



# Community Update

## June 2018



(Photo: Anna Botz)

### A groundbreaking for new public housing!

The Minnehaha Townhomes will provide homes for 16 families experiencing persistent homelessness. Officials from the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, the Met Council, Minnesota Housing, and Rep. Keith Ellison joined MPHA to kick off construction on the first new public housing built in Minneapolis since 2010. The families who will live at the Minnehaha Townhomes will receive services from the county and a rapid rehousing provider. The site is just a five-minute walk from the VA Medical Center LRT station, connecting residents to major job centers. This broad partnership shows how, together, we can create new housing for families most in-need!

### A/C partnership brings a cooler summer and energy savings for MPHA's largest building

In June, MPHA partnered with Franklin Energy (applying funding from Xcel Energy) to replace more than 270 aged air conditioning units throughout our highrise at 1815 Central Avenue. The program reinvests profits from energy conservation programs to achieve further efficiency improvements in multi-family buildings. We will continue the process of analyzing and upgrading appliances in different public housing buildings each year through this partnership.



### Faces of MPHA: Meet Jamila Thomas

MPHA recently honored Jamila Thomas (here with MPHA housing voucher program staff) for graduating from our Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program! FSS provides assistance to help families with housing vouchers reach employment goals. It also escrows, in a savings account, an amount equal to any increase in rent that arises from increased earnings. Jamila has a disabled child, and says the program helped her pay for childcare expenses, work toward her life goals, and stay focused on her job. She has been working steadily since 2012, and on graduating she received the \$6,000 collected in her FSS escrow account. Well done, Jamila!

Want to learn more?

