

## EnVision Center Offers Free Community Education

The Grand Rapids EnVision Center at Campau Commons will offer programs on parenting, estate planning, and career path development for youth and adults this spring. Details on page 2!

## Resident Scholarship Program Accepting Applications

Eligible GRHC residents planning to attend or currently in college or vocational school are invited to apply for a Jean McKee Resident Academic Scholarship of up to \$2,000. Details on page 3!

## “Thanks for Giving” Luncheon Honors Community Partners

The GRHC once again hosted our annual luncheon celebrating the wonderful community partnerships that provide critical services and support to our residents and agency. Details on pages 4 and 5!



GRAND RAPIDS  
HOUSING COMMISSION

# NEWS

Winter 2026



Above from left, Huntington Vice President | Business Banking Community Banker Josh Geohan, Grand Rapids Housing Commission President Monica Steimle-App, Huntington Merchant Services Regional Sales Advisor Sally Mayhew, GRHC Executive Director Lindsey Reames, Huntington CRA Mortgage Loan Originator Jeffrey Brazier, GRHC Family Self-Sufficiency Program Manager Wanda Couch, Huntington Mortgage Sales Manager Thomas Zeman and Huntington Senior Vice President | Regional Banking Senior Market Director Michael Debri

## Huntington Bank Awards EnVision Center \$10,000 Grant

Grand Rapids Housing Commission (GRHC) leadership was recently joined by local leadership from Huntington National Bank to celebrate the award of a \$10,000 Huntington Foundation Community Development Grant to our agency in support of the Grand Rapids EnVision Center. Housed within the Campau Commons Community Center at 821 Division Avenue South, the EnVision Center offers free financial literacy and homeownership educational programs, life skills workshops and other helpful resources to low-income households in our community.

Huntington Bank is a longtime supporter of GRHC programs and services, with past donations to a Family Self-Sufficiency Program that during 2025 helped five households achieve home ownership and an “Aim to Save” Resident Asset-Building Program that through 2025 had helped a total of 72 adult and youth participants build savings totaling \$76,159—funds that support housing stability and a stronger financial future for these families.

The GRHC is very grateful to Huntington Bank for its longstanding support of our residents and agency.

## GRHC Partners with Project GREEN to Help Residents Improve Credit Scores



The GRHC is partnering with Project GREEN (Grassroots Economic Empowerment Network) to make the credit reporting software Piñata accessible to the families we serve. GRHC Resident Services is facilitating resident use of the Piñata app that helps renters establish, build or repair their credit scores by reporting monthly on-time rent payments to the three major credit bureaus, Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. Good credit is essential for approval and favorable terms for loans, leases and credit cards.

The partnership with Project GREEN includes assistance with budgeting, financial management and accessing credit scores. Residents receive a \$25 gift card for signing up to participate in this initiative, and for every on-time rent payment participants receive reward points that can be redeemed at many major retailers, including Amazon, Target and Starbucks.

GRHC Resident Services Manager Joyce Williams reports that 56 residents of GRHC housing developments and 40 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program participants are currently enrolled in the Piñata program. GRHC residents who want to learn more about this important credit-building opportunity should contact their Resident Services Specialist or HCV Coordinator.

### Agency Plan Public Hearing on March 17

The GRHC will hold a public hearing regarding our draft 2026 Annual Agency Plan and 2026 Moving to Work Supplement on Tuesday, March 17, 10:00 a.m. at the Bobbie Butler Community Center at Creston Plaza Apartments. The Center is located at 1080 Creston Plaza Drive NE.

To read the draft plans, scan the QR code at right or log on to:  
[grhousing.org/pdf/draft26plan.pdf](https://grhousing.org/pdf/draft26plan.pdf)



## EnVision Center Offers Free Parenting, Estate Planning and Career Development Events



The GRHC is working with community partners to offer several free educational and career development events; all are open to the public and will be held at the Grand Rapids EnVision Center located within the Campau Commons Community Center, 821 Division Avenue South in Grand Rapids. Established in 2019, the EnVision Center is a community hub for resources related to economic empowerment, educational advancement, health and wellness, and character and leadership.

### Parenting Series provided by Family Outreach Center

Entitled “Start Now: Navigating Our Way,” the series runs March through August offering monthly 1.5-hour Thursday evening sessions led by Family Outreach Center Prevention and Education Coordinator Taj Caviness, LMSW. The series is designed to “empower by building support, reducing guilt, enhancing coping skills and prioritizing self care.” Interested parents can choose to attend any or all of the sessions.

