



GET INVOLVED

Tom Barrett
Mayor

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Secretary-Executive Director
Housing Authority of the City of
Milwaukee

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

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A COMMITMENT TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



"I have no limitations and I'm open to explore different venues, expose myself to college tours, enrichment classes, pre-college programs and volunteer in the community".

The Seed, Time and Harvest

Autumn Welton is an 11th grade student athlete at Messmer High School who has attained a 4.083 grade point average. Yes! A 4.083 grade point average! I have had the pleasure of providing educational assistance to the Moore family since 2006. Autumn's sister, Kayla, has also recently graduated from Tennessee State University. This is a family that has both valued and supported the importance of education.

On our UW- Whitewater college tour this year, I asked Autumn, "What is it that inspires you to be successful?" She said, "I have no limitations and I'm open to explore different venues, expose myself to college tours, enrichment classes, pre-college programs and volunteer in the community". She also mentioned that "my mother and sister influence me to give my best." After graduating from high school, Autumn plans to attend UW- Whitewater and major in business.

It is our role as parents to encourage our children. In our efforts to protect our children, we may sometimes restrain them from exploring options that provide them a foundation for success.

Parents, with your words of encouragement and optimistic spirit, your children can do amazing things. Keep your children surrounded in a home of filled with high expectation, praise, and love.

As a parent, you are unquestionably the most important factor in promoting and reinforcing to your children the importance of obtaining a quality education and graduating from high school. There are factors that can hinder a child's education achievement including poverty, coming from a single-parent home, having a family background that often does not have a history of formal education, or issues with school readiness for young children.

If our children have a negative opinion of themselves, it can become a destructive force that cripples their capacity to continue to be motivated and focused.

There is a famous Greek proverb that says: "A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in."

Encouraging your children to do well in school, letting them go on college tours and participate in summer college or educational programs, providing them with a quiet space to study within your home, and connecting with their teachers will help your son or daughter do better in school, and eventually give them a better opportunity to succeed.

For Autumn Welton, her family planted seeds that have contributed to her success. Autumn has had to do the heavy lifting, but her family's expectations have raised the bar and she has responded by focusing on the educational opportunities that have come her way. Her family has invested in her, just like planting the shade tree.

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. Thank you for your commitment to the success of your children. It has been a pleasure helping you and your child in the pursuit of excelling academically and obtaining a quality education during the past year.

Your children, our future, so Get Involved!

Darrell Finch



HACM'S STUDENTS TOUR UW-WHITEWATER

On September 29, 2014, in an effort to introduce students to the college environment, the Education Initiative organized a college tour to UW-Whitewater for 22 middle school and high school students. Jeannie Fenceroy, (standing in front)) Senior Program Officer, Greater Milwaukee Foundation met with students and talked about what they should look to get out of a college tour. The first stop was to McDonald's on E. North Avenue, where all the students were treated to a free breakfast meal. The group then toured some of the 400-acre campus on a beautiful warm day and met with representatives working in the fields of Business, Journalism, African-American Studies, Art, Engineering, and Chemistry. Admissions Counselors shared information on college life, scholarships opportunities, ACT/SAT scores, academic support services, campus dormitories, college applications, and enrollment. The tour also included one of the favorite activities of the youth: a trip to the all-you-can-eat lunch buffet at the University's Esker Dining Hall. Many youth have not been exposed to college and are unsure or uneasy about it. By letting your children go on college tours or experiences like this, it helps to get them interested in college and/or motivated about school in general.

