BG Housing Authority/WKU Partnerships

VFTH

4/25/13

The Housing Authority of Bowling Green offers a wide variety of services.

In this week’s View from the Hill, Amy Bingham shows us how key partnerships with WKU make many of those services possible.

Whether it’s helping with homework, planting a garden or even starting a business, there’s no shortage of programs offered by the Housing Authority of Bowling Green. An agency taking full advantage of being located near Western Kentucky University.

Abraham Williams \ Exec. Dir., Housing Authority of BG

Chris Bixler \ WKU Small Business Dev. Center

Alison Coates \ Owner, Just Kid’n Party and Play Place

Terry Vanderpool \ Greenhouse Coordinator

Sandhya Bhoyar \ Health Promotion Specialist

(Williams) “Western Kentucky University and the Housing Authority can be a model to see how we collaborate together.”

 “Hitting the Target” is just one example of many collaborations with WKU. Kids getting one on one help with homework while WKU education students get professional development opportunities.

Another partnership involves the resources provided by WKU’s Small Business Development Center.

(Bixler) “Most people don’t know where to begin starting a business so that’s what our purpose is to help them get on the right track.”

That was the case for Alison Coates and her husband who decided to open a kid’s play place last year.

(Coates) “She helped us with the business plan, the five year projection that we had to put on paper. She hooked us up with a lot of different loan people. We ended up getting a small business loan because of the person she referred us to.”

(nat – what is this? )

(Vanderpool) “We are the first Housing Authority in the United States to have a green house.”

Thanks to a grant from the WKU Alive Center, community gardens are being promoted throughout the Housing Authority of Bowling Green.

(Sandhya) “A lot of students don’t know where vegetables come from. They say Kroger or Walmart so it’s a fun process to make them know how to grow plants.”

By bringing WKU programs down from the hill, Williams says it will make their future trip up the hill that much smoother for students.”

 “We have a golden opportunity here with a lot of our kids who need to get to Western but just don’t know the way up there.”

Williams is looking forward to even more partnerships with WKU in the future. By the way, the Housing Authority’s Greenhouse is open to the public Monday through Friday from eight to 3:30.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

###