



# GET INVOLVED

Tom Barrett  
Mayor

Tony Perez  
Secretary-Executive Director at  
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



(Left to right) Darrell Finch, HACM Education Specialist, Jamar Jones, HACM resident and student enrolled in Operation Dream, Tom Barrett, Mayor of Milwaukee, and Rodney Bourrage, Executive Director of Operation Dream at the LaVarnway Boys & Girls Club.

#### *Investing In Our Youth*

Dear Parent/Guardian

There is a saying, “no significant learning occurs without a significant relationship”. I have been privileged to meet parents affiliated with the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee Education Initiative who are engaged and involved in their child’s educational and personal development. HACM is proud to announce that in 2013, 95% of its participating high school seniors graduated from high school. Since the implementation of the HACM Education Initiative in 2006, 91% of its participants have walked across the stage to receive their diploma; a rate that ranks above national scores. Keys to the success of the students include the following:

- 1) Strong early parental involvement and a climate that includes high expectations and encouragement. Students that possess a plan with plan and realistic objectives have a better chance to achieve their goals
- 2) A home environment in which literacy is a focus with set times for reviewing school materials and completing homework.
- 3) Parents that help the student maintain a regular schedule that includes time for academics, enough sleep and regular mealtimes.
- 4) A family value system that places priority on education.
- 5) Making sure that the students are exposed to pre-college programs, mentoring, and college tours, and summer enrichment classes.

HACM resident Shirley Trejo is a great example. Her grandson, (pictured above) is 8<sup>th</sup> grader Jamar Jones. Ms. Trejo contacted me to assist Jamar with his academic progress.

She wanted Jamar to be in a structured program that would be conducive to learning. Operation Dream, <http://www.operation-dream.org> was the perfect fit for Jamar. Operation Dream is a free mentoring program that provides transportation, haircuts, breakfast, exercise, soft skills, life skills, and employment for its participants.

Children look for an identity and it is our responsibility to make sure that they choose one that is positive. Teens, like adults, focus on the bottom line; “What will I get out of the activity?” As teens begin thinking about jobs, careers and higher education, they are drawn to programs that offer paths to employment.

Mentoring programs provide the social support that youth need and want. Oftentimes delinquent behaviors displayed by youth are a result of not having positive role models. Mentoring programs address issues that youth face every day and assist them in making positive decisions. They address attitude, desire, accountability, responsibility, and community involvement. It is important to prepare children to be change agents, independent thinkers, caring citizens, and culturally sensitive individuals. Some argue that the fabric of a child’s life outside of school can either nurture or obstruct academic progress. It is important to address life-skills such as conflict resolution, developing attainable goals, the necessary social skills required to build self-esteem and personal and emotional development.

Mentoring programs can help reduce teen pregnancy, gang activity, violent crime, and drug abuse, as well as support continued and consistent school attendance. An educated youth can make positive contributions to society and gain skills they can use for the rest of their lives. It is not necessary to reinvent the wheel to ensure our kids academically excel. We know what works!

Ms. Trejo did, and continues to do, what is necessary to ensure success for and with Jamar.

The lazy, hazy days of summer are fast approaching. I encourage you to take advantage of the many activities and resources offered through the HACM Education Initiative.

Do you want your child to do well in school? Get involved with your child’s education. Your investment today will lead to your child’s long-term success. Give us a call and let’s work together to place your child in a program that nurture their talents.

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

*Darrell Finch*

## Special note to Students and Parents: SAVE THIS DATE



Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee  
Presents the  
2014 Student Recognition Awards

### Explore, Dream, and Discover

HACM Community Center  
650 W. Reservoir Street  
June 25, 2014, 5:45PM to 8:00 PM

**Keynote Speaker**  
**Milwaukee Fire Captain**  
**Joshua Parish**

Joshua Parish was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. At 18, he began a career with the Milwaukee Fire Department (MFD) as a Fire Cadet. Within 15 years, he has achieved the rank of Fire Captain.

- ❖ If parents/guardians attend the Student Recognition Awards, it will count the same as attending the June Resident Council meeting.
- ❖ Family-style dinner will be served promptly from 5:45 PM to 6:30 PM.
- ❖ Trophies, Dell computers raffles, awards, gift certificates will be awarded.

