



GET INVOLVED

Tom Barrett
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Chair, Board of Commissioners

The Home Must Be the Cornerstone for High Expectation, 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



Housing Authority students flying high after winning in the HACM Spelling Bee

PARENTS MUST MAKE THEIR CHILDREN BELIEVE THAT THEY CAN FLY

Originally published December 2, 2010 in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*.

The much-awaited film "Waiting for Superman" hit movie screens this year. The film analyzes the failures of American public education by following several students through the educational system and its effects on them. After viewing the film, my position remains firm: Parents, you are unquestionably the most important factor in your child's educational development. *We don't have to wait for Superman; we are the superheroes our children are waiting for. Our job is to make our children believe that they can fly.*

As the education specialist for the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee, I have witnessed parents in Milwaukee's public housing who make their children believe that they can fly. The graduation rate for youth in the Housing Authority's Education Initiative is 92%; our children *can* fly! How do we continue to ensure that our children believe they can fly?

First, continue to make education a priority and promote education as a dominant value in the home to help make sure our children's dreams are attainable. Make self-determination the significant characteristic that our children live by.

Second, continue to expose and surround our children with a climate and culture that includes high expectation, praise and encouragement. Lock your children into a circle of people who believe in their dreams. Enroll your children in pre-college/after-school programs, enrichment classes and college tours.

Most important, show your children how to get from point A to point B by creating goals and a plan that has realistic objectives with short-term and long-term measurement. For our children to get from point A to point B, they will have to know their point of reference. If our children don't know where they are, they will not know how to get to where they need to be.

Do not focus on the achievement gap! Instead, redirect your energy to improve attitude and commitment. As parents, we have to make sure our children can see themselves in the picture. We need to have the conversation with our children that they will be successful. Program their minds at an early age with daily affirmations that they will attend college.

Our children want to know: "Who am I?" "Do I have value and worthiness?" "What do I see myself as?" and "What is my attitude and commitment toward success?" The answers to these questions can improve attitude and create positive behavioral changes. Once the behavior changes, attendance in school will become important, and they will excel academically.

Our children need to be committed to being in school every day on time, handing in assignments on time and prioritizing academic achievement over social achievement. Apply daily action and instill a burning desire to stay committed and focused on the goal.

How your children see themselves and how they feel about themselves have a tremendous impact on how far they will go in life. The reason self-concept is so important is that our children will speak, act and react the way they think they are: *Children do not see the world as it is; they see the world as they are.*

That is why I believe we need to make our children believe that they can fly. I am one who believes that our children can overcome obstacles and failures. Failure does have its benefits; learning to deal with setbacks can help them build character and coping skills. Failure also helps with creative thinking processes, perseverance, resilience and emotional development. These characteristics are needed to deal with setbacks that they will encounter in life.

Let us all enter into 2011 with determination and passion. It takes extraordinary parents to build extraordinary students. I believe each and every one of you is extraordinary.

Get involved!

Darrell Finch



State Superintendent recognizes Darrell Finch and the Education Initiative

During his second annual State of Education address in Madison on September 16, State Superintendent Tony Evers presented Education Specialist Darrell Finch with a Friend of Education award for his significant contribution to students through HACM's Education Initiative.



HACM Fire Safety poster contest

Thirty-two youth from Highland Homes, Hillside,

Westlawn, Scattered Sites Homes, and Townhomes at Carver participated in the HACM 2010 Fire Prevention Poster Contest during Fire Prevention Week, October 3 - 9. This year's theme was, "Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With." The event was sponsored by the Housing Authority Insurance Group to promote fire safety. Winners in three age categories received cash awards. Thanks go to recruiting partners, Pieper-Hillside Boys & Girls Club and Silver Spring Neighborhood Center. First place winners were: Jermaria Seal of Highland Homes (ages 6-9); April Carter of Scattered Sites Homes (ages 10-14); and Nicholas Cobbins of Pieper-Hillside Boys & Girls Club (ages 15-18).

Tenth annual HACM spelling bee



"Bee Seen, Bee Cool, and Bee There," was the theme for HACM's Tenth Annual Spelling Bee held October 28 at the Hillside Resource Center.

Family members watched as 6th, 7th,

and 8th grade youth from Westlawn, Highland Homes, Townhomes at Carver, Hillside, 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. WITI-TV 6 Anchor and Reporter Bob Moore served as the pronouncer. HACM Housing Operations Manager Beverly Johnson and Pieper-Hillside Boys & Girls Club Program Director Martin Logan 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: Bria Coleman from Pieper-Hillside (6th grade); Cherish Merriweather from Scattered Sites (7th grade); and Jaylen Wilson from Townhomes at Carver Park (8th grade).

