



Community Housing Services Agency, Inc.

The Insider Update

Community Housing News

Volume 2, Number 2 February 2024

Interview with Marsha Buford, President of CHSA Development Looking forward with vision and purpose!



I am so excited about the accomplishments of CHSA Development! At heart, CHSA Development is a partner to CHSA, Inc. CHSA funds housing opportunities, and CHSA Development works to build those houses, to bring

homes into being. And the work completed by CHSA Development in the past ten years has given me a feel for what more could be done.

I first came to CHSA as the president of the West Savannah Community Organization in 2019. I was honored to inherit the vision of the late Ronald Williams, prior president of WSCO. He could see a new street, new homes and even a new gym. With the help of partners like CHSA Development, we were able to bring his vision to life. Cumming Street had 21 properties in need of renovations or replacement. Today, there is a new feel to the street – the blight is gone and the neighbors have homes that match their modest means.

CHSA Development does not just partner with the City of Savannah, although they have borne the costs for many investments such as Savannah Gardens. Recently, CHSA Development has also partnered with the Galvan Foundation and the Georgia Port Authority. We aspire to help businesses connect their best interests with the best interests of the neighborhoods of our region. This expands opportunities for everyone.

We are building new partnerships with young contractors and builders. We are building new partnerships with port-side communities such as Garden City and Port Wentworth. The expansion of our work opens more doors for people to catch that vision and work together to fulfil the vision.

Every time I think we are maxed out on our vision for what is possible, a new vision opens up!

Join us in that vision!

***Marsha Buford** is the Founder and Pastor of House of Favor Full Gospel Ministries, and President of the West Savannah Community Organization. She serves as a Chaplain for the Chatham County Sheriff's Office, as well as a Director for the Coastal Family Institute She is also the President of CHSA Development, Inc. and Board Chair for Tharros Place.*

[Donate to Support CHSA and CHSA Development](#)

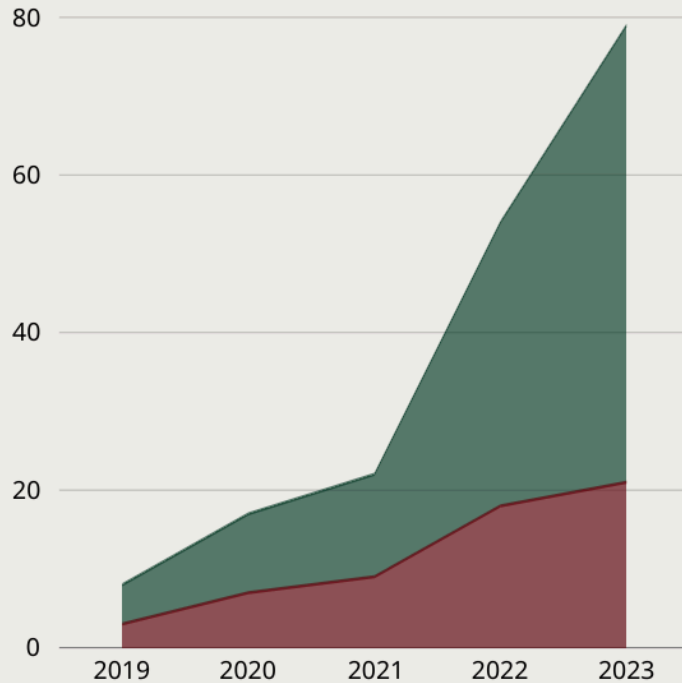
CHSA Development Creates Homes for First- Time Home Buyers

CHSA Development has been building homes for households with modest incomes for over thirty years. As CHSA has made financing available, CHSA Development has been able to create more houses-- and other developers are also. [Access the full dashboard HERE.](#)

Houses for Buyers of Modest Means

Source: CHSA Development, 2023

- Created by CHSA Development
- Created by other developers



Mrs. Naomi Brown's Neighborhood Notes

The Old Fashioned Way to Earn a Person's Trust

When I first became a City employee, I found that some people didn't trust me.

At the time, I didn't blame them. Many of the people I encountered had been taken advantage of over the course of their lives. The reasons they didn't trust were centered in experience. It wasn't a secret.

