

FSS NEWS

Volume III I, Issue I

January 2008

HAPPY NEW YEAR

In the new year, set your goals for as far as you can see. The key is to believe in yourself. If you change the way you think, you can change how you do things. Your potential is based on what you believe you can achieve. Determine your resolutions for the new year and keep a positive attitude. As you change, things around you will change. Set your goals and you will become energized. Reach for the stars!!

Inside this issue

Happy New Year	1
Holiday	1
Financial Skills Schedule	2
US Bank Workshop	2
Homeownership Orientation	2
FSS Participants	3
Earned Income Tax Credit	3
FREE Income Tax Services	4
Section 8 Homeowners	5
How to enroll in FSS Program	6

*Martin L. King Jr.
Holiday Observed*

On

January 21, 2008

Financial Skills Class Schedule

ECONOMIC LITERACY OUTREACH PROJECT

(Center for Women & Families—927 South Second Street)

(Presbyterian Community Center —701 South Hancock Street)

<u>Course #</u>	<u>Course</u>	Monday <u>6-8 @ CWF</u>	Wednesday <u>12-2 @ PCC</u>	Saturday <u>10-12 @ CWF</u>
ELOP #1	Financial Goal Setting	1/7/08	1/9/08	1/12/08
ELOP #2	Budgeting and Record Keeping	1/21/08	1/23/08	1/26/08
ELOP #3	Introduction to Banking and Savings Options	2/4/08	2/6/08	2/9/08
ELOP #4	Understanding Credit and Managing Debt	2/18/08	2/20/08	2/23/08
ELOP #5	Predatory Lending	3/3/08	3/5/08	3/8/08
ELOP #6	Insurance and Auto Purchase	3/17/08	3/19/08	3/22/08

REMINDER: Evening class now being held on Monday!!

****LATE ARRIVALS WILL NOT BE ADMITTED****

****You MUST sign in to get credit for your attendance****

****CHILDCARE IS NO LONGER AVAILABLE AT ANY LOCATION****

HOMEOWNERSHIP ORIENTATION

Do you want to own a home one day?

Is homeownership right for you?...Get the facts

Date: Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Time: 10am-11am OR 6pm-7pm

Location: Louisville Metro Housing Authority

801 Vine Street.

ADULTS ONLY.

****Call Beatrice Richie at 569-6463 to reserve your seat****

1 workshop credit given for attending this session!!

US Bank Second Chance Checking Workshop

Monday, January 14, 2008 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Wiggins Center, 1411 Algonquin Pkwy

Earn one workshop credit

RSVP to Dan Farrell at 569-6902 by January 9th with name, phone number and case manager's name.

FSS Participants

Congratulations to [Nina S.](#) for being motivated and goal oriented. Nina is employed full time and a full time student at Indiana Wesleyan University. Nina will graduate from FSS in May, 2008 and in June, 2008 she will graduate from the University with an Associate degree in Business Management. She will continue her studies for the Bachelors degree on a full time basis. Nina is also planning to become a homeowner. Her daughter and son are doing great in school and they are very polite and well mannered children. I am very proud of you! You have come a long way. All things are possible if you keep trying and persevere.

(Lana Zusstone)

[G. Lyons](#) graduated from FSS (November 2007). Ms. Lyons is moving forward with purchasing a home.

[R. McKnight](#) graduated from FSS (December 2007). Ms. McKnight will be working toward becoming a homeowner in the near future. No one deserves that new home more than you.

It has been an honor to work with both these hard working women.

(Geri Livers)

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) sometimes called the Earned Income Credit (EIC), is a refundable federal income tax credit for low-income working individuals and families. When the EITC exceeds the amount of taxes owed, it results in a tax refund to those who claim and qualify for the credit.

You must meet the following EITC requirements:

**Must have a valid Social Security

**You must have earned income from employment or from self-employment

**Your filing status cannot be married, filing separately

You must be a U.S. citizen or resident alien all year, or a nonresident alien married to a U.S. citizen or resident alien and filing a joint return.

**You cannot be a qualifying child of another person

**If you do not have a qualifying child, you must: be age 25 but under 65 at the end of the year. Live in the U.S. for more that half the year, and not qualify as a dependent of another person

**Cannot file Form 2555 or 2555-EZ (related to foreign earn income)

Earned income and adjusted gross income (AGI) must each be less than:

**\$37, 783 (\$39,783 married filing jointly) with two or more qualifying children;

**\$33,241 (\$35,241 married filing jointly) with one qualifying child;

**\$12,590 (\$14,590 married filing jointly) with no qualifying children.

Tax Year 2007 maximum credit:

\$4,716 with two or more qualifying children; **\$2,853** with one qualifying child; **\$428** with no qualifying children

FREE Income Tax Services

This service, called Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), is provided at several sites within the community:

Call 211 for hours & details on what to bring.