HACM'S YOUTH LEARN FIRE SAFETY PLANNING

The HAI Group and HACM have once again helped spread the message of fire safety to youth and their families through their annual Fire Safety Poster Prevention Poster Contest during Fire Prevention Week, October 5-11. This year's theme was, "Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives-Test Yours Every Month!" 38 participants from this year's contest came from Highland Homes, Parklawn, Westlawn, Townhomes at Carver Park, Scattered Sites, and agency partners, including the Silver Spring Neighborhood Center, Pieper-Hillside Boys & Girls Club and Parklawn YMCA. The youth used fun facts about fire safety to develop their winning posters and winners in three age categories received cash awards (1st place: \$50; 2nd place: \$30; and 3rd place: \$20). Thanks to the contest judges from the Milwaukee Fire Department: Schuyler Belott (MFD Fire Lieutenant, Director of Community Relations) and Michael Ball (MFD Fire Fighter and Education Specialist). First place winners included Shaniya Lathrop (6-9 year olds), Pieper-Hillside Boys & Girls Club; Timothy Wells (10-14 year olds), Highland Homes; and Olivia Culpepper (15-18 year olds), Pieper-Hillside Boys & Girls Club.





SPELL E-X-T-R-A-O-R-D-I-N-A-R-Y!!!!

Over 100 family members and friends watched in anticipation as youth competed in the 14th Annual Housing Authority Spelling Bee on Wednesday, October 29, 2014. With the theme, "Bee Part of Something Extraordinary," the competition brought together youth from several of Milwaukee's neighborhoods, including Scattered Sites, Highland Homes, Hillside, Westlawn, Parklawn and Townhomes at Carver Park. The event was held at the Hillside Resource Center, 1452 N. 7th Street, where Ann Wilson, HRC Manager hosted the bee. 5th through 8th graders prepared for the competition for weeks through the programs of the Housing Authority and its partners, including the Silver Spring Neighborhood Center, Parklawn YMCA, and the Pieper-Hillside Boys & Girls Club. Thema Ponton, Anchor/Weekday Reporter WISN 12, served as pronouncer and the judges were: Beverly Johnson, HACM Senior Asset Manager; Jeannie Fenceroy, Senior Program Officer with the Greater Milwaukee Foundation; and Kristina McHenry, Regional Director for Senator Ron Johnson. First-place winners receiving \$100 cash prize included: 5th grade--Kailyn Wettberg; 6th grade--Cheyenne Smith; 7th grade--Khaila Heard; and 8th grade--Sebel Fusi. Second and third place winners also received prizes. Kudos to Brandi Johnson-Clay, Core Area Coordinator of Education and Careers for the Pieper-Hillside Boys & Girls Club, for her efforts in producing 11 of the total 12 winners in the bee.



AFTER SCHOOL HOMEWORK HELP

The After School Homework Help Program at the Highland Gardens Neighborhood Networks Computer Labs offers students support, guidance and practical assistance with reading, basic computer skills and homework. The After School Program will help identify what curriculum and proficiency level your child should meet at school to excel academically.

Monday and Wednesday
4:30 pm to 6:00 pm




Starting January 12, 2014

Highland Gardens

1818 W. Juneau Avenue (Back Door)

Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee

EDUCATION INITIATIVE 2013-14 Snapshot

91%

Graduation Rate (2006 – 2014)

Year	Graduation Rate
2006-2007	85%
2007-2008	86%
2008-2009	100%
2009-2010	100%
2010-2011	92%
2011-2012	88%
2012-2013	95%
2013-2014	88%

PROGRAM MISSION

- To promote and strengthen school attendance
- To promote and strengthen academic achievement
- To promote and strengthen parental involvement
- To expose and acclimate youth to new educational environments

Participating families: 134
 Participating youth (ages 0 to 18): 392
 100% of students enrolled in school

For more information, contact Darrell Finch at (414) 225-9498 or darrell.finch@hacm.org.

7/2014

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
- Must be in compliance with the terms and conditions of lease agreement



We are elated to announce our 2013-14 graduation rate of 88%. Also, we want to recognize and to congratulate four 11th graders who graduated ahead of their scheduled time.

1. Aliyah Fears- Garrett
2. Khionna B. Thompson
3. Lekea Downey
4. Keanna Williams

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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.