Can you guess who's on Facebook?

**WE ARE!**

We are looking forward to keeping you informed on what's going on with the Education Initiative and community efforts.

**PARENTS AND STUDENTS - BE SURE TO FOLLOW US**

Facebook can help students and parents develop more robust ties to the academic community, youth and adult employment opportunities, job fairs, summer camps, kid-friendly events, sports and outdoor events.



**Go to HACM  
Education Initiative**



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

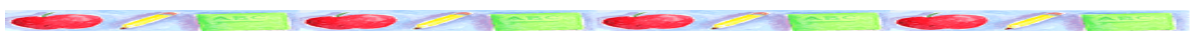
You or your child can receive up to \$2,000 from HACM towards an accredited university or college, including a vocational/technical college.

#### 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 and conditions of lease agreement



Contact Darrell Finch for an application

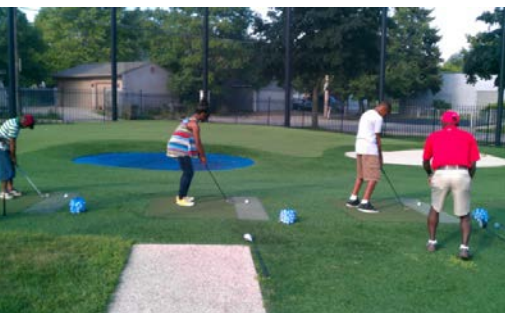




## HACM'S 2014 Summer Super Reader Challenge Read! Move! Learn!



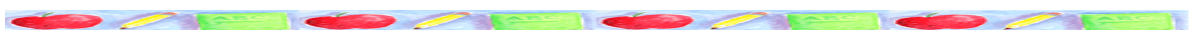
The research is clear: children who don't read during the summer can lose up to three months of reading progress and that loss has a cumulative, long-term effect. Early and sustained summer learning opportunities lead to higher graduation rates, better preparation for college, and positive effects on children's self-esteem, confidence, and motivation.



The sixth annual Summer HACM Reading Challenge will partnership again this year with the Milwaukee Public Library Super Reader Program, McDonald's, Social Development Commission, (SDC), and the PGA's First Tee Bridging the Gap. The kick off will be on Monday, June 30, 2014, at 10:00 am, at the Highland Gardens Neighborhood Network Computer Lab, 1818 W. Juneau Avenue (Back Entrance). From 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Monday through Thursday, elementary through high school students will log in times of reading this summer.

Education Specialist Assistant Tracy Revels will spearhead the summer program. In 2013, students altogether garnered a total of **118.5 hours** of reading. Outings to Discovery World and the Chicago's Museum of Science & Industry will be offered. Students will learned basic golf fundamentals offered by PGA's First Tee Bridging the Gap. Students enjoyed nutritional lunches along with daily breaks at Dr. Martin Luther King Park, which provided relief to stretch and unwind after keeping their brains sharp during the summer break.

The Summer Reader was implemented to strengthen reading proficiency and to help encourage children to improve their reading throughout the summer in a fun and rewarding way. At the conclusion of the reading challenge, all participants will be rewarded with Super Reader book bags, T-shirts, McDonald's gift certificates, Cousins Subs Coupons and a certificate of their accomplishments.



Milwaukee Succeeds in cooperation with the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee presents...

# Building on Books

## Family Fun Night! • May 29th

FREE book for each family!

FREE make-and-take activities!

FREE dessert!

Raffles

FREE child care with activities!



An evening of Reading Resources You Won't Want to Miss!

**WHO:** Parents/Caregivers and Students, Grades K-3

**WHAT:** Tips & Tricks for...

- helping with reading at home
- understanding the resources available in your community
- encouraging and motivating your child to read
- understanding reading test scores and levels
- becoming familiar with technology resources
- learning fun games and activities to increase reading skills

**WHEN:** Thursday, May 29th 2014 from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Community Service Building– 650 W. Reservoir Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

**WHY:** Parent involvement is KEY to increasing a child's reading level, and reading achievement is linked to success in ALL areas of life! There are a lot of fun and easy ways to provide reading opportunities at home!

Refreshments will be served!

To reserve your place, please call Darrell Finch  
at (414) 225-9598 or (414) 335-1254.

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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.