Americana Community Center	4801 Southside Drive, 40214
Canaan Community Development Center	2840 Hikes Lane, 40218
Center for Accessible Living	305 W. Broadway, 40202
Louisville Central Community Center	1300 W. Muhammad Ali, 40203
Louisville Urban League	1535 W. Broadway, 40203
Metro United Way – Southwest	10926 Dixie Hwy, 40272
New Directions – O’Connor	5809 Russet Place, 40219
New Directions - St. Williams	1147 S. 17 th St., 40210
Office of Employment and Training	600 Cedar St., 40202
Portland Promise Center	1831 Baird St, 40203
Presbyterian Community Center (PCC)	701 S. Hancock St., 40203
Wesley House Community Center	5114 Preston Hwy, 40213

The certified preparers will help see if you qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). If you qualify, you can receive up to a \$4,700 credit.

You can file electronically and get direct deposit for free. You can get your return in around 3-14 days. It’s your money and you can use it to pay off debt and build wealth!

ATTENTION SECTION 8 HOMEOWNERS

HIGH IMPORTANCE – READ CAREFULLY!

Recent concerns from Section 8 about homeowners have been:

KEEPING APPOINTMENTS and MAINTAINING FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

Within the past couple of months, several homeowners have been sent to termination of Section 8 because of these two reasons. Tolerance is very limited for clients not abiding by these obligations. Read the information below. If you have questions or need more clarification, call Nicole Lyons, 569-3776. Thank you!

KEEPING APPOINTMENTS: The Director of Section 8 mailed you a letter on January 16, 2007 regarding the issue of missed appointments; and I sent you a reminder about this concern. As a recipient of Section 8, you **MUST** attend all required appointments. Read your appointment letter carefully and make sure you mark your calendar correctly; plan on being to the appointment 15 minutes early! If you **must** miss the appointment time scheduled, you **must** call in advance in order to get rescheduled. If you **miss** the appointment **without calling in advance**, your file will automatically be sent to termination from Section 8. You will be sent a letter about that termination and if you want to attempt to save your Section 8, you **must** respond to the letter as it tells you to. If you do **not** respond to the termination letter, you will be terminated from Section 8 assistance; meaning you will be responsible for your full mortgage. A homeowner has already been terminated for missing appointments!

MAINTAIN FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT: If you are not elderly or disabled you **must** work at least 30 hours per week. Your work history is verified at all your Section 8 appointments; if the worker finds you are not employed or finds you spent time unemployed throughout the year the worker will check to see if you communicated your unemployment with Nicole Lyons. If you didn't, then your file will be sent to termination from Section 8. You will be sent a letter about that termination and if you want to attempt to save your Section 8, you **must** respond to the letter to request a **hearing** appointment. If you do **not** respond to the termination letter, you will be terminated from Section 8 assistance; meaning you will be responsible for your full mortgage. A homeowner has already been terminated for lack of full-time employment!

Keep in mind: If you are terminated from Section 8 you forfeit the match savings in your IDA. If you had to re-apply for Section 8, currently there is a 3-5 year wait to get it.

Tax season is a good time to organize your personal and financial affairs. Gather the important documents listed below and store them in a safe location.

Bank & Credit Card Records

Birth & Death Certificates

Contracts

Deeds

Health Records

Home & Property Inventory

Insurance Policies

Marriage Certificate, Divorce, Custody, Adoption Papers

Mortgage, Loan Papers

Owner's Manual, Warranties

Passport

Stock & Bond Certificates

Tax Records

Wills

Partners in Promoting Family Self-Sufficiency

Louisville Metro Department of Housing & Family Services
Division of Human Services
Operation Self-Help/Family Self-Sufficiency
810 Barret Avenue 3rd Floor
Louisville, KY 40204
Fax: (502) 574-6171 or 574-5548

Louisville Metro Housing Authority
Special Programs / Family Self-Sufficiency
801 Vine Street 3rd Floor
Louisville, KY 40204
Fax: (502) 587-1994



To Apply For the FSS Program

If you live in public housing
or scattered site,
call Dan Farrell
at 569-6902.

If you have Section 8
rental assistance,
call Amber Goddard
at 569-6933.

FSS News is published monthly for and about participants in the Family Self-Sufficiency Program.

If you wish to contribute information about yourself, your children or community resources, contact your case manager or Legina Stoner at 574-1965. The deadline for the next issue is Friday, January 18, 2008.