RUN Visits DC  People and Places Conference, NLIHC

By Constance Slider Pierre

In March I had the pleasure of attending two national conferences in Washington DC on behalf of RUN. The National Low Income Housing Conference and the People and Places Conference where many of this country’s leading thought leaders, activist and researchers gathered to advance an agenda that would put our off kilter economy back in balance, restore basic living standards and enable everyone to reach their fullest potential. During this visit RUN represented on Capitol Hill joining allies as we lobbied for funding for a national trust fund and other key enhancements for those of us working to provide for our family. While in DC I ran into some allies from Community Housing Partnership in San Francisco. Lead organizer James Tracy and resident leader Donnell Fuller were honored guest at the NLIHC for their successful work on a recent campaign. It was an great experience to be able to spend time with both of these powerful leaders, strengthen our connection and celebrate a big victory!

Regional Transition Update

Regional transition teams in San Diego, Los Angeles, Fresno/Central Valley, San Francisco/Bay Area and Sacramento are working to develop a regional structure and governance documents. These documents will help guide the RUN regions through processes of defining the roles and scope as well as organize the election for regional steering committees. This team will present their recommendations to the regional members for consideration and adoption at the regional RUN meetings scheduled for May/June.

Sacramento Regional Mtg
Monday, June 8th

Los Angeles Regional Mtg
Thursday, June 25th

Fresno/San Diego
TBD

SF/ Bay Area
Wednesday, June 17th
Lobby Day In Sacramento

On April 27th a group of 80 RUN leaders will join with housing advocates from throughout the state to participate in Housing California's lobby day. Leaders will spend the morning participating in training and education workshops that will increase their ability to be more effective advocates and deepen their knowledge of issues facing families living on the brink. The afternoon will be spent in meetings with legislators where leaders will share their stories and increase the awareness of decision makers through their advocacy.

If you can’t travel to Sacramento to join our on the ground efforts this year, there are two ways you can get involved and make a difference!

See the “Join the Lobby Day Ground Efforts” article.

Community Housing Partnership Wins Award

Each year NLIHC recognizes exceptional organizing by local residents through its Resident Organizing Award. This year’s Resident Organizing award went to Community Housing Partnership (CHP) of San Francisco, CA for successful organizing efforts in support of the Fair Chance Ordinance, a new law preventing discrimination against ex-offenders on applications for employment or affordable housing. CHP’s campaign efforts involved three staff organizers working with and on behalf of more than 50 formerly incarcerated residents of CHP properties. CHP’s Community Organizing and Resident Engagement (CORE) Program mobilizes their 1,300 low income tenants on policies that affect low income people throughout San Francisco.

RUN joins NLIHC in congratulating the staff and residents of CHP for their successful campaign!

RUN In The News

Looks like Resident’s United Network has been getting some attention. In case you didn’t see it, PolicyLink, a progressive policy think tank, included a write-up on RUN in their quarterly journal. Read more by following this link: http://www.policylink.org/focus-areas/california-policy-advocacy/california-quarterly-spring-2015
Each spring, Housing California’s Annual Conference brings together advocates, builders, lenders, consumers, lawmakers, and other leaders in the affordable home and homelessness community. With more than 75 workshops and pre-conference institutes, over 50 exhibitors, and attendance of over 1,100, the conference has become the nation’s largest statewide conference of its kind.

What if every man, women, and child in California had access to a clean safe affordable place to call home? How would that basic provision increase access to healthcare, education and employment and allow people to reach their full potential?

Do you have a personal story of how affordable housing has made a difference in your life? I invite you to email me at: cpierre4RUN@gmail.com and share your story. We would like to lift up our stories of success and transformation as we continue the work towards ensuring a safe affordable home for all.

In Solidarity,
Constance Slider Pierre
RUN Statewide Coordinator