Keep Calm and Carry On was the title of three motivational campaign posters that were produced in 1939 by the British Ministry of Information in the wake of World War II. The posters conveyed a message from King George to all British citizens that strengthened public morale and served as a rallying cry that brought out the best in the nation. These three words were an automatic voice of reason that suggested that citizens act responsibly, keep steady wartime resolution, and rely on their inner strength to endure the war.

A few years ago, one of the original posters was found in a Northumbrian town in England. Suddenly the call to “Keep Calm and Carry On” had new life. Since then the message of resilience has resonated with people everywhere to become one of the most recognizable phrases around the world.

During 2012 and 2013, the Housing Authority faced a major crisis in federal funding subsidizes that forced the agency to restructure its organization. Assisting that rational judgment and sound heads were the most important elements for success, the FAHA leadership firmly embraced the “Keep Calm and Carry On” theme as they navigated through an unprecedented financial and operational recession.

In true FAHA fashion, agency staff calmly continued to press on with the mission of providing quality affordable housing and supportive services to Fort Worth’s citizens. By the agency served 17,459 individuals in its housing programs and assisted 5,249 individuals with supportive services.

As FAHA celebrates 75 years of providing quality affordable and accessible housing, it is every reason to believe that this strong history of progress will continue so long as the agency’s leaders, staff, and partners recognize the wisdom and values of the famous adage “KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON.”

To the eye that the facts and philosophy of Public Housing has changed since FAHA was founded in 1938, it is a remarkable. The 168 unit housing units that marked the agency’s first properties have been replaced by property management systems, housing options and social services that never could have been imagined at that time.

Throughout its 75 years, the agency’s most consistent trait has been its ability to change to meet evolving customer needs, and economic and social conditions. That ability is a tribute to the individuals who have provided leadership, staff who provided customers with the essential services that created daily programs, and the public and private partnerships that have provided input and inspiration to spur the agency to give its best.

As FAHA looks toward the future, we are confident that the best is still ahead of us. We also are proud that we will be able to serve many more deserving citizens as we move toward our mission to create safer, higher quality and more affordable housing for the citizens of Fort Worth.

Thank you to all of our staff, partners and friends who have been part of FAHA’s history. You are the reason for our future.

2013 FAHA Leadership and Staff

Keep Calm and Look to the Future
As President and CEO for 23 of FWHA's 75 years, I have been privileged to work with some of the best professionals in the public housing industry. I also have been able to witness the best parts of our profession: the creation of meaningful housing programs; building and rehabilitation of quality affordable housing communities that are self-sustaining; and the development of resident empowerment programs that help to promote economic independence.

Each new program and step has brought its own challenge and reward. The planning and tasks involved in implementing new endeavors and revamping existing ones have been immense. So have been the rewards of projects well done, both for the citizens we serve and the staff members who work hard to make them happen.

FWHA's ability to make the most of each of these situations is one of the most amazing aspects of the agency's 75 years. I like to think of it as our ability to progress and evolve.

From its inception as a small department in 1938, FWHA has evolved into a dynamic agency serving more than 17,000 citizens through a variety of housing and self-enhancement programs. Whatever their form, all of FWHA's activities lead to providing quality, affordable and accessible housing for the citizens of Fort Worth and assisting them with becoming self-sufficient.

There is no doubt that FWHA has entered a new era. As the agency moves toward a new professional environment, it will do so with confidence and a strong history to 'Keep Calm and Carry On' in a spirit of excellence.

Whoever said that change is inevitable must have been thinking in part of the public housing sector. The scope of the changes that public housing leaders are facing now, as well as in the future, is truly unprecedented for this industry. The federal government’s Sequestration policy has spawned a series of federal, state and local funding and operational adjustments that ultimately are expected to impact the entire landscape of public housing.

What does this mean for the Fort Worth Housing Authority and similar organizations throughout the nation? It means a new way of thinking and a shift in the way that operations are managed and personnel are organized. Agency leaders, staff and community partners must find ways to use fewer resources to meet growing needs so that citizens can continue to achieve the American Dream by living quality lives, securing meaningful work, obtaining marketable skills and enjoying homeownership.

FWHA remains committed to assisting the citizens of Fort Worth to secure quality, affordable and accessible housing. Beyond that, we are also committed to helping our clients become successful and self-sufficient citizens who proactively contribute to their personal and the community’s success.

How we achieve this goal together will be a test of our resourcefulness and determination. It will require everyone to work together to maximize resources and expertise; share ideas; and mutually reinforce our collective will to succeed.

I am proud to acknowledge that in view of navigating such major organizational changes, FWHA leaders, staff and partners have remained committed to the mission of providing quality, affordable housing to the citizens of Fort Worth. We all must “Keep Calm and Carry On” as FWHA evolves to meet the future.

Patsy Lemons 1936 - 2013

As a FWHA resident, community leader and FWHA Commissioner, Patsy Lemons had been a part of our family for 26 years (1988-2013). Ms. Lemons’s wit, wisdom and sound advice will be greatly missed by all who knew her and by everyone at FWHA.
KEEP CALM AND CHANGE WITH THE TIMES

Homer L. Hunter
FWHA Executive Director, 1938

"Decent housing as a public necessity must be realized and the combined efforts of all people must be put to the task of finding means of supplying safe and sanitary dwellings for every family in the City."
FWHA has evolved with the times to accommodate changes in federal policies and local economics. The agency has grown from an owned-and-operated property model to an asset management-based business model that allows residents greater housing choices. Upon eligibility, program participants can now choose to live in FWHA-owned properties; use vouchers to live in mixed-use, mixed-income communities; or work to become homeowners. Along the way, the agency has created a legacy of flexibility that helps it to embrace the future with a positive attitude that is embodied by the phrase “Keep Calm and Carry On.”

