

## **DUKES COUNTY REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY**

### **ANNUAL REPORT, 2012**

The Dukes County Regional Housing Authority is publically chartered and locally funded to assist the towns of Dukes County to increase community housing opportunities. The Housing Authority collaborates with town committees, island organizations, local businesses and concerned individuals to provide year-round rentals and rental assistance, homebuyer training and lottery support, waitlist management, monitoring assistance and advocacy for new housing options and support.

The Housing Authority currently manages 71 units of rental housing offered on 12 properties in 5 towns. Work continues on the addition of three new units at the Sepiessa Point property and efforts are underway on additional rental properties in Tisbury and West Tisbury. The Housing Authority continues administration of West Tisbury's 42 Accessory Apartments; maintains a Rental Housing Waitlist numbering 235 applicants; and partners with other organizations that offer assistance with rent, utilities and apartment rehabilitation to Island renters and their landlords.

The Housing Authority continues administration of the Rental Assistance program funded through the Town's Community Preservation Act (CPA) process. Rental Assistance from all 6 towns is utilized by an average of 80 working households island-wide who can pay at least half of a fair market rental. This assistance helps address the needs of households making less than half of the Island's median income which leaves significant unmet Island need at very low and fixed incomes. Any future funding is subject to each town's annual decision making process and the Housing Authority provides the usage, need and cost data necessary for thorough town deliberation of this important source of support.

The Housing Authority's support of affordable homeownership in 2011 included assistance with Edgartown's Home Buy-Down program; income and asset certification for a third Habitat owner at Bailey Park in West Tisbury; acting as affordability monitor on three property refinances; preparation for serving as lottery agent for 2 home buying opportunities at Wentworth Way in Tisbury and 2 at 619 Edgartown Road in West Tisbury including assistance with lottery criteria, marketing, participant certification and Homebuyer Education; and facilitating 12 referrals through Edgartown's Demolition Delay by-law. We also maintain the Island Affordable Homebuyer Clearinghouse numbering 316 households to publicize homebuyer opportunities and the Martha's Vineyard Subsidized Housing Inventory to assist in assuring future protection of existing affordability restrictions.

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 and Habitat for Humanity of Martha's Vineyard, all of which are currently working with the Martha's Vineyard Commission, town

representatives and a housing consultant on a comprehensive Housing Needs survey that will help Island towns determine how best to provide the housing opportunities needed to preserve community life on Martha's Vineyard.

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