



GET INVOLVED

Tom Barrett
Mayor

Alderman Willie L. Hines, Jr.
Chair, Board of Commissioners

The Home Must Be the Cornerstone for High Expectations, High Achievement and High Standards

A Quarterly Newsletter for Residents of the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee

December 2011

Issue No.13

A COMMITMENT TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



Darrell Finch-Education Specialist

Does Influence Effect Student Achievement?

Parents,

Influence is explained in the dictionary as, “to have an effect on someone or something.” Children are bombarded by positive and negative influences everyday from the social media, family and their friends, who can be the most influential of all. For better or worse, their friends’ influences and opinions help our children navigate through everyday life and social situations. As they get older, peer pressure increases while parental influence declines.

Of all the drugs in our community, the worst drug is for our children to believe people’s negative opinions. It is a destructive force that robs them of their beliefs, self-esteem, motivation and creativity. Children will naturally seek an identity. The task is for us to direct them and keep them engaged in a positive environment that is conducive to learning. Keep your children, surrounded in an environment that is entrenched with positive friends, activities and family influences. This will ensure your child has less time to be involved in the negative influences of gangs, crime, or drugs.

Parents, remember to keep your children exposed and embraced in a climate which includes high expectation, praise and encouragement. Your positive influence will leave a remarkable impression upon your children; make sure their dreams become their reality. Parents, you only get one chance to do this, you don’t get to this over again. You are their first and most important teacher, and you have a tremendous amount of influence over their attitude towards learning and education.

How to get started:

- (1) Help your children at an early age develop a plan with realistic objectives to reach their goal.
- (2) Help your children develop a great attitude towards achieving their goals. A positive attitude adjustment will change their desire and that student will be motivated to obtain their new found goals.
- (3) Help your children identify early what career they want to pursue. Place your child in an environment that stimulates their mind and imagination, such as pre-college programs, college tours, and enrichment classes. Most importantly, chose the right high school that will nurture his or her talents.
- (4) Keep repeating positive affirmation and instructions into your children’s subconscious mind! Powerful! Individuals succeed or fail because of dominating thoughts and desires, stored in the subconscious mind. Giving your child positive reinforcements early in life is priceless.
- (5) Remind your children that despite any mistakes or setbacks, he or she can graduate from high school and go to college. Do not discourage your children. Words can be powerful and hurtful. Have you ever heard someone say to a child, “You aren’t ever going to amount to anything.” Remember the subconscious? Powerful!

As an educator, it is important to emphasize to every child I encounter that there is a plan and a purpose for his or her life. The plan is to be positive, productive, and prosperous. I can give inspiration to your children, but I challenge them to find the motivation from within. Once your child adsorbs this concept, it simplifies their life. Parents, with the help of your words of encouragement and your optimistic spirit, your children can do amazing things. Your positive influence can set free the imaginary walls of doubt and limitations.

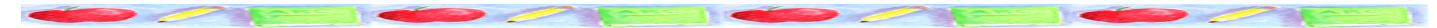
Research has proven that parents are unquestionably the most important factor in the success of their children. Parental involvement is the key to our children striving for academic excellence. Giving our youth your time, wisdom, and knowledge will encourage them to make intelligent decisions. Your children will make their decisions in either three ways: through pain, pressure and or perspective. Let your positive influence and perspective guide your children’s dreams to be attainable.

Darrell Finch



HACM Youth Promote Fire Prevention

Fifty-nine youth from Highland Homes, Pieper-Hillside Boys & Girls Club, Westlawn's Silver Spring Neighborhood Center, Parklawn YMCA, Townhomes at Carver Park, and Scattered Sites Homes participated in the HACM 2011 Fire Prevention Poster Contest during Fire Prevention Week, October 9-15. This year's theme was "Protect Your Family from Fire," and the event was sponsored by HACM and the Housing Authority Insurance Group. Winners in three age categories received cash awards. The contest's judges were all from the Milwaukee Fire Department's Engine Company 5 and deserve a special thanks: Captain Scott Hall, Heavy Equipment Operator Don Tobin, Firefighter Paul Lelinski, and Firefighter Joe Monroe. First-place winners were: **Jermaria Seals** of Scattered Site Homes (ages 6-9); **Zoe Fleming** of Highland Homes (ages 10-14); and **Keeria Williams** of Highland Homes (ages 15-18).



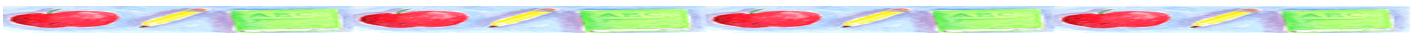
"Bee all that you can Bee"

was the theme for HACM's 11th Annual Spelling Bee held October 27, 2011 at the Hillside Family Resource Center. Family members watched as 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade youth from Hillside, Westlawn, Highland Homes, Townhomes at Carver Park, and Scattered Sites competed for cash prizes and trophies. The Pieper-Hillside Boys & Girls Club and Silver Spring Neighborhood Center partnered with HACM to prepare youth for the event. Earl Ingram of WMCS 1290 served as the pronouncer.



Ralph Hollmon, President & CEO of the Milwaukee Urban League,

Sherri L. Daniels, HACM Board of Commissioners, and HACM Housing Operations Manager Beverly Johnson served as judges. The top three winners in each age group received cash prizes and trophies. All participants received t-shirts and certificates and were treated to refreshments after the event. First-place winners in each age group were: **5th Grade-Darlene Twitty**, Pieper-Hillside Boys & Girls Club; **6th Grade-Brandun Robinson**, Pieper-Hillside Boys & Girls Club; **7th Grade-Jessica Anderson**, Pieper-Hillside Boys & Girls Club; and **8th Grade-Abena May**, Berryland.



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the HACM Education Initiative is to provide parents with support, resources, and assistance to enhance the educational development of their children so that they obtain a quality education and graduate from high school. This will be accomplished by exposing, enriching, and immersing children in an environment that is conducive to learning.

Your Children Are Our Priority



HACM Education Initiative
Darrell Finch
Education Specialist
414-225-9498 Office
414-335-1254 Cellular
414-224-7605 Fax
dfinch@hacm.org