

Community Connections Announces Opportunity for Three New Volunteers

Community Connections, the Housing Division of Pathfinder Services, Inc., is now accepting applications for three new volunteer positions targeting to begin in July. The three new positions are for VISTA volunteers through AmeriCorps, a Corporation for National & Community Service.

Job responsibilities for the VISTA volunteers include working closely with the staff of Community Connections and the counties of Allen, Huntington and Wabash. VISTA volunteers will create support systems that build the capacity of foreclosure prevention, financial fitness and asset building, and neighborhood stabilization programs to impact low- to moderate-income households. Tasks of the volunteers will include: conducting neighborhood surveys, developing workshop materials, recruiting resident volunteers, fund-raising and much more.

AmeriCorps VISTA provides the following benefits to its member volunteers: Child Care allowance if appropriate, an Education Award to reduce tuition or End of Service Stipend, Health Insurance Coverage, Living Allowance, Relocation Allowance, and Training. Helpful skills include education or experience in Social Work, Counseling, Architectural Planning, Business/Entrepreneur, Communications, Community Organization, Public Speaking, and knowledge of local government.

“The VISTA volunteer program is an outstanding partnership between Pathfinder Services, Inc., AmeriCorps, and NeighborWorks America,” states Jan Baumgartner, Director of Community Connections. “It is a perfect opportunity for individuals to add one year of community service to their resume. Our three volunteers will work hands-on in Foreclosure Prevention and Neighborhood Development through our Fort Wayne office, and in developing our Voluntary Free Income Tax Preparation program for the 2010 tax year,” concluded Baumgartner.

For more information on becoming a VISTA volunteer at Community Connections please contact Natalie Fisher at (260) 356-0521 or at nfisher@pathfinderservices.org. Community Connections can be found on the web at www.cchomes.org.

Community Connections, the Housing Division of Pathfinder Services, Inc. is a part of a national program in which VISTA members will be placed at community-based organizations around the country. Working together through NeighborWorks America, more than 150 VISTAs will build on a 30-year track record of working with communities to spur reinvestment and bring program expertise, research, and infrastructure support to maximize and replicate successful strategies. The VISTAs will generally build the capacity of NeighborWorks organizations (NWOs) to reduce the number of foreclosures, stabilize communities affected by foreclosures, and protect and build personal and community assets in low-and moderate-income communities.

Community Connections is the Housing Division of Pathfinder Services Inc., a not for profit Human Services organization with offices in Huntington, Wabash, and Plymouth. Community Connections began in 1997 and has helped over 1,200 families fulfill the dream of homeownership and has provided over \$8 million in down payment assistance to those families.