



To our Region III partners:

It's good to have some good news. And this week in my **Region III Recap**, you'll find that here in the Mid-Atlantic we have had our share.

I'd like to thank all of you for the great work you are doing to help our residents and communities during these trying times. This week, you shared stories of a group of **artsy teens sending "virtual hugs" to homebound seniors** by way of cheery handmade cards. We heard of efforts to earmark early **CARES Act funding to support housing those who have no homes**. We know there is a lot of work underway to help individuals and families stay safely in their homes, put food on the table and keep children learning while schools have no walls. So, thank you for your great work—please keep your stories coming.

As you know, I pride myself on getting around the region and trumpeting HUD's good work in the field. **We have been doing our best in virtually visiting with you—and now have a new way of sharing our good news. Region III has its own HUD MidAtlantic YouTube Playlist! [Check it out!](#)**

Special Funding Announcement

Drum roll, please. This week, I had the pleasure of [virtually announcing](#) some BIG news—and I mean BIG. **HUD has awarded the Philadelphia Housing Authority a \$30 million Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant to complete the implementation of its transformation plan for the Sharswood/Blumberg neighborhood.** Philadelphia joins three other communities to receive a combined \$130 million to redevelop severely distressed public housing and to revitalize surrounding neighborhoods.

This all started when the Philadelphia Housing Authority received a received a \$500,000 Choice Planning Grant in 2013 bringing stakeholders together to form a comprehensive plan for the community. This is their second Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant Award in the last few years, the other being for the North Central Philadelphia neighborhood. **CONGRATULATIONS to all who are helping to**



make Sharswood/Blumberg a neighborhood of choice! And, thanks to City of Philadelphia Mayor Kenney for the shout out!

#MidAtlanticMeetup

As we continue to serve during this challenging time, **we created #MidAtlanticMeetup to regularly connect with our local partners** across the region to see how things are going for them. Our latest [virtual meeting](#) was with our partners from southern West Virginia. Executive Director Pauline Sturgill of the Housing Authority of the City of Williamson and Development




Joe DeFelice, HUD Regional Administrator
Julie Alston, HUD West Virginia Field Office Director
Pauline Sturgill, Williamson Housing Authority, City of Williamson
Nikki Thomas, Golden Girl Group Home, Town of Ceredo

Director Nikki Thomas of the Golden Girl Group Home in the small town of Ceredo joined me to share how they are handling the challenges of COVID-19. HUD West Virginia Field Office Director Julie Alston joined us for the follow-up to our in-person meeting last year.

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HUD's Region III remains committed to helping all those who face housing discrimination because of how they look, where they come from, their sex, religion, family status or disability, as well as those being threatened with eviction because they are unaware of their fair housing rights.



Joe DeFelice
Regional Administrator
@HUDMidAtlantic

April is Fair Housing Month

No one should have to endure sexual harassment and degrading treatment in order to keep a roof over his or her head. "Call HUD, Because Sexual Harassment in Housing is Illegal" is the Fair Housing Month 2020 theme, and the goal is to increase efforts to better educate the public on what

constitutes sexual harassment and what to do/who to contact if they experience it. I'd be remiss if I didn't do a special shout out to our Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Regional Director Melody Taylor and her team for the great work they do every day to champion fair housing. **Last year in our region, HUD received more than 2,000 complaints alleging some form of discrimination based on one of the Fair Housing Act's seven protected classes: race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status and disability.** I hope you will take a few minutes to read my **Commentary: Prevent harassment: Know your fair housing rights** that appeared in the [Delaware State News](#). Fair housing is important every day.

As we move forward together, I hope you will continue to follow my travels and our outreach on Twitter [@JoeDeFeliceHUD](#) and [@HUDMidAtlantic](#), on our Facebook [@HUDMidAtlantic](#) and now, on our new [HUD MidAtlantic Region \(Region III\) YouTube Playlist!](#)

Please know that your work you are doing in response to COVID-19 is not going unnoticed. **I look forward to the time when we can be together again, and I can thank each one of you personally. We will get through this difficult time together.**

Stay safe, stay sane and be well.



Joe DeFelice, Region III Regional Administrator
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
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Region III Recap & HUDLines, HUD's Region III e-News Brief

We welcome your feedback and invite you to share your news with Lisa A. Wolfe at lisa.a.wolfe@hud.gov. If you know anyone who would like to receive our new Region III Recap or our quarterly HUDLines, please feel free to share. We safeguard and do not rent, sell or permit the use of our lists. To subscribe, visit [HUDLines](#). You may also [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.

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