### Estate Planning Workshop

Grand Rapids estate planning and elder law attorney Charles Cottrell will provide an overview of wills, trusts, power of attorney, healthcare directives, conservatorships and probate issues on Thursday, March 19, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

### Introduction to the Goodwill Pathfinders and Achieve Youth and Adult Career Development Programs

Program Managers from Goodwill of Greater Grand Rapids will introduce the Pathfinders career coaching, planning and job shadowing program for youth ages 16-25 as well as the Achieve adult career development program on Tuesday, April 28, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

For complete program and registration information, log on to:  
[grhousing.org/pdf/envision-center.pdf](https://grhousing.org/pdf/envision-center.pdf)

Or scan the QR code at the right



## New Housing Management Software Enhances Customer Service, Communication



The GRHC is transitioning to new housing management software that offers a secure, centralized, web-based and mobile-friendly platform, benefiting GRHC residents and landlord partners in a variety of important ways.

### New GRHC Resident Portal offers our current program participants...

- Self-service options to pay rent, view current charges and check payment history at any time from any device.
- Convenience of submitting recertification documents via the portal.
- Ability to update contact or vehicle information online as well as send a message to a GRHC Asset Manager or HCV Coordinator.
- Residents of GRHC agency-owned housing developments can submit or check the status of a maintenance request using the portal.

Residents requiring assistance with the new portal, please contact your GRHC Asset Management or Resident Services staff, or email [contactus@grhousing.org](mailto:contactus@grhousing.org) for assistance. All GRHC-owned offices have equipment and staff available to help you.

### New GRHC Landlord Portal offers our rental property owner/manager partners...

- 24/7 access to view/print HAP payment information and information about unit inspections.
- Digitally send and receive documents such as Request for Tenant Approval (RFTA) forms.
- Update address, contact and banking information.

Links to our secure resident, landlord and applicant portals can be found at:

[portal.grhousing.org](http://portal.grhousing.org)

## Jean McKee Resident Scholarship Program Offers Academic Awards of Up to \$2,000



The 2026 Jean McKee Resident Scholarship competition is underway! Established in 2000 in memory of longtime Housing Commissioner Jean McKee, the Resident Scholarship Program offers scholarships for college or vocational school to eligible residents of GRHC housing programs. Scholarship winners receive \$500 per year for up to four years, for a total scholarship award of up to \$2,000.

### Since its inception, the Scholarship Program has awarded a total of \$45,500 to 44 resident scholars.

The Jean McKee Resident Academic Scholarship is open to...

- Graduating high school seniors
- Current college or vocational school students
- Adult residents seeking to begin or return to college or vocational school

Applicants must have been a resident of a GRHC housing program for the past year and must be enrolling as a full-time student.

The Scholarship Program offers priority status to graduating high school seniors, undergraduate students and participants in the GRHC Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program. Scholarship awards are provided directly to the student and can be used for any school-related expense.

Application deadline: May 12, 2026

Complete information about the Jean McKee Resident Scholarship Program and an online scholarship application form are available at:  
[grhousing.org/jean-mckee-scholarship](http://grhousing.org/jean-mckee-scholarship)

## GRHC Hosts 11th Annual “Thanks for Giving” Partner Recognition Luncheon

Dozens of volunteers and representatives from community partner organizations joined GRHC staff for our annual November “Thanks for Giving” Partner Recognition Luncheon hosted this year by the GRHC Resident Services and FSS teams as well as Executive Director Lindsey Reames. Honorees gathered in the Mount Mercy Auditorium to enjoy a special event that featured a baked potato bar as well as partner recognition awards.



*Partners gather for lunch in the Mount Mercy Auditorium*

We are sincerely grateful to all of the community partners and volunteers who support our residents and agency, including those recognized during the luncheon...

AARP  
 American Heart Association  
 AmeriCorps—Cherry Health  
 Amplify GR  
 Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan  
 Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired  
 Avanti  
 Baxter Community Center  
 Belknap Lookout  
 Black Impact Collaborative  
 Boston Square Church  
 Diversity Insurance  
 DonnaCare at Home  
 Dwelling Place  
 Captel Phones  
 Care Resources  
 Catherine’s Health Center  
 City of Grand Rapids  
 Color of Change  
 Community Household Pantry  
 Corewell at the HUB  
 Creston Neighborhood Association  
 Deaf and Heard of Hearing Services  
 Department of Health & Human Services  
 Disability Advocates of Kent County  
 East Grand Rapids Public Schools  
 Exodus Place  
 Extreme Hip Hop  
 Family Outreach Center  
 FE Insurance  
 Feeding America West Michigan  
 Fountain Street Church  
 Fuller Avenue Church  
 Grand Rapids Black Nurses Association  
 Grand Rapids Community College  
 Grand Rapids Fire Department  
 Grand Rapids Public Library  
 Grand Rapids Symphony  
 GRPD Mental Health Co-Response Team

