

# ***Housing Assistance Corporation (HAC) News***

February 4, 2009

## **AmeriCorps Gives Shelter Extreme Makeover**

The first volunteer showed up at 7:30 on the morning of Martin Luther King Day, armed with a toolbox and a bucket of spackle, ready to get started on an extreme makeover at The Village at Cataumet, HAC's family shelter in Bourne.



The volunteer, Frank Lord, had actually been by the previous Friday, spending some time with the AmeriCorps kids, who had organized the project in response to the call from now-President Barack Obama to honor Dr. King with a national day of service.

In the end, more than 220 people worked on the extreme makeover, giving the family units and living spaces at The Village a much-needed facelift.



Participants included Girls Scout and Boy Scouts, a father brought along by his daughter, two sons brought by their mom, a pair of women who had been college activists in 1963, doctors, teachers, carpenters, business owners, members of the armed forces, individual students, youth groups, men's and women's clubs, and many, many more.

Volunteers cleaned, painted, and repaired every one of the 17 family units at the shelter, a former hotel; scrubbed the common areas; built interior shelves and outside park benches; and sewed cheery window treatments for every window on the property. Kids spending the day at the Boys and Girls Club of Cape Cod created a mural for the Village's community room.

Most of the supplies were donated, including all the paint and painting supplies by the Valle Group, or were purchased with grants from AmeriCorps or Barnstable County. Other notable donations were CFL lightbulbs from Cape Light Compact, mattresses from Mattress World and Taylor Rental.



"The value contributed on Martin Luther King Day is immeasurable," said Rick Presbrey, President/CEO of HAC. "We certainly didn't have it in our budget to even pay for the supplies that were used. But the sheer numbers that gathered that day made it possible to do renovations and improvements that would have taken months if we had to hire a small crew. The impact of the work of the volunteers will improve the quality of life of our residents for many years to come."

The service day was supported by a \$7,371 grant from the Massachusetts Service Alliance (MSA) and \$2,000 in matching funds from Barnstable County.

Many thanks to the following businesses and organizations that supported this day of service with supplies for the project and refreshments for the volunteers: Austin's, Inc., Boys & Girls Club of Cape Cod, Cape Cod Bagel, Cape Light Compact, First United Methodist Church in Cataumet, Mashpee Starbucks, Mattress World in Hyannis, Nick's House of Pizza, Primetime House of Pizza, Taylor Rental, Trader Joe's, and The Valle Group of Falmouth.