



Community Update

October 2018

Faces of MPHA: Meet resident landscape specialist Curtis Washington!

One day six years ago, Curtis had recently moved into an MPHA highrise in NE Minneapolis and had a sudden instinct to start weeding a flowerbed. At that moment, he says he found his passion. Since then, Curtis has been applying his hard work and know-how to **beautify public housing around the city**. Weeding, trimming, planting, laying sod, digging out rocks... Curtis says he has a passion for it, and he's not slowing down. Most recently, he has been leading a cleanup of the playgrounds and green spaces at the Glendale Townhomes.

Curtis was living in a homeless shelter before moving into public housing in 2011. He credits AA with sustaining 20 years of sobriety; public service is an important part of his AA program.



Annual Highrise Celebration highlights residents, features keynote from Mayor Jacob Frey

The Minneapolis Highrise Representative Council (MHRC) Annual Highrise Celebration was an incredible event, as always, honoring all the MHRC does for the 5,000+ residents in MPHA's 42 highrises. Leadership stories and "Make a Difference Awards" **celebrated residents' volunteer contributions to the community**, including ensuring resident voices were heard during highrise security improvements, starting a recycling program, and advocating for public housing at the State Capitol.



MHRC leaders take their annual oath

"Groundbreaking" work: Awarding project-based vouchers to create more affordable housing

This month MPHA joined a team of public, nonprofit, and private leaders to break ground on "The Louis," 70 new tax-credit, affordable homes in Prospect Park. The Louis is made possible—and features **10 apartments for extremely low-income families**—through MPHA project-based vouchers.



MORE NEWS: The Otto Bremer Trust has made a \$600,000 grant-and-loan investment in MPHA's efforts to create and preserve the city's public housing. Detailed announcement to come!

Want to learn more?

