

HdG Poverty Walk will be 'eye-opening experience'

Community leaders are invited to participate

Editor:

The Havre de Grace Housing Authority (HDGHA) has been part of the Harford County community since 1964, providing low-income families with affordable housing and support programs on their journey toward economic self-sufficiency. HDGHA has been able to assist thousands of people over the years, including 150 in 2015 alone.

In 2016 however, the need for resources is greater than ever. Many of your readers may not be aware that a family of four with a gross income of \$65,000 per year is considered as a low income family in Harford County. That means even with two working adults, a family of four is often in need of support services. It could very well be someone like the cashier they see at the grocery store, their mail carrier or the secretary at their child's school. But as cuts in federal subsidies continue, it is increasingly challenging for HDGHA to serve the growing number of low income families who need our help, therefore, we need partners to assist in furthering our mission.

That's why we are inviting community members, churches, businesses and other organizations to take part in the HDGHA Poverty Walk on April 26. As part

of our annual open house and "friendraiser," this event is a simulation of one month in the life of a low-income individual. Visitors will assume the identity of an actual person. Then, with that person's particular set of skills and circumstances, the guest will try to navigate the maze of obstacles that exists as they seek resources to improve their situation.

Poverty Walk will be an eye-opening experience for all who participate, as they will see first-hand the many challenges that must be overcome and hard choices that must be made by our clients every day. It is our hope and goal that this event will bring more community partners on board to help make life better for a neighbor in need.

Poverty Walk takes place on Tuesday, April 26, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the HDGHA office, 101 Stansbury Court in Havre de Grace. To participate or learn about volunteer opportunities, readers can call the HDGHA office at 410-939-2097 or reserve a spot on Eventbrite.com.

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