



GET INVOLVED

Tom Barrett
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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

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Darrell Finch-Education Specialist with students

Hope Is Not A Solution!

Parents and caregivers:

In my role as an educator, it is very important that I impress upon each student I encounter the need to develop a plan and a purpose for their life. Each person should strive to be positive, productive and prosperous. Once a student has developed a plan, they own it and they will be able to track their own progress. Hope and inspiration are part of the motivation to stick to the plan, but the student has to rise up to the challenges of attaining their educational goals. This means they have to work hard. If they only “hope” to get good grades, or make it to school each day, or complete an assignment, they will never complete their plan. Parents and teachers can inspire; the student must commit to the necessary tasks to achieve their personal, educational and professional goals. The Educational Initiative and parent/caregivers offer guidance and encouragement. Students must self-motivate and maintain their desire to obtain a quality education.

As educators and parents, our role includes letting our children know that we have high expectations regarding their educational aspirations. We can set up an environment that supports our children’s capacity to be dedicated and disciplined when it comes to what it takes to make going to and doing well in school their priority. We have constant competition given we live in a society in which the media highlights “personalities” that become famous for bad behavior. Without proper guidance, our children begin to believe that the images portrayed on a ‘reality’ series are real; it is our responsibility to make sure they know that those shows, those videos and those movies are fiction. It is important to affirm, praise and encourage our youth that “*Being Cool is Being Smart*” and that doing well in school is very important.

It has been both an honor and privilege to meet the parents/caregivers of the youth involved in the Educational Initiative.

A COMMITMENT TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Many of them are fully involved in every aspect of their child’s educational and personal development. The home environment has a number of common factors that are contributors to the success of the Initiative’s students. They include:

- Parent/caregivers that get involved in their kid’s education; including setting high standards of academic achievement and frequent praise and encouragement.
- Having a quiet place, with limited distractions, within the home where the student can study. That includes both storage space for books and supplies and a place for the student to spread out their materials.
- Parent/caregivers that implement and stick to, a consistent schedule for school work. Projects are marked on a calendar and due dates are clearly indicated. This helps the adult and the student have clear expectations as to when assignments must be completed.
- Everyone in the home has a high value for the role and benefits of education.
- The household has a nurturing and stimulating environment to promote learning skills and development. Children are exposed to museums, pre-college programs, college tours and summer enrichment classes. Each child has developed a realistic plan to achieve their educational goals.

Parents/caregivers are critical to their children. If the student experiences a stumbling block, the adult must show the child how to turn it into a stepping stone. **THERE CAN BE NO SIGNIFICANT LEARNING WITHOUT A SIGNIFICANT RELATIONSHIP.** Starting today, in your role as a parent or caregiver, enroll your children in educational programs, encourage curiosity, make time to read to, with and listen as your child reads. Enrich, inspire, expose and acclimate your child, early on, to the advantages of learning environments. **YOUR** action and **TOTAL** engagement in your child’s educational and personal development will mean that they will be able to successfully compete in a job market and life skills demanded by 21st century globalization.

Only hoping that your child succeeds will not make it happen!

Darrell B. Finch

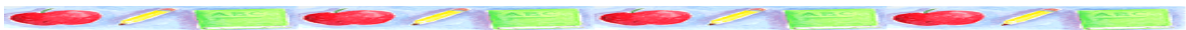


HACM celebrates student excellence

Wisconsin State Superintendent Tony Evers, PhD served as keynote speaker at HACM's 2012 Student Recognition Awards, held June 11, 2012. The annual event recognized educational excellence among public housing youth who participate in the HACM



Education Initiative. Founded in 2004, the Initiative now works with over 360 youth in the Highland Homes and Scattered Sites developments to keep them in school and help them graduate. Twelve of fourteen current seniors are graduating this month, and the additional two are continuing their education to achieve their high school degree or GED. The event also featured Common Council President and HACM Board Chair Willie Hines, Jr., Oscar Tovar from Mayor Barrett's office, presenting letters of congratulations to graduates, HACM's Ann Wilson, and a rousing spoken word performance by new graduate and Student of the Year, Sayvon Friend. In another highlight, a dynamic 5-year-old read the Student Creed to the audience and then preceded to high five Tony Pérez (pictured, above left), Superintendent Evers and others. Since 2008, the annual graduation rate for Education Initiative seniors achieved between 85% and 100%, compared with graduation rates of between 66% and 69% for Milwaukee youth outside of the Initiative.



HACM kids are college bound!

