessness and are in the Good Shepherd Housing Foundation (GSHF) Transitional Housing Partnership Program (THPP).

The theme for the classes and the graduation was based on a motivational quote by Michelle Obama: “There is no magic to achievement. It’s really about hardwork, choices and persistence.”

Graduates of the program included: Tanya Mahmoud, Tiesha Seabrook, Angela Smith and Christine Winters and each received a certificate, a computer and a gift card for their hard work.

In addition, GSHF Case Manager, Muriel Jackson, earned the designation of Certified *Choices* Life Skills Instructor and will be facilitating future life skills trainings. Following the program, families, friends, GSHF staff and others enjoyed brunch together. Congratulations to all for their achievements!

Special thanks to Bertha McCarty and Rev. John Bradford at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Woodbridge, VA, for donating rooms for the *Choices* Life Skills Classes held each week.

In attendance were Vice Chairman of the Prince William County Board of Supervisors, Maureen Caddigan, Potomac District, Supervisor John Jenkins, Neabsco District, Supervisor Frank Principi, Woodbridge District and Mary Beth Schaal, Administrative Aide to Supervisor Jeanine Lawson, Brentsville District.

Good Shepherd Housing Foundation (GSHF) is a 501 © 3 Non-profit organization dedicated to creating affordable housing opportunities throughout Prince William County for low income single parents, families, and the seriously mentally ill.

All donations are tax deductible.