Since its inception in 1938, the agency has been challenged to adapt to changing times and situations.

FWHA’s ability to grow to match changing needs while maintaining critical support services has been a heritage that present-day leaders and staff can rely on as they cope with some of the most substantial changes the agency has faced.

Not since the economic depression of the mid-1980s, has the public housing sector seen the degree of federal budget cuts that 2013 Sequestration has created. Yet the demand and need for affordable housing has continued to grow. As the agency has done in each era, FWHA leadership and staff will follow a steady path to create reasonable solutions to these challenges and to the ones that it has yet to see.
KEEP CALM
AND PROMOTE SELF-SUFFICIENCY

MOVING TOWARD INDEPENDENCE

FWHA has been a constant force of change because the agency has stayed true to its vision and flexible in its service. Initially, the Housing Authority focused on replacing ramshackle slums with decent public housing. As the times have changed, it has evolved from being merely a provider of shelter to today’s focus: promoting family self-sufficiency and serving clients’ specialized needs.

An important part of this movement involves linking with strategic partners. FWHA developed a comprehensive housing plan that became a framework for FWHA’s current approach of helping clients achieve economic independence.

As in every major transitional period in the agency’s history, leadership and staff are forging ahead to stay calm in the face of change and carry on to ensure that the mission is and always will be met.

Today, FWHA continues to pursue the goals of providing quality, affordable housing for low-income residents and providing training in the professional and personal skills that are needed to become self-sufficient. Though federal funding changes may make this situation more intricate, FWHA is determined to steadily maximize its resources to create solutions for a new round of challenges.
Michael Hanratty  
FWHA Executive Director, 1989

"Under the leadership of visionary volunteers who comprised the Board of Commissioners, the Authority cast off its “Fortress Public Housing” mentality, raised its public profile and began to integrate itself into the larger Fort Worth Community. Collaborations with the City, United Way, social service providers, churches, and businesses were undertaken as staff took more active roles in the community."

Through the Family Investment Center (FIC) and Family Self-Sufficiency programs, FWHA and its partners provide the training, services, education and personal attention that clients need to succeed.

These programs and services include but are not limited to:

- Adult/Remedial Education
- Senior/Disabled Services
- Youth Education Programs
- Tarrant County College (TCC)
- Vocational and Educational Programs
- Homeownership

Fort Worth Public Library
Certified Nurse Aide Training Program and Testing Center
Small Business Development
Employment Services
Childcare
Transportation
KEEP CALM AND IMPACT LIVES
We are not merely providing quality affordable and accessible housing, but acting in a broader scope so that program participants are able to access important supportive services that are necessary to succeed.

Barbara Holston
FWHA President and CEO

CHANGING THE FACE OF PUBLIC HOUSING

ONE FACE AT A TIME

FWHA contributes to the City’s prosperity by staying true to its core mission: providing residents with quality, affordable and accessible housing. As situations have changed, the agency’s mission has expanded to include social and education services, financial support and vocational training needed to become self-sufficient. But its core approach has always remained the same: Keep Calm and Carry On.

FWHA understands that the ultimate success of its programs and initiatives lies in the impact they have on individuals, their families and future generations. The impact of the Housing Authority’s actions is renewed every day. Whether that means that children at a day-care center learn something new; senior citizens’ spirits rise when they enjoy good company and a warm meal; or a worker gets the job training and skills needed to take the next step toward independence, the bottom line is that FWHA helps people to help themselves to better housing and a better quality of life.
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<th>Liabilities</th>
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**KEEP CALM AND KEEP AN EYE ON THE NUMBERS**
“Keep Calm and Carry On” was the title of a series of motivational campaign posters that was produced in 1939 by the British Ministry of Information in the run-up to World War II. The posters conveyed a message from King George to all British citizens that strengthened public morale and served as a rallying cry that brought out the best in the nation. These few words were an automatic voice of reason that suggested that citizens act calmly and keep steady warfare material and rely on their inner strength to endure the war.

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During 2012 and 2013, the Housing Authority faced a major challenge in federal funding专属 that forced the agency to restructure its organization. Maintaining that rational judgment and lead hands were the most important elements for success, PWHA leaders firmly embraced the “Keep Calm and Carry On” theme as they navigated through an unprecedented financial and operational transition.

In true PWHA fashion, agency staff sadly continued to press on with the mission of providing quality affordable housing and supportive services to Fort Worth’s citizens. In all, the agency served 17,499 individuals in its housing programs and assisted 4,249 individuals in community services.

As PWHA celebrates 75 years of providing quality, affordable and accessible housing, there is every reason to believe that this strong history of progress will continue as long as the agency’s leaders, staff and partners recognize the wisdom and value of the timeless advice to “KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON.”

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The age of the face and philosophy of Public Housing has changed since PWHA was founded in 1938 in circumstances. The 75th year presents PWHA with an opportunity to reflect on the agency’s past, present, and future. Over the course of its 75-year history, PWHA’s mission of providing quality affordable housing to those who qualify has remained unchanged. The agency was founded with the goal of improving the quality of life for its residents and continues to do so today.

PWHA is dedicated to providing affordable housing options to low-income families, seniors, and individuals with special needs. The agency’s work is vital to the success of Fort Worth’s communities.

The agency’s mission is to provide high-quality, affordable housing that allows its residents to live better lives. PWHA works to create safe, stable, and healthy environments for its residents.

PWHA is committed to fostering a sense of community among its residents. The agency is dedicated to building strong, vibrant communities where everyone feels welcome and valued.

Thanks to all of our staff, partners, and friends who have been part of PWHA’s history. You are the reason for our future.