



PHFA's Housing Services Department **Best Practices**

PENNSYLVANIA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

Century Village/ Visiting Santa Project

Categories: Resident Participation

Outcomes: Residents volunteering in the community helps to create a positive relationship with the community. The residents increase their own self-esteem by being given an opportunity to give back to their community.

Program Components: The Property Manager arranges for the rental of a Santa and a Grinch costume for a few days. Contact is made with local nursing homes, the police station, local children and youth office for the visitation of the property's Santa and Grinch residents in costume.

Resident Input: For children in the community the Property Manager prints out a few pictures for coloring and the residents get together and make up coloring books using the prints. The front page of the coloring packet includes an introduction about the Tenants at Century Village. It explains their mission is to make residents in nursing homes, and children in foster care know they are being thought off during the Holiday Season. For gifts for seniors a donation box is put out in the community room a month prior to the event, requesting items such as puzzle books, small packs of tissues, etc. As the program has grown recognition, members of the larger community have begun to make donations.

Children that visit Santa at Century Village are given small gifts. The remaining gifts including the coloring books and senior gifts are distributed the following day by Santa at nursing homes, the police department and Pa Children and Youth Department for children in foster care.

Partnerships: Working with nursing homes, police departments and PA Children and Youth Department to identify locations for visitation.

Program Promotion: Information about program is promoted using flyers and newsletter.

Background: Property is a 40 unit property based Section 8 family development located in Union County.

Service Coordinator/Property Manager: Debra Carl, 570.523.6060 Centryvillage351@yahoo.com

Management Agent: ME Management

Investment in Services: The staff, printing expenses and custom rental is paid out of the property's operating budget.



RESULTS

Increased community involvement both inside and outside the property

Increased self-esteem of the residents knowing they are helping others

Promotes a positive property image, providing for successful marketing of apartments