On Friday, February 17, HACM's Education Initiative facilitated a tour of UW-Oshkosh for fourteen high and middle school students from Highland Park and Scattered Sites.

The first stop was to McDonald's, where the students were treated to a free



breakfast. Students interviewed each other on the bus ride to UW-Oshkosh with the video cam on why they were attending the college tour, what career have they chosen and what they liked most about the tour. The group explored the campus on a beautiful warm winter day and met with representatives working in the fields of Business, Nursing, Art, Engineering and Bio-Chemistry. After the tour the students enjoyed a buffet style lunch. Through the HACM Education Initiative College Bound Program, students of all ages are being acclimated and exposed to an academic surrounding that will enhance and assist them in life skills, career planning and college preparation. Education Specialist Darrell Finch stated, "For most of the students it was their first college tour and UW-Oshkosh made it a wonderful, unforgettable experience for the students".





Dear Parents and Guardians,

My name is Tracy S. Revels and I am the Education Specialist Assistant with the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee. I grew up in the Hillside area and consider



myself a home-grown educator from the community. I have attended college at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Cardinal Stritch University. I have 15 years of experience as an elementary teacher in Madison, WI, and within the Milwaukee Public School system. I am very excited about how the Education Initiative reaches out to all of HACM's residents and provides assistance to those students who realize that education is a valuable empowerment tool. I look forward to working with students who want to enhance and improve their reading and math skills. I am happy to get to know and work with parents and caregivers who want their children to do well in school. We will combine our efforts and will make sure that our students will be consistent in school attendance, study time will be part of the daily schedule and homework will be completed. I am looking forward to meeting all of the parents, caregivers and staff associated with HACM.



Highland Homes is city's first Super Reader neighborhood

On June 24th, five-year-old Chameiyah Viverette, a resident of the Housing Authority's Highland Homes neighborhood, issued a challenge to the rest of the City: every neighborhood should be a Super Reader neighborhood because reading is fun and it helps kids succeed. Viverette, joined by City Librarian Paula Kiely, HACM Secretary-Executive Director Tony Pérez and HACM Education Specialist Darrell Finch, recognized Highland Homes as the city's first Super Reader neighborhood for its commitment to encouraging summer reading by neighborhood youth. They challenged



the City's other neighborhoods to follow suit. "Reading just 15 minutes most days of the summer can prevent the summer reading gap," said Kiely.

HACM's Super Readers attend Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Game and Shedd Aquarium in Chicago!

On July 18, 2012, HACM's parents and eighteen Super Readers who are enrolled in the Milwaukee Public Library Summer Neighborhood Reading Challenge attend the Milwaukee Brewers baseball game. The Milwaukee Brewers donated the baseball tickets and \$500 worth of Fun Food Certificates for hot dogs, drinks, pizza and pretzels. At the conclusion of the Summer Neighborhood Reading Challenge the Milwaukee Public Library provided book bags, school supplies, and prizes to all youth.



On August 18, 2012, the Super Readers attended Shedd Aquarium in Chicago for fun, food and viewed the Oceanarium show, 4-D Ice Age Movie, Aquarium and the incredible Wild Reef display. Since June 25, 2012, the super readers have logged over 125 hours of reading for a Super Summer!



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Housing Authority Insurance Group 2012 FIRE PREVENTION POSTER CONTEST

Youth from the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee are encouraged to participate in the Fire Prevention 2012 Poster Contest. Participants must create a poster displaying fire prevention and safety.

Theme: **“Have Two Ways Out.”**

There are three age categories: 6-9, 10-14 and 15-18. A first, second and third place winner will be selected from each age group. The first place winner will receive a check in the amount of \$50, second place winners receive \$30, and the third place winner will receive \$20.

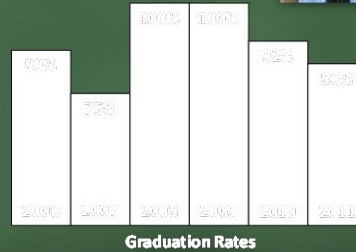
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Your Children Are Our Priority



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EDUCATION INITIATIVE SNAPSHOT



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 levels your child should meet at school to excel academically.

Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday
4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Starting, September 17, 2012

The Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee



TWELFTH ANNUAL SPELLING BEE CONTEST

Invites all 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th graders to participate!
Monday, October 22, 2012
6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Community Service Building
650 W. Reservoir Ave., First Floor
1st place \$100.00, 2nd place \$50.00, 3rd place \$25.00 (for each age group)

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.