



## A Message From the Director

I look forward to working with all residents to address issues related to HOPE VI. I hope that my past experience with this program will allow us to move forward with the redevelopment of the Scott-Carver community.



I'd like to stress to the former residents of the Scott and Carver communities how important it is that we are here to help residents receive the services they need to succeed. This newsletter is important because it provides a means to stay connected with you.

In this issue, you will find a wealth of information relating to services, such as the new Housing Central website, home financing, and other programs provided by the Department of Human Services (DHS) designed to help you meet your goals.

I encourage residents to visit the DHS/HOPE VI office to receive more information about these services.

The agency remains committed to making the HOPE VI revitalization of the Scott Homes and Carver Homes communities a reality.

Sincerely,

**Kris Warren**

## Home for the Holidays: Fifteen reasons to be HOPEful

The adage "there's no place like home" now has significant meaning for 15 families, 14 of whom were from the former Scott-Carver developments, who moved into new homes in December in time for the holidays.

These families celebrated with a dedication ceremony held December 20, coordinated by Miami Dade County District 2 Commissioner **Dorrin D. Rolle**, the Miami-Dade Housing Agency, and Habitat for Humanity of Greater Miami.

Commissioner Rolle, who has fought diligently for the project, enthusiastically praised the accomplishments of Habitat and the new homeowners during the ceremony.

"Although we have some ways to go, I am delighted that we have finally reached this important milestone in getting Scott-Carver residents back to this community," he said.

His comments were echoed by

MDHA Director **Kris Warren**. "I am pleased to welcome these former public housing residents to their new homes and look forward to seeing even more residents return as homeowners," she said.



**Sheneka Jones**, a five year resident of Scott Homes expressed her thanks during the ceremony. She was grateful for the opportunity provided by Habitat.



"I can't even begin to describe how this experience has been," she said. "I've learned how to put houses together."

The homes, built by volunteers for Habitat as well as workers from local minority-owned businesses, are part of the \$35 million HOPE VI revitalization of Scott-Carver, replacing the

Above: MDC District 2 Commissioner Dorrin D. Rolle poses with the Smith family; completed Habitat Homes; Sheneka Jones holds the key to her new home.

distressed public housing which formerly stood on the site with a mix of homeownership and rental units.

Aside from the homeowners who worked on their homes, volunteers included County employees and Commissioner Rolle and his staff.

## Services available for former Scott-Carver residents

Did you know that as a former Scott-Carver resident you are eligible to receive services designed to help you meet your goals? Miami-Dade County's Department of Human Services (DHS) HOPE VI-DHS office offers a wide range of services including:

- Education assistance - job training skills, high school or equivalent education, economic development, vocational training, financial aid
- Employment - job placement, assistance with job search through independent job services,



and the One Stop Career Service Center

- Life skills/self-sufficiency services - parenting skills development, family self-sufficiency, transportation, subsidized childcare, after school care
- Crisis Services - substance

abuse, mental health, domestic violence

- Case Management - comprehensive assessment and evaluation, individualized service plans
  - Homeownership Assistance - within the HOPE VI target area and/or around Miami-Dade County utilizing resources such as the Housing Central web portal and other outreach resources
- Please visit the office at 2500 NW 62 Street or call 305-638-6353. Staff are ready to help you!



**Carlos Alvarez**  
Mayor

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Miami-Dade County recently launched a new web portal/site, designed to function as a one-stop center for housing-related services.

The Housing Central portal is designed to provide services and information to county residents to assist in making housing choices that will meet their needs. This portal is frequently updated with new features and information.

The pages on the portal list the different options available for those interested in renting or buying affordable housing.

Residents searching for affordable rental properties can:

- Find landlords looking to rent units (and landlords that accept Section 8 vouchers),
- Apply for housing during

periods of open registration,

- Make changes to their application, or
- Receive information on rental assistance programs offered by various county departments such as the Community Action Agency

Residents searching for a home can:

- Learn about the different steps involve in homeownership
- Gain access to resources which they can use to find information about the home buying process
- Link to sites that help searchers find information about homeownership, including financing, down

payment, and closing costs

The portal's other features include

- A housing locator service that allows county residents to search for available rental or homeownership listings within Miami-Dade County
- Links to agencies which provide information about housing assistance, community development, Section 3, and business opportunities
- Information on special needs housing available to residents who are elderly, physically or mentally challenged

If you don't have access to a computer, then stop by your local library.

## Homeownership Financing

Did you know that there are several County departments which can assist you with the tools necessary to help you find a new home?

### Housing Finance Authority

The Housing Finance Authority (HFA) offers a home buyers club and financing opportunities for low-income residents. For more information you can call them at 786-331-5361.

HFA also offers a *Florida Keys to Home Program* which is designed to drive predatory lenders out of the market by offering better terms with no hidden costs to homeowners. To receive more information about this program, call 866-531-5308.

HFA's *Home Buyer Bond Program* provides

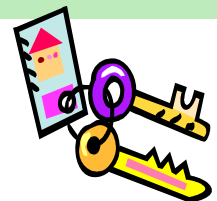
homeownership opportunities by allowing eligible families to qualify for a loan that covers 80 percent of the purchase price. The buyer would also receive a loan covering the remaining 20 percent. For more information about this program call 786-331-5361.

### Metro-Miami Action Plan

The Miami-Metro Action Plan's *Homeownership Assistance Program* offers affordable financing for low-income residents that assist them in the purchase of a home.

Applicants must be residents of Miami-Dade County, be first-time homeowners or not have owned a home for at least three years, have an annual household income not exceeding 140 percent of County median and must

contribute at least 1 percent of the sales price.



For more information about this program call 305-372-7600 or visit [www.miamidade.gov/mmmap](http://www.miamidade.gov/mmmap) and follow the affordable housing link to print out an application form.

### MDHA Homeownership

The Miami-Dade Housing Agency offers the *Section 8 Homeownership Program*, which allows Section 8 participants to use their vouchers to buy a property.

To learn more about this program, call 305-250-5108 or visit the Section 8 office located at 2153 Coral Way.