

THE CHALLENGE OF KEEPING GOOD, AFFORDABLE HOMES

How do you make a house a home? The Boys, Girls, Adults Community Development Center discovered the answer—make it safe, comfortable and pleasant— and thus supplied the answer to one of the Delta’s gravest social and economic problems, the low level of ownership or rental of good homes.

BGACDC began housing development for the first time in 1992 when it built the 39 apartments of BGACDC Manor at Marvell. Four years later, it developed the first three Home Investment Partnership homes, which it sold to low-income families. Next, to stabilize a 12-block neighborhood, it tore down dilapidated units, bought rent houses and redeveloped them for first-time homeowners.



But safe and affordable housing is not a one-time struggle. Houses deteriorate and as people retire many find that they cannot afford the roofs, electrical work, plumbing and floor repairs that are needed to keep their homes healthy and comfortable. It is an endless challenge for the community to provide good housing stock for everyone.



“Homeownership is an investment,” said Beatrice Shelby, executive director of BGACDC. “Sometimes it is difficult for homeowners to reinvest in their homes and keep them in good repair. We see it as a way to create wealth by reinvesting in housing and as a way to create a healthy living environment for children and families. I hope you will continue to support BGACDC so we can strive for a community with safe, decent and affordable housing for everyone. Everyone.”