So I had to tread carefully. I would be invited to step into the yard first, and just ask for the opportunity to talk to the owner as a person. I knew I was making

progress when I was invited to step up onto the porch. And then, I would share maybe some information about a program or assistance that they might need. And to share how needed renovations could help them stay in their homes.

Finally, I might get invited inside, or even to meet their trusted relatives. And I would reward their trust with accountability. I myself personally would walk their paperwork for home repair or other programs directly to the City department, make the needed copies and return the originals to the owner. That was how I built trust.

Well, CHSA has also built trust with people. This is the secret of 35 years of success. It starts with treating people like people—listening and asking questions. And being careful with confidences. And opening up opportunities that invite neighbors to dream of their own futures. Even a future as a first-time home owner. Because they focus on building trust, CHSA staff help people to see a new vision of what is possible for them and for our city.

CHSA's mission, the nuts and bolts, is to create and fund housing opportunities for persons with modest incomes. But the nitty gritty, the real core of that, is to help people catch a vision of what might be possible for them!

This is why I serve on the board of CHSA, because they have earned my trust to bring vision and opportunities to people.

SAVE THE DATE!
CHSA 35th Anniversary and
Savannah Gardens Pinnacle Celebration
Friday, April 19, 2024 4 pm – 7 pm
Edgelawn Circle Park Savannah Gardens



[Find out about Sponsorship Opportunities](#)

YOU'RE INVITED

There's No Place Like Home



ATTAINABLE HOUSING STAKEHOLDER SUMMIT

Thursday, February 22, 2024
 Eckburg Auditorium at Savannah Tech
 8:30 am - Doors open | 3:00 pm - Event Concludes
 Registration Required



The Attainable Housing Stakeholder Summit (hosted by Housing Savannah) on Thursday, February 22 at 8:30 am is SOLD OUT.

Good news! The Summit will be livestreamed via Facebook [HERE](#).

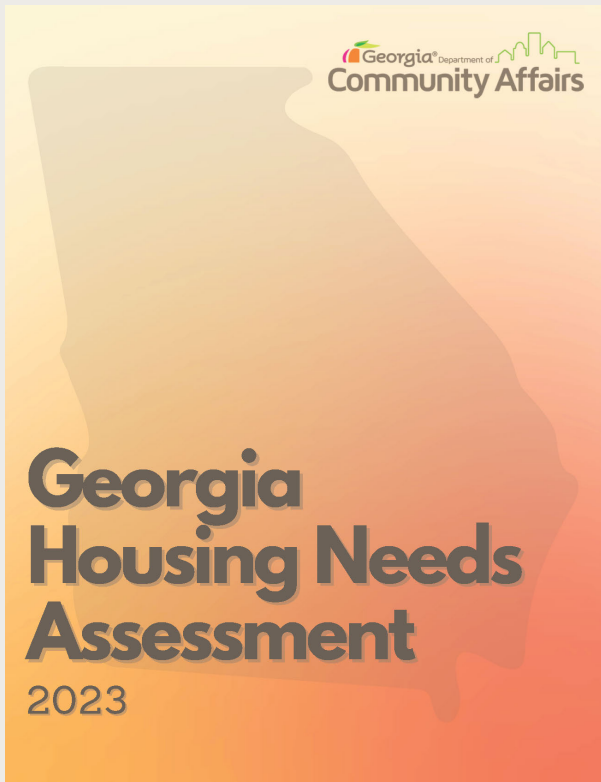
The lead speaker is Edward Erfurt, **Director of Community Action at Strong Towns**. He is a trained architect and passionate urban designer.

VIEW THE LIVESTREAM

DCA releases 2023 Housing Needs Assessment

While this report focuses on the overall state of Georgia, there are a number of helpful charts and analysis that provides clarity about the trends that have contributed to a lack of affordable housing state-wide.

[Download the Report here.](#)



Georgia Department of Community Affairs

Georgia Housing Needs Assessment

2023

Help us share good news!

**Please share our newsletter with friends and colleagues!
 Each month, we bring you updates on the projects and partners who contribute to affordable housing in Savannah!**

NEWSLETTER SIGNUP

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