GRPS Nutrition Services  
 Grand Rapids Police Department  
 Great Start  
 GVSU Kirkhof College of Nursing  
 Harmonycare Medical Group  
 Head Start for Kent County  
 Healthy Homes Coalition  
 Heart of West Michigan United Way  
 Hispanic Center of Western Michigan  
 Home Instead — Be a Santa to a Senior  
 Hope Network  
 Horizon Bank  
 Home Repair Services  
 Humana  
 Humane Society of West Michigan  
 Huntington Bank  
 Hurst Mechanical  
 ICCF Community Homes  
 Independent Bank  
 Ivanrest Foot & Ankle Specialists  
 K-Elite  
 Kent County Community Action  
 Kent County Veterans Services  
 Keystone Retirement Services  
 KRS Insurance  
 Lake Michigan Credit Union  
 League of Women Voters  
 Legal Aid of Western Michigan  
 Life EMS  
 Life Therapeutic Solutions  
 LINC Up  
 Mary Free Bed  
 Meals on Wheels Western Michigan  
 Mercantile Bank  
 Meridian  
 Michigan First Credit Union  
 Michigan Secretary of State  
 Michigan Works  
 Mobile Happy Lights—Community of Hearts  
 Molina Healthcare  
 More Life Mas Vida  
 MSU Extension  
 Multitude Ministries

National Kidney Foundation  
 Network 180  
 Network 180 Mobile Crisis Team  
 New Hope Baptist Church  
 North American Senior Benefits  
 North End Wellness Coalition  
 Oak Street Health  
 Other Way Ministries Mobile Farm Market  
 Pine Rest — Seeking Safety  
 Project GREEN  
 The Rapid  
 The Red Project  
 Redeemed Style  
 Reliance Home Care  
 Renew Mobility  
 SALT  
 Sambercare LLC  
 Save a Life Day  
 Seeds of Promise  
 Senior Neighbors  
 Senior Project Fresh  
 Senior Sing A-Long  
 Seven24 Men’s Ministry  
 St. Alphonsus Parish  
 St. John’s United Church of Christ  
 SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access & Recovery (SOAR)  
 S.T.R.O.N.G.  
 Two Men and a Truck  
 United Healthcare  
 United Methodist Community House  
 Verizon Wireless  
 Versiti Blood Center of Michigan  
 Vibrant Futures  
 Volunteers in Service  
 West Grand Neighborhood Association  
 West Michigan Center for Arts + Technology  
 (WMCAT)  
 Wholistic Insurance LLC  
 Women’s Resource Center  
 Xfinity/Comcast  
 YMCA Camp Manitou-Lin  
 YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids  
 Young Money Finance



Top left: GRHC Resident Services and Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program staff prepare lunch. Top right: Kent County Veterans Services Officer Reginald Farrior receives a Partner Recognition Award from GRHC Executive Director Lindsey Reames and Resident Services Specialist Rachel Siebert. Second row, Lindsey and Resident Services staff present awards to, from left, Project GREEN Director of Advocacy Samika Douglass (2nd from left), Black Impact Collaborative representative Dollie Grant (center) and Amplify GR Director of Partnerships & Outreach Jenny Luth. Third row awardees, from left, Fuller Avenue Church Ministries Coordinator Sheryl Luth, Gerald R. Ford Job Corps Center Workforce Specialist Cynthia Owens (2nd from left) with FSS Program Manager Wanda Couch (right), League of Women Voters member Joan Long (center). At left, Pine Rest Seeking Safety Clinician Joseph Gage (4th from right) and Pine Rest Seeking Safety Clinical Supervisor Christina White (3rd from right)

# Grand Rapids Housing Commission Human Resources Update

## Staff Promotions

**Mark Eurich** has been promoted from Maintenance Technician to Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Inspector. Mark has been with the GRHC for 9 years. In his new role he will conduct required unit inspections to ensure that units rented through our HCV Program meet HUD housing quality standards.

**CJ Lewis** has been promoted from HCV Coordinator to Asset Manager. CJ joined the GRHC team in 2023; his prior work history includes property management and general management positions with York Creek Apartments, Northview Harbor Apartments and RE/MAX of Grand Rapids. He has a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Calvin University.

## New Asset Manager Assignments

**CJ Lewis** now manages Antoine Court Apartments, Hope Community and Sheldon Apartments.

**Essence Trimble** now manages Campau Commons Apartments and Creston Plaza Apartments.

**Daniel Wiarda** now manages Leonard Terrace Apartments and Scattered Sites Program units.

## Welcome, New Employees



**Robbyin Bell**, HCV Customer Service & Intake Coordinator at the GRHC Administrative Office.



**Damiane Lake**, HCV Customer Service & Intake Coordinator at the GRHC Administrative Office.



**Darius Quinn**, Human Resources Manager. Darius comes to the GRHC from a position as Human Resources Manager for Kent County and has broad expertise in such areas as talent acquisition, benefits and compensation, retirement services, learning and development, inclusion, and employee and labor relations.

