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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

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A COMMITMENT TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



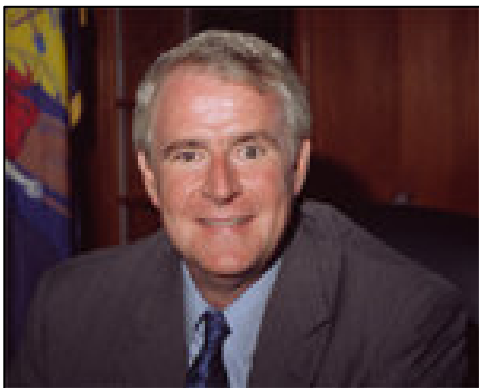
HACM Education Initiative Wins 2010 MANDI Awards

Local Initiatives Support Corp. (LISC) awarded HACM's Education Initiative the PNC Bank Trail Blazer Award during the 11th MANDI



HACM Youth & Family Services Manager Maria Rodriguez (left), Darrell Finch (center) and HACM Secretary Executive-Director Tony Perez (right) celebrate with the Washington family.

(Milwaukee Area Neighborhood Development Innovation) Award, held on Thursday, March 18, 2010. The PNC Bank Trail Blazer Award recognizes a community development project or program that represents a new approach to an old problem, opens up a path for others to follow, and showcases innovation, creativity, sustainability, and effectiveness in addressing a longstanding community concern. The award recognized the Education Initiative's impact on school attendance and graduation rates among youth living in HACM's Highland Homes and Scattered Sites homes. Since 2006, no child has dropped out of school, and during the past two years, 100% of high school seniors have graduated. Sixty percent of 2009 graduates have gone on to college. Education Specialist Darrell Finch and three Highland Homes youth: Tydrelle, Trequjaun and Quinton Washington took to the stage at the Pfister Hotel to receive the award on behalf of the Housing Authority. Mr. Finch acknowledged Mayor Tom Barrett, Common Council President and HACM Board Chair Willie Hines, Jr., for their faith in the potential of a program that was untested. "Beginning in 2004 with Executive Director Tony Pérez's vision that HACM could improve the educational lives of youth living in public housing, the Education Initiative has developed into a successful program model that unites the interests of parents, youth, schools and HACM," said Mr. Finch. His greatest praise goes to the parents and youths who commit to educational achievement. "They inspire me to keep pushing for more," said Finch. "We want each child to build a successful, satisfying life, and the Education Initiative has enabled us to work together towards that goal."



Mayor Barrett recognizes HACM Education Initiative

During his "State of the City" address on February 15, 2010, Mayor Barrett lauded the successful efforts of the Housing Authority's Education Initiative to help kids graduate high school and improve educational outcomes. The Mayor specifically recognized Secretary-Executive Director Tony Pérez and Education Specialist Darrell Finch, who received an enthusiastic standing ovation from the large crowd. As the Mayor stated, "Most of last year's graduates went on to college. This year, all but one of the twenty-four high school seniors enrolled in the program are on track to graduate, and we are working on that one." The Education Initiative's goal is to ensure that every child in the program finds

educational success as a foundation to a strong future.

Darrell Finch Receives Black Excellence Award

Education Specialist Darrell Finch was one of the honorees at the 25th Annual Black Excellence Awards, held February 26, 2010, at the Italian Community Center. Darrell was joined by many family and friends as he received recognition for his work with HACM's Education Initiative. Darrell was particularly thrilled to receive the support of Highland Homes' Washington family, whose ten members have participated in and supported the Initiative.



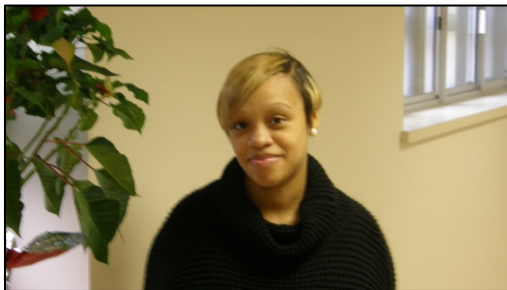
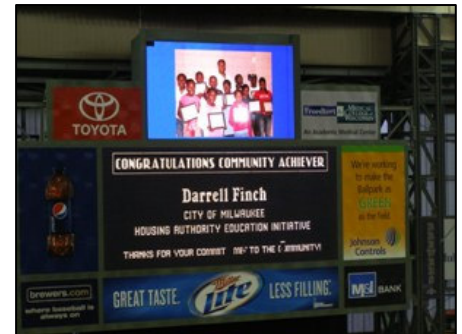
Black Excellence Award Winner Darrell Finch with Public Safety Assistant Chief Angel Rodriguez (L) and Captain Cordell Ray



Milwaukee Brewers Honor HACM Education Initiative

The HACM Education Initiative was presented with the Milwaukee Brewers Community Achiever Award before the Tuesday, May 11, game against Atlanta. The Initiative was honored for helping to keep youth in school and ensuring that 100% of participating seniors graduated from high school during the past two years. Education Specialist Darrell Finch

accepted the award and had the honor of throwing the Brewers' Ceremonial First Pitch. The Brewers Baseball Club also generously provided seats at the game for many families who participate in the Education Initiative.



New Employee

My name is Shakela S. Scott, and I'm the new Education Initiative Assistant for the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee. I grew up in Highland Park and I still reside there. I graduated from Messmer Catholic High School and obtained my bachelor's degree in Social Work at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. I have been involved in my community through programs such as the Boys & Girls Clubs and HACM. I have been recognized in several different ways for my accomplishments through

HACM. Giving back to the community has always been a desire of my heart. I will continue doing this by working with children, through mentoring, tutoring, attending sporting events, reading programs, pre-college programs and community activities. I will also make sure that children are in school every day and that parents are engaged and involved. I look forward to meeting and talking with parents regarding assisting with the educational development of their children. Together, we will make a better future for our children. *"Education is not the answer to the question. Education is the means to the answer to all questions."*

-- William Allin

Community Clean Up



Families from Highland Homes and Scattered Sites Homes came together on a sunny Saturday, June 5, for a community clean-up, barbecue, and games. Youth and the families picked up garbage throughout the neighborhood and helped to make the area clean and safe. Shakela Scott, Education Initiative Assistant, organized the event by attracting youth who attend the after-school mentor/tutor programs. Shakela stated, "We must not only educate our youth, we

must also cultivate a sense of pride for their community and instill the value of volunteerism as it relates to personal development.” At the conclusion of the clean-up, the youth played kick ball and then enjoyed barbecue, hot dogs, fