



Faces of MHAGH: Liz Velázquez

Many of you may know **Liz Velázquez** as one of the friendly faces ready to assist you at our Summit Street office. She is the Leasing Supervisor for MHAGH, but is also a former tenant of Brick Hollow – a property MHAGH manages – and a graduate of Ready-to-Rent (R2R).

Liz has a great smile, and she loves to see the smile on residents' faces. She says, **"It feels really good to help people find a stable home for their family. It fills my heart."** She loves her job, and her favorite part is when MHAGH develops new properties for her to lease-up. She believes affordable housing is a great way to develop a sense of community, as it provides stability for families long-term, which allows relationships to grow.

When Liz first applied for an MHAGH apartment in 2009, she was facing credit issues that jeopardized her ability to qualify for an apartment. However, after completing MHAGH's R2R program, Liz gained tools to help her understand credit and money management. After that, she moved to her native Puerto Rico, and when she returned to Connecticut in 2012, she secured an apartment with MHAGH and



coincidentally was placed with MHAGH as an office assistant through a temp agency. She was permanently hired in 2013. The affordable rent at Brick Hollow gave her family stability, which freed Liz to enjoy other activities – she took advantage of the gym at Pope Park, and enjoyed almost daily bike rides with her children while she was a resident.

Today, the most challenging part of Liz's job is getting residents engaged – she wants them to know that MHAGH is not just about rent: **"With us, if you need food, we're there for you – we have a food pantry. If you need help to manage your money, there's classes for that."** She hopes that residents take advantage of the different ways MHAGH offers assistance to its tenants.

Liz balances her career with family life. She is married with two children, ages 6 and 13. Among other activities, they enjoy playing video games as a family. When asked how she does it all, she says "I just do!" Her favorite quote for both family and work is **"Teamwork makes dreams work!"** MHAGH is glad she is on our team!

Turkeys! Turkeys! Turkeys!

It is TURKEY TIME again!

Turkeys are first come, first serve – Reserve Today!

MHAGH has a **limited number** of Thanksgiving turkeys to donate to households. Please follow the instructions for mailing or faxing the **enclosed Turkey Request Form by Wednesday, November 1st**. Reserve your turkey today! Turkeys are first come, first serve and are for residents only. While supplies last. Residents will be notified of pick-up time and location after recipients have been selected.

Mail or fax the enclosed form as soon as possible!

Announcement: Essay Contest

Enter our essay contest for a chance to win a \$500 college scholarship award!

To enter: Send in an essay describing how a college scholarship would have a positive impact on your life and improve your ability to strengthen your community. **The deadline for submission is Friday, November 17th.** The scholarship will be paid directly to the attending college. Submit your essay to:

Deborah Broaden, 95 Niles Street, Hartford, CT 06105
EMAIL: dbroaden@mutualhousing.org | DIRECT: (860) 206-5259



Caras de MHAGH: Liz Velázquez

Muchos de ustedes pueden conocer a **Liz Velázquez** como una de las caras amistosas listas para asistirles en nuestra oficina de Summit Street. Ella es la Supervisora de Arrendamiento para MHAGH, pero también es un antigua inquilina de Brick Hollow, una propiedad de MHAGH, y graduada del Programa Listos-Para-Rentar (R2R).

Liz tiene una gran sonrisa, y le encanta ver la sonrisa en los rostros de los residentes. Ella dice, **"Se siente muy bien ayudar a la gente a encontrar un hogar estable para su familia. Me llena mi corazón."** Ella ama su trabajo, y su parte favorita es cuando MHAGH desarrolla nuevas propiedades para su arrendamiento. Ella cree que la vivienda accesible es una gran manera de desarrollar un sentido de comunidad, ya que proporciona estabilidad para las familias a largo plazo, lo que permite que las relaciones crezcan.

Cuando Liz solicitó por primera vez un apartamento MHAGH en 2009, se enfrentaba a problemas de crédito que ponían en peligro su capacidad para calificar para un apartamento. Sin embargo, después de completar el programa R2R de MHAGH, Liz ganó herramientas para ayudarla a entender el crédito y como administrar el dinero. Después de eso, se mudó a su natal Puerto Rico, y cuando regresó a Connecticut en 2012, se aseguró un apartamento con MHAGH y coincidentemente fue colocado con MHAGH como un



asistente de oficina a través de una agencia temporal. Ella fue contratada permanentemente en 2013. El alquiler accesible en Brick Hollow le dio a su familia estabilidad, lo que liberó a Liz para disfrutar de otras actividades - se aprovechó del gimnasio en Pope Park, y disfrutaba de paseos en bicicleta casi todos los días con sus hijos mientras ella era un residente.

Hoy, la parte más difícil del trabajo de Liz es conseguir que los residentes se comprometan - quiere que sepan que MHAGH no es sólo alquiler: **"Con nosotros, si necesitas comida, estamos a tu disposición - tenemos una despensa de alimentos. Si necesita ayuda para administrar su dinero, hay clases para eso."** Ella espera que los residentes aprovechen las diferentes formas en que MHAGH ofrece asistencia a sus inquilinos.

Liz equilibra su carrera con la vida familiar. Está casada y tiene dos hijos, de 6 y 13 años. Entre otras actividades, disfrutan jugando videojuegos en familia. Cuando le preguntan cómo lo hace todo, ella dice "¡sólo lo hago!"

Su cita favorita tanto para la familia como para el trabajo es **"¡El trabajo en equipo hace que los sueños se hagan realidad!"** ¡MHAGH se alegra de estar en nuestro equipo!

Pavos! Pavos! Pavos!

¡Es TIEMPO de PAVOS otra vez!

Pavos serán servidos según orden de llegada. - Reserva hoy!

MHAGH tiene un **número limitado** de pavos de Thanksgiving para donar a los hogares. Siga las instrucciones para enviar por correo o por fax **el formulario de solicitud de pavos adjuntado antes del miércoles 1 de noviembre**. Reserva tu pavo hoy! Los pavos se entregarán en el orden en que se reciba la solicitud y son para los residentes solamente. Mientras duren las reservas. Los residentes serán notificados de la hora y lugar de recogida después de haber seleccionado a los receptores.

Envíe por correo o fax el formulario adjunto lo antes posible!

El Anuncio: Concurso de Ensayo

Participa en nuestro concurso de ensayo para tener la oportunidad de ganar \$500 premio beca de la Universidad!

Para Participar: Enviar en un ensayo que describe cómo una beca de la universidad tendrá un impacto positivo en su vida y mejorar su capacidad para fortalecer su comunidad. **La fecha límite de presentación es el viernes 17 de noviembre.** La beca será pagada directamente al colegio asistente. Envíe su ensayo a:

Deborah Broaden, 95 Niles Street, Hartford, CT 06105
EMAIL: dbroaden@mutualhousing.org | DIRECT: (860) 206-5259

Mutual Housing Association of Greater Hartford, Inc.



95 Niles Street, Hartford, CT 06105



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A Note to Our Residents from Catherine Mackinnon, Executive Director

Autumn has arrived! Along with the leaves changing that are beautiful to witness here in New England, you might notice we have also made changes to our Resident Newsletter! We have added new features, including 'Faces of MHAGH,' where we will highlight a staff or a resident story each month. Our first story is about an employee who had the unique experience of also being a past resident. We will also include this "A Note to Our Residents" section to keep you informed of portfolio updates and MHAGH news. We are working on keeping our website and Facebook page updated with activities, information, and job opportunities. Please follow us on social media! If there is anything you would like to see featured in the new resident newsletter, please contact Samantha at sjhills@mutualhousing.org or 860.206.5261. Have a happy and healthy autumn!

Sincerely,

Educational Services & Resident Resources

Food Pantries

MHAGH, through a partnership with FoodShare, has three pantry locations available to all MHAGH residents. You can stop by to shop for a selection of canned goods, fresh produce, and frozen meats.

- ◆ Union Street, Manchester – Every 3rd Thursday, 5-7 pm
- ◆ Webster Street, Hartford – Every 3rd Wednesday, 5-7 pm
- ◆ MHAGH on Niles Street – Call to make an appointment

Home Buyer Education

Thinking about buying your first home?

Join us for a one-day educational seminar. This course provides in-depth instruction on the steps towards homeownership. Upcoming 2017 dates:

- ◆ Saturday, October 28
- ◆ Saturday, November 18
- ◆ Saturday, December 9

Sponsored by CT Housing Finance Authority & MHAGH.

Financial Counseling

FREE and confidential counseling services are now available to MHAGH residents. Day and evening appointments available.

- ◆ Budgeting and In-Depth Credit Counseling
- ◆ One-on-One Counseling
- ◆ Achieve and Maintain Financial Stability

Ready to Rent

This program is designed to help you **BUILD** your credit, **REPAIR** past rental history, and **LEARN** new budgeting skills. The course is six sessions:

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| ◆ October 25 | ◆ November 29 |
| ◆ November 1 | ◆ December 6 |
| ◆ November 15 | ◆ December 13 |

Servicios Educativos & Recursos Residentes

Despensas de Comida

MHAGH, a través de una asociación con FoodShare, tiene tres despensas de alimentos disponibles para todos los residentes de MHAGH. Ustedes pueden detenerse a comprar una selección de productos enlatados, productos frescos, y carne congelada.

- ◆ Union Street, Manchester – Cada 3ro jueves, 5-7 pm
- ◆ Webster Street, Hartford – Cada 3ro miércoles, 5-7 pm
- ◆ MHAGH en Niles Street – Llamar para hacer una cita

Educación de los Compradores Caseros

Pensado en comprar su primera casa?

Únase a nosotros para un seminario de un día. Este curso provee instrucciones a profundidad sobre los pasos hacia compra de vivienda. Próximas clases para 2017:

- ◆ Sabado 28 de octubre
- ◆ Sabado 18 de noviembre
- ◆ Sabado 6 de diciembre

Auspiciado por CT Housing Finance Authority y MHAGH.

Consejería Financiera

Los servicios de consejería gratuitos y confidenciales están ahora disponibles para todos los residentes de MHAGH. Citas de día y de noche disponibles.

- ◆ Asesoramiento Presupuestario
- ◆ Consejería de Crédito Uno-a-Uno
- ◆ Lograr y Mantener la Estabilidad Financiera

Listo para Aquilar

Este programa está diseñado para ayudarle a **CONSTRUIR** su crédito, **REPARAR** el historial de alquiler pasado, y **APRENDER** nuevas habilidades de presupuesto. Seis sesiones:

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| ◆ 25 octubre | ◆ 29 noviembre |
| ◆ 1 noviembre | ◆ 6 diciembre |
| ◆ 15 noviembre | ◆ 13 diciembre |

For all questions or to register for programs contact **DEBORAH BROADEN**,
Program Manager of Educational Services and Resources
EMAIL: dbroaden@mutualhousing.org | DIRECT: (860) 206-5259

Para preguntas o para registrarse, comuníquese con **DEBORAH BROADEN**,
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