



Your Housing Connection

Fall / Winter 2008

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"PRG's homebuyer education and knowledge about affordable housing is an important part of what we do."

Partner Profile: Carlene Coleman Sends Clients PRG's Way, and Pays Us a Visit Herself

Carrie Williams-Noren, Communications Manager

"I have an expert over there," said Carlene Coleman of PRG's homebuyer counselor Stacey Bostwick. "And I'm using her."

That's true in more ways than one. As director of Faith in the City's Personal Finance Center, Coleman has made PRG's homebuyer education and counseling services an integral part of a popular family savings program. She's also used PRG's counseling program herself, in preparing to purchase a home.

The Personal Finance Center delivers training, resources, and classes—some free and some on a sliding fee scale—to help individuals and families maintain their financial health. One offering is the Family Savings Account (FSA), a matched savings program that qualified families can use to save for education, start a business, or purchase a home. When a family designates their FSA savings for a home purchase, the Center requires that they sign up for homebuyer education and counseling at PRG.

"PRG knows housing," Coleman said, "and we're not reinventing the wheel. When we started this program, I asked, 'Who in the south Minneapolis area



Homebuyer Education

Whether you're just looking into buying a house or already have the keys in your pocket, PRG's homebuyer education and counseling program is a great way to find out more about home ownership.

Pre-Purchase Workshops:

Each workshop is a total of nine hours, whether presented in one or three sessions. The workshops — offered in partnership with the Home Ownership Center—walk you through the home buying process. There is a \$35 fee per household for the workshops. To register, please call (612) 721-7556, ext. 72 or visit prginc.org.

October 11	Saturday	9am–5:45pm
October 16, 21, 23	Thursday, Tuesday, Thursday	6pm–9pm
November 8	Saturday	9am–5:45pm

Para información a cerca de talleres en español, comuníquese con Neighborhood Development Alliance al telefono (651) 292-0131.

To find out about workshops in Spanish, call the Neighborhood Development Alliance at (651) 292-0131.

h.o.m.e. Clinic:

The h.o.m.e. Clinic is for new homeowners who want to know more about maintaining and improving their homes. Each Clinic is free of charge and covers refinancing and home equity loans; home repair and maintenance tips; seasonal home maintenance; and remodeling and hiring contractors. To register, please call (612) 721-7556.

October 25	Saturday	10am–3pm
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Community Education

Join us at Patrick Henry High School for free one-time information sessions on these timely topics. To register, call (612) 668-1922.

Foreclosure Counseling	Monday, October 13	6:30pm–8:30pm
Buying Distressed Properties	Wednesday, November 5	6:30pm–8pm



Eagle's Landing: Pride, Meaning, & Purpose for Homeless Native American Youth

Doug Wise, Project Coordinator

Since spring, PRG has been working with Women of Nations on the beginnings of Eagle's Landing, a place for homeless Native American youth.

Eagle's Landing will be designed for and targeted to Native American young people. When it's complete, it will make permanent housing available for 12 to 18 youth, and emergency / transitional housing available for 18 to 24 youth. The housing, along with counseling and other supportive services, will be available to young people aged 13 to 21, including those with children.

Women of Nations sees a strong sense of cultural identity and community membership as important to young people's ability to build success in their lives. They said in a presentation to potential

“Eagle's Landing represents an opportunity to bring our children back into a home within a welcoming and supportive tribal community.”

funders: "Eagle's Landing represents an opportunity to bring our children back into a home within a welcoming and supportive tribal community."

PRG and Women of Nations are in the process of locating a site for this development in or near the Phillips neighborhood of south Minneapolis.

Women of Nations, a 25-year-old organization, already operates a 24-hour crisis shelter in St. Paul for victims of domestic abuse and their families. They also provide community advocacy, educational

programming, children's programming, and a teen hotline.

PRG and Women of Nations expect to start construction on Eagle's Landing in the spring of 2010.

Partner Profile

(continued from page one)

doing homebuyer education with unlimited followup and has an excellent reputation? And Stacey's name was the first thing that came up.”

Even with her expertise as a personal finance professional, Coleman has also found it useful to look to PRG for guidance as she plans her own home purchase. “If personal finance was just about the numbers, it would be easier. When you're doing it for yourself, it's different. Emotions cloud your vision. Everybody needs help.”

“Taking just one session with Stacey helped me figure out exactly where I needed to hone in. I could have done it on my own, but I would have spent a lot of time before getting to what I needed to do.” A couple of counseling sessions over the past year have set Coleman on track to clean up some issues on her credit report, figure out how much she can afford—and how much she wants to spend—and come up with a plan.

What's her plan? Drawing on PRG's world of home buying expertise and her own knowledge of personal finance, one thing is very clear: There's no need to rush. For now, she's enjoying the autumn, keeping her credit rating healthy by paying her bills on time, and watching the market for duplexes in the area where she wants to buy.

For more information on the Personal Finance Center, go to faithinthecity.org and click on Services. For details on PRG's homebuyer education and counseling program, visit prginc.org or page three of this newsletter.

Thank you!

The generosity of these 2008 donors means great places to live and a richer life for Twin Cities neighborhoods and families.

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PRG's mission is to provide quality, affordable housing and related services that contribute to neighborhood stability and family self-sufficiency.

We serve low- to moderate-income families from diverse backgrounds. We develop and market affordable housing and educate and counsel first-time homebuyers.

Your Housing Connection is intended to be a resource for clients of our programs and for the community at large.

Staff:

Bill Alvord, *Financial Manager*

Stacey Bostwick, *Mortgage*

Counselor / Program Manager

Tessa Eddy, *Homebuyer Education*

and Counseling Program Assistant

Erin Green, *Homebuyer Counseling*

Assistant / Marketing Agent

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For more information about PRG's programs and services, please call us at (612) 721-7556 or visit prginc.org.

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