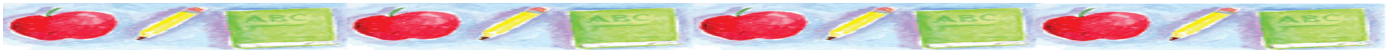




Youth Power Breakfast and Conference/Tour at Marquette University



HACM students attended the “Youth Power Breakfast and Conference/Tour at Marquette University,” on November 13, 2010. The aim of the event was to expose families to all the free programs the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and Wisconsin Educational Opportunity Program (WEOP) offer to the community. They offer free preparation of financial documents for students enrolling in college, ACT preparation tests, a GED program, pre-college programs, and college tours throughout Wisconsin and more. *Sylvia Washington (front, left), 11th grade honor roll student/athlete at Messmer High School states, “I will be attending DePaul University to study business with a minor in biochemistry. I truly love testing DNA and finding finger prints. I love business because it involves math, critical thinking and solving problems in everyday life.”*

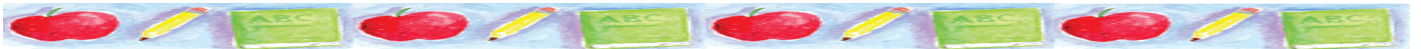


Are Your Children College Bound? Join EIP!

If your children are going to attend college, then let them join the HACM College Bound Program at no cost to you. *We will attend the Early Identification Program (EIP) at Marquette University once a month every third Saturday for two hours, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The program starts Saturday, January 22, 2011.* We will meet first at Highland Gardens, 1818 W. Juneau Avenue, and then travel together to Marquette. Information packets will be mailed to your home; contact us for more information.

What is the Early Identification Program?

Mission: To provide disadvantaged students with the necessary knowledge and skills in their academic preparation focusing on postsecondary education as an option for the future. EIP strives to increase student high school graduation rates and college entrance. The program focuses on academic enrichment, academic skill building, career exploration, or a combination of the three, and provides an opportunity to help life's choices unfold for students who might otherwise remain unaware or unsure of their abilities and talents. **Participation:** Students are selected from all academic levels (high potential, marginal, and probationary groups) in grades **8 through 12**. Counselors help students identify potential academic difficulties before they arise. Focus is on scholastic preparation and achievement, early parental involvement, and curriculum guidance.



HIPPY PROGRAM

Contact us to enroll your child!

(Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters)

HIPPY is a free, home-based, school-readiness program for parents with children ages 3, 4 and 5 years old. HIPPY is a program that supports parents through easy-to-use activity packets, 30 weeks of home visits, and monthly Family Gathering Nights. The early childhood education program will help prepare your children in the following areas:

- Personal development
- Following rules
- School readiness
- Interacting with other children
- Reading
- Role playing
- Problem solving



GET INVOLVED



HACM Tutoring Program Enroll Now

The Afterschool Tutoring Program will be offered to students at the Highland Gardens Neighborhood Network Computer Lab. The goal is to present students with support, guidance, reading, basic computer skills, and homework. Starts Monday, January 3, 2011.

Highland Gardens
Monday-Wednesday-Friday
3:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.
Contact Shakela Scott
414-224-1790 Office
414-335-1255 Cellular

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.

Dimensions

“Preparing Today’s Youth For Tomorrow” Mentoring Program Enroll Now

HACM will start a new Mentoring Program called “Dimensions” on January 8, 2011. It will be offered to students at the Highland Gardens Neighborhood Network Computer Lab every other Saturday. The goal is to present students with support, guidance, career planning, and one-on-one mentoring.

Highland Gardens
(Back Door)
10: 00 a.m. to 12: 00 p.m.
Saturday, January 8, 2011
Saturday, January 22, 2011
Saturday, February 5, 2011
Saturday, February 19, 2011
Saturday, March 5, 2011
Saturday, March 19, 2011

Contact Darrell Finch
414-225-9498 Office
414-335-1254 Cellular

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



Shakela Scott
Education Initiative
Assistant
414-224-1790 Office
414-335-1255 Cellular
414-224-7605 Fax
sscott@hacm.org



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
- Demonstrated financial need
- Enrolled in a degree program
- In compliance with the terms and conditions of lease agreement