## Michael Weaver Retires



*Lindsey Reames presents Michael Weaver with an Appreciation Award and board resolution saluting his many contributions to the GRHC*

GRHC Real Estate Development Coordinator Michael R. Weaver retired in December after more than 21 years with our agency. Michael was instrumental to the success of many major projects, including the redevelopment of Campau Commons Apartments and Creston Plaza Apartments, the transformation of Sheldon School to Sheldon Apartments and the development of Antoine Court Apartments.

Michael was recognized for his distinguished career and many contributions to the GRHC during the Housing Commission's December meeting and was celebrated by his peers and community partners during an early January retirement party at the Bobbie Butler Community Center at Creston Plaza.

Congratulations, Michael, and best wishes as you embark on new retirement ventures!



## HCV Homeownership Program Orientation Meetings

The HCV Homeownership Program offers Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher recipients the opportunity to use their Housing Assistance Payment toward a home mortgage payment rather than rental housing expenses.

The GRHC will offer several free HCV Homeownership Program Orientation Meetings this year—all will be held at Wyoming Public Library, 3350 Michael Ave. SW in Wyoming.

2026 Meeting Dates; All Meetings at 2:00 p.m.

March 17      June 16      September 15      December 8

Details and a link to the Orientation Meeting Registration Form:

[grhousing.org/hcv-homeownership-program](http://grhousing.org/hcv-homeownership-program)

## Holiday Highlight: Santa Claus Visits Hope Community Rapid Re-Housing Center

Community volunteer and sometimes-Santa Terry Kirkwood made a mid-December visit to the Hope Community Rapid Re-Housing Program Service Center where he heard young residents' Christmas wish lists and offered them the opportunity to choose a gift from Santa's bag. Organized and staffed by GRHC Resident Services Specialists Latasha Maberry, Rachel Siebert and Maria Lara, the festive gathering included holiday music, high spirits and lots of tasty treats to enjoy.



*Above and left: Santa hears Christmas wishes and offers a young resident a gift  
At right: Happy partygoers with Santa and GRHC Resident Services Specialist and event host Latasha Maberry*



## Holiday Movie Night at Creston Plaza!



*Above: Moviegoers help themselves to hot cocoa and plenty of toppings*

*Right: The festivities included Polar Express decor that offered family photo opportunities*



GRHC Resident Services hosted a December Holiday Movie Night in the Bobbie Butler Community Center at Creston Plaza Apartments. The festive family event featured a screening of the holiday classic *The Polar Express*, plus free hot chocolate, popcorn and snacks.

Many thanks to the community partners that joined the fun: Arbor Circle gave out free throw blankets along with services information, Early Bird Books invited children to sign up to receive a free book each month, and representatives from Equity Empowerment Center and Belknap Community Center were on hand to help residents access their services.



**GRAND RAPIDS HOUSING COMMISSION**

**60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**Celebration**

**April 23, 2026 | 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.**  
**GVSU Eberhard Center**

*Honoring 60 years of affordable housing and raising funds in support of GRHC resident scholarship and self-sufficiency initiatives*

*Community partners, please return your event reservation form by April 8*

*Online reservations available at:*  
[grhousing.org/celebration](http://grhousing.org/celebration)



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## GRHC Staff Volunteer, Raise Funds in Support of Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels Western Michigan has assisted GRHC residents for more than a decade, offering home meal delivery to seniors and people with disabilities, and operating weekday Dining Center congregate meal service to GRHC seniors since 2009. Meals on Wheels currently operates Dining Centers at all four of our senior housing communities.

This past fall a group of GRHC staff found a way to give back to this amazing community partner, spending a productive morning at Meals on Wheels headquarters in Grandville where they packed more than 400 breakfast boxes for delivery to people who are homebound.

The GRHC also participated in the Meals on Wheels Fall Food Drive, gathering 325 pounds of food and \$700 in cash donations agencywide.

Thank you, Meals on Wheels, for all you do to serve GRHC residents and the Greater Grand Rapids community!

*Right: GRHC staff pack breakfast boxes and gather to celebrate the mission accomplished*



*GRHC Meals on Wheels volunteers, from left, Yvette Price, Wanda Couch, Joyce Williams, Lindsey Reames, Kris Endres, Renita Thomas, Barb Adams, Joey Oosterman, Toni Coristine and CJ Lewis*



Grand Rapids Housing Commissioners:  
Monica Steimle-App, President; Betty Zylstra, Vice President; Jamon Alexander, Michael Bernier, Brooke Oosterman; Executive Director:  
Lindsey S. Reames

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