

## DUKES COUNTY REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

### ANNUAL REPORT to the County of Dukes County, June 2009

The Dukes County Regional Housing Authority provides affordable year-round rentals and rental assistance, homebuyer training and lottery support, waitlist management, monitoring services and advocacy and collaboration with town committees, island organizations, local businesses and concerned individuals working to create the housing options and support needed to maintain our Island community.

The Housing Authority's support of affordable homeownership this past year included the administration of 5 **lotteries** of 9 homeownership opportunities offered by Edgartown, Chilmark, the Island Housing Trust and 2 private developers. Assistance with lottery criteria, participant certification, lottery preparation and **Homebuyer Training** are currently being used in preparation for upcoming lotteries in Tisbury, West Tisbury and Oak Bluffs. An additional ownership opportunity done in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity of Martha's Vineyard and the Trust was initiated through Edgartown's **Demolition Delay** by-law administered by the Housing Authority. Our office maintains the **Island Affordable Homebuyer Clearinghouse** to publicize homebuyer opportunities and the **Martha's Vineyard Subsidized Housing Inventory** to assist in assuring future protection of existing affordability restrictions. The Inventory continues to be used by town tax assessors in their assessment of affordable properties in their towns.

In support of the expansion of decent year-round rental options on Martha's Vineyard the Housing Authority worked with the advocate-owners of a home rented by Islanders with disabilities to purchase and preserve the 4 unit building bringing our total to 10 properties with 61 **rental units** in 4 towns. All 6 towns currently contribute Community Preservation Act funding to the Housing Authority's provision of **Rental Assistance** to working households renting year-round housing from Island landlords. CPA support additional to the annual commitment made by the Island Affordable Housing Fund will provide for over 85 Rental Assistance subsidies across the Island in the coming year. The Housing Authority also oversaw the **32 Accessory Apartment** program in West Tisbury; assisted Housing Committees in Oak Bluffs and West Tisbury in their development of rental opportunities; maintained a **Rental Housing Waitlist** numbering close to 200 applicants; and partnered with other organizations that offer assistance with rent, utilities and apartment rehabilitation to Island renters and their landlords.

The Housing Authority manages the **Vineyard Housing Office** on State Road in Vineyard Haven as a clearinghouse for rental and homeownership opportunities and a focus for islanders working together on housing issues. The VHO currently is home to the Housing Authority, the Island Housing Trust, the Island Affordable Housing Fund, and Habitat for Humanity of Martha's Vineyard and offers a website, **[www.vineyardhousing.org](http://www.vineyardhousing.org)**, as a comprehensive resource for affordable housing on Martha's Vineyard.

The DCRHA Board of Directors:

ERNIE MENDENHALL, Chair, *West Tisbury*

HARVEY BETH, Vice Chair, *Oak Bluffs*

LAURA BARBERA, Treasurer, *Tisbury*

ZELDA GAMSON, *Chilmark*

RICHARD SKIDMORE, *Aquinnah*

MELISSA NORTON VINCENT, *Edgartown*

ANDRE MALLEGOL, *Governor's Appointee*

DAVID VIGNEAULT, Executive Director

TERRI KEECH, Administrator

BARBARA HOFFMAN, Administrative Coordinator

JAMES O'BRIEN, Property Manager