New River Community Action Homeless and Housing Program Staff Recognized
May 13, 2015
For Immediate Release

New River Community Action (NRCA) is pleased to announce the Homeless and Housing Programs (HHP) Prevention Counselor, Jeanne Curtis, and the HHP Rapid Rehousing Counselor, Gabe Martin, were recognized by the Virginia Association of Housing Counselors (VAHC) at the VAHC annual spring conference in Hampton on May 5. Curtis accepted the Housing Specialist of the Year award and Martin accepted the Rising Star of the Year award.

The VAHC is a group of housing counselors or those in related fields, who have joined together for the purpose of strengthening housing counseling as a profession and assuring that all low and moderate income families and individuals are offered the opportunity to live in safe, decent and affordable housing. Each year they recognize individuals and agencies throughout the state of Virginia that have demonstrated their strong commitment to improving the lives of families and the well-being of communities.

Curtis was recognized for her work in expanding the Housing Counseling program, providing assistance to HHP during a reorganization and transition, piloting a new service model in Pulaski County, and then transitioning to the Prevention program. Her dedication to clients and to providing quality services never wavered during the transition.

Martin was recognized for his work assisting the literally homeless in finding permanent shelter, frequently meeting with clients “where they’re at,” which has included tents by the river and sheds in the woods, and then offering counseling services to them to keep them stable in their housing situation.

In his first six months on the job, Martin has established himself as a trustworthy and hard worker, which allowed him to engage clients who had previously rejected services.

“I am proud of the work Jeanne and Gabe have done through NRCA’s Homeless and Housing Programs,” says Lisa Yost, HHP Coordinator. “In their time with the program they have identified themselves as hard workers, willing to go above and beyond to help their clients stabilize in housing.”

Through its Homeless and Housing Programs, NRCA offers temporary financial assistance for individuals who meet program guidelines to keep or obtain housing. Additionally, the non-profit organization’s Certified Housing Counselors provide services such as pre-purchase counseling, mortgage and rental guidance to help individuals create a road map back to stable housing.

New River Community Action also offers renter education workshops for tenants and landlords. Topics include leases, housing discrimination, renter/landlord rights and responsibilities, energy savings tips, and financial management tips.

During the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, the NRCA Homeless and Housing Programs served 139 households with assistance totaling $202,332. These services are funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Virginia Housing Development Authority, Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, the Towns of Christiansburg and Blacksburg, the City of Radford, United Way of Montgomery, Radford, Floyd and United Way of Pulaski, and Giles United Fund.

Donors may send tax-deductible contributions to New River Community Action, 1093 East Main Street, Radford, VA 24141. Donors should make checks payable to NRCA and note HHP in the memo section.

For more information on services provided by NRCA’s Homeless and Housing Programs, please contact Lisa Yost, Coordinator, at 540-633-5133 ext. 440 or lyost@nrcaa.org.