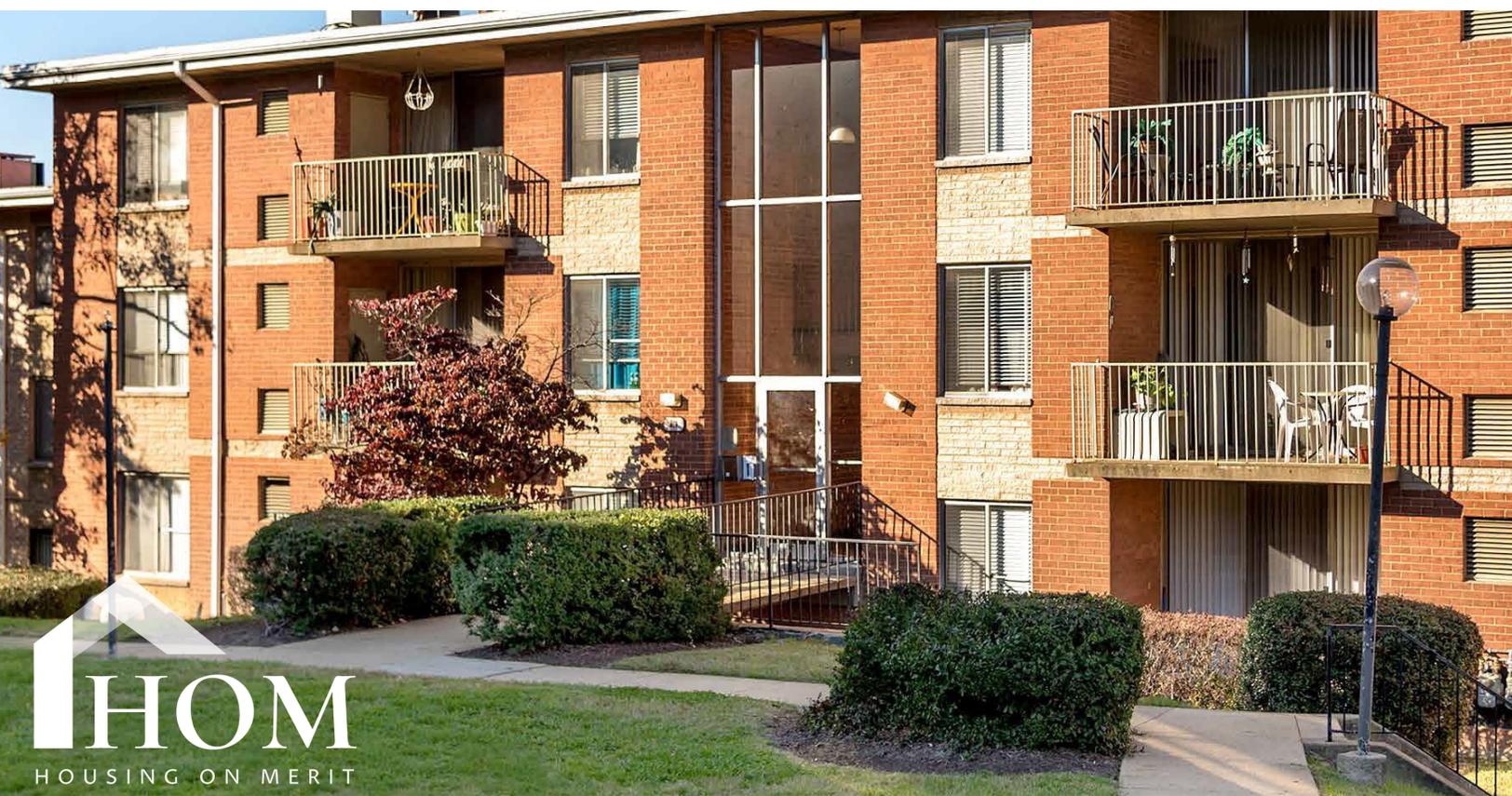


NOVEMBER 2017

FORT CHAPLIN PARK APARTMENTS

RESIDENT SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT



November Highlights

In November Housing on Merit was able to successfully organize a second series for our Youth Photography program with the help of our Tenant's Association. This program will run longer than the first series, teach youth about and engage them in a media of their choice to complete the Living Library Project.

This month also gave us our first chance to collaborate with our new management company to distribute food for Thanksgiving. HOM, the Chaplin Hope Tenants Association, and the Franklin Johnston Group worked together to distribute food to 150 families residing at Fort Chaplin.

Living Library Project

Part two of our Youth Photography Program started in November, and will run for a total of 16 weeks and build upon what participants learned during part one. The theme for part two is the Living Library Project, and the goal is to connect youth with older residents and prominent local figures in the community. Participants will document the history of Fort Chaplin Park Apartments and the surrounding neighborhood from the viewpoint of its most senior residents. Additionally, our local Police Commander and Area Neighborhood Commissioner will contribute their insights to the project. Participants will determine what direction they would like to take their individual projects and learn how to effectively use their photography to write blogs, create and edit videos, use social media, etc.

Typically, community information comes from TV and print news. This program gives participants access to a richer, more colorful history of their community as experienced by older residents and community leaders.

Work from participants who completed the first part of the program is being displayed at our local precinct and will be included in the monthly Commander Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting, which brings together police officers, residents and local elected officials to address pressing concerns and engage in positive dialogue and relationship-building.





Resident Spotlight

Daniel Thomas serves as the Youth Liaison for the Chaplin Hope Tenants Association (CHTA), and has taken on the responsibility of recruiting young residents to participate in resident services and engage in positive activities.

Recently Daniel wrote to Councilmember Vincent Gray to call attention to the food desert that has been created in the community. Daniel submitted his letter to the DC Council Committee on Health in response to their request to hear from area youth during the “Youth Issues and Solutions for Improving Health in the District of Columbia” forum.

Daniel successfully completed the first part of our Youth Photography Program and has since been inspired to take pictures at special events and for other meaningful projects. Daniel looks forward to participating in the second part of the Photography program and is a wonderful example of how young residents can play an important role in building community and making a difference.



Annual Thanksgiving Giveaway

Each year the Chaplin Hope Tenants Association (CHTA) organizes a Thanksgiving turkey giveaway for residents. This year Housing on Merit worked with property management to also distribute dry and canned goods. We are happy to report that 150 households were served through this collaborative effort.



Housing on Merit also invited Bank on DC, a DC Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking Program to the Thanksgiving giveaway celebration. Bank on DC is a collaborative effort between the district, financial institutions and non-profits to serve un-/underbanked households in the DC Metro area. Residents were given information about the Bank on DC program and how they can get involved.

