



# 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 2013

Issue No.17

### A COMMITMENT TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



Students in the after school homework help program with Education Initiative Assistant Tracy Revels, and University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee student volunteers Elizabeth Tryon and Kirsten Patapoff.

The school year is in full swing and the holidays are upon us. And of course, the media bombards our children with gifts of the latest technology gadgets, smart phones, the newest Air Jordans and big screen televisions. This is an exciting time. However, these gifts will be outdated in less than a year. The greatest gift that you can give to your children that will have a long-term impact on their future is your total engagement in their education development. This can be accomplished by surrounding your children in a climate and culture of educational activities that will enrich their minds and expose them to an environment that is conducive to learning. For schools to succeed every student must be equipped with basic skills, a desire to learn and have active and engaged parents that are invested in their child's education. When it comes to parent engagement the research is clear: when schools, families, and communities support each other, students of all backgrounds and ability levels achieve at the highest levels. **You are your child's first teacher.**

Being active in your child's education is arguably the most important role a parent plays. Students with involved parents get higher grades, have fewer discipline problems and are more likely to be successful throughout their entire life.

As the father of a teenage son, I know how challenging it is to stay engaged in the lives of our children. Life is demanding, and there is almost never enough time to get everything done, but being involved in your child's education is perhaps one of the most important gifts we can give our children as parents. Parents, ask yourself these three questions; 1) what do you want your child to get out of life? 2) What are some of the ways that you are assisting your child to attain their goals? 3) What have you been doing as a parent for the past week, month, and year that is helping your child to achieve future success?

If you are not happy with the answer to any of these questions now is the time to think about what your future "plan" will be to assist your child's growth; academically, emotionally and socially.

The Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee Education Initiative provides an opportunity for you and your children to access and use a program that offers your child a framework for success. HACM is proud to announce that in 2013, 89% of participating high school seniors graduated from high school, a rate that ranks above national graduation scores. We must continue to make the "Home the Cornerstone of High Expectation, High Achievement, and High Standards".

On behalf of the HACM Education Initiative, I want to commend all the parents who have taken on the full-time job of being engaged in your child's educational success. You are doing it right. It has been a pleasure and a wonderful opportunity in 2013 assisting you and your child in the pursuit of excelling academically.

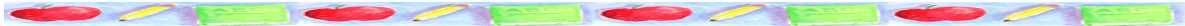
Your children, our future, so **Get Involved!**



## HACM Youth Spell their Way to Success

The competition didn't involve a ball, a basket or a base, but Milwaukee students put on their game faces and spelled their way to some serious honors at the HACM 13th Annual Spelling Bee on Wednesday, October 16th. Youth from 14 neighborhoods, schools and youth-serving agencies competed for honors and prizes in the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade categories. First place winners were: Brianna Felder, 5th grade; Khaile Heard, 6th grade;

Lowrese Riggins, 7th grade; and Bria Cole Coleman, 8th grade. All first place winners received a special award; a new computer to support their future educational achievements. The Honorable Judge W. Russell Stamper, Sr. served as pronouncer; United Way of Greater Milwaukee Portfolio Manager Shannon D. Reed, Housing Authority Operations Manager Beverly Johnson and Housing Authority Human Resources Manager Crystal Reed-Hardy served as judges. Secretary-Executive Director of HACM, Tony Perez also celebrated the students victory.



## Students tour UW-Oshkosh

In an effort to introduce students to the college environment, HACM's Education Initiative took a group of housing youth ranging from 6th graders through seniors to visit the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh on Friday, October 11th. The University's Center for Academic Support and Diversity and Precollege Program gave a mini-tour of the campus and provided a presentation of the basics of what it takes to become a student at UW-Oshkosh. The tour included one of the favorite activities of the youth: a trip to the all-you-can-eat lunch buffet at the

University's

Blackhawk Commons dining facility. Chaperoned by HACM's Darrell Finch, Tracy Revels and parents, the trip helped to plant a seed for higher learning in the younger ones and prepared the seniors for college with a first-hand perspective from college students' testimonies and a walk-through of one of the campus dormitories.

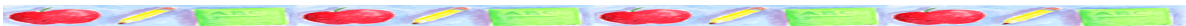




## Education Initiative Youth Power Breakfast

Parents and students braved the cold and snow on December 14, 2013, to attend the Education Initiative's Youth Power Breakfast at Highland Gardens. The presentation provided information and on-site registration into the pre-college programs that will take place in July, 2014. Students from the 8<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade applied for scholarships offered through the Department of Public Instruction for the two week University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Summer Pre-College Program. The DPI scholarship

covers full payment for the entire 2 weeks stay on campus, including tuition, meals, lodging, supplies, insurance and activity fees. The residential program that are offered include programs in Nursing, Entrepreneurial Scholars, Science, Technology, and Engineering Education, Arts in the Media, and Enrichment Programs in math, speech, computer technology, multicultural awareness, career exploration and health and wellness. The Education Initiative promotes pre-college experiences and opportunities which enhance life skills, career planning and college preparation for HACM youth.



### HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

You or your child can receive up to \$2,000 from HACM towards an accredited university or college, including a vocational/technical college.

#### Requirements

- Acceptance to a college or university
- Good academic standing with a grade point average of 2.0 or better
- Demonstrate financial need
- Enrolled in a degree program
- Compliance with the terms conditions of lease agreement



Contact Darrell Finch for an application

### 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](mailto:dfinch@hacm.org)

**HACM Education Initiative**  
**Tracy Revels**  
Education Specialist Assistant  
414-224-1790 Office  
414-335-1251 Cellular  
414-224-7605 Fax  
[trevel@hacm.org](mailto:trevel@hacm.org)