

# HOTH News: ...Bringing Families Home

## Upcoming Events:

- Homebuyer Workshop:  
Saturday November 17th, 2012  
9:00am-5:00pm
- Spanish Homebuyer  
Workshop: Saturday December 1st,  
2012 9:00am- 5:00pm
- Introduction to Homebuying Class  
December 12th, 2012  
6:00-pm 8:00pm
- Veteran's Day:  
Offices Closed  
Monday November 12th, 2012
- Foreclosure Orientation: Wednes-  
day November 14th, 2012 10:00am
- Foreclosure Orientation:  
Tuesday, November 27th, 2012  
10:00am
- Foreclosure Orientation  
Monday December 3rd, 2012  
5:00pm
- Thanksgiving Holiday:  
Offices Closed Thursday November  
22, 2012 and Friday November  
23rd, 2012
- Ohio Housing Conference  
November 27th-29th, 2012

## Staff Spotlight: Benjamin Von Blon

For the past year HOTH has been happy to have Benjamin Von Blon as a VISTA staff member, focusing on capacity building. Ben was offered several VISTA positions, but he wanted to take advantage of one which focused on housing. Ben became interested in housing after spending two years working with Rebuilding Together, a non-profit which rehabilitates homes for low-income homeowners, in New Orleans. After returning to Ohio he worked for a general contractor for a year, but stated: "the drive for profit, cutting corners, and mediocre work was dissatisfying. I wanted to move back into helping people and communities."

During his time with HOTH Ben stated: "I learned a lot about housing programs offered through the state and federal government, and different procedures and guidelines." When asked about what has challenged him during his year at HOTH, he expressed, "As a VISTA my assignment has been to build the capacity of an organization, but I tend to be very hands on during projects. At times it has been difficult to keep the mindset of building capacity for the future when I want to jump in and complete a project myself." Amid the challenges he feels that he has really "greased the wheels to help things run smoothly" and has enjoyed connecting with residents

and organizations on the Westside. Ben stated: "I'm an introvert by nature, but getting out talking with people and participating in discussions has been a highlight."

Moving forward, Ben is hoping to stay in the non-profit field in the Columbus area and secure a position affiliated with housing development.

We have been incredibly delighted to have Ben in our offices for the past year and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.



*Above: Benjamin Von Blon, Former VISTA for Homes on the Hill CDC*

## Getting Financially Fit

This past October HOTH and Homeport, a local HUD-approved agency that focuses on housing development and "increasing economic literacy," partnered to host two sessions of: "Financial Fitness: Your Key to Managing Your Money." The class focused on improving credit and

money management skills, with topics such as budgeting, financial planning, savings, banking, credit, taxes, and insurance. The sessions were held at the HOTH offices, with Homeport leading the class and discussions. At the first session on October 20,13

attended, with 10 in attendance for the October 27 session. Overall the collaboration was a great success, not only in increasing financial literacy for the Columbus community, but in bringing other community leaders to the Hilltop area.

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## Homes for sale:

**Coming Soon!!** 248 Sturbridge Rd: 3 bed, 2 bath, 2,421 sq. ft. 261 Lennox Ave: 2 bed, 1 bath, 944 sq. ft. 639 Evergreen Terrace: 3 bed, 1 bath, 836 sq. ft.



### 39 Florence Ave

- 3 Bedrooms, 1 bath
- 1,273 sq. ft. built in 1951
- New modern kitchen and fire-place
- Nice front porch and private garage
- Move-in ready, entire house has been remodeled

\$85,000



### 5436 Westgrove Dr.

- 3 Bedrooms, 1-1/2 bath
- 1,178 sq. ft., built in 1990
- Fully-finished basement with office and laundry room
- Move-in ready, entire house has been completely remodeled
- South-Western City Schools

\$87,500



### 179 North Ogden Ave.

- 3 Bedrooms, 1 bath
- 1,382 sq. ft. built in 1926
- Original oak floors and fireplace
- Garage, front porch, and fenced-in back yard
- Move-in ready whole house has been remodeled

\$59,900

*Our mission is to provide decent, affordable housing for low and moderate income individuals and families and helping to strengthen their neighborhoods. We envision the Greater Hilltop and Southwestern Franklin County areas to have and sustain a vibrant economic and commercial environment, while increasing the homeownership and financial stability of its residents.*

*Homes on the Hill (HOTH) began purchasing and rehabbing property in 1996 and has successfully developed over 100 owner occupied and rental housing units. Today, the organization continues to grow and increase capacity to develop new projects in the neighborhood. HOTH also offers a HUD approved homebuyer education program, foreclosure prevention orientations, and individual counseling which are all conducted in English and Spanish.*

### Is Your Home Ready for Winter?

Here are a few tips to make sure your home, inside and out, is ready for the harsh winter weather.

- Clean or replace HVAC filter
- Change smoke-detector batteries when you turn your clocks back to standard time on the first Sunday of November.
- Clear gutters, downspouts, and window wells of fallen leaves and twigs.
- Be aware: If snow accumulates when it melts, water could drip back towards your wood fascia causing rot or spill out onto the ground close to your foundation and maybe even get into your basement.
- Purchase snow shovels and sand or ice-melting supplies *before* heavy snowfalls.

- Inspect the automatic garage door opener and lubricate or tighten parts as needed to prevent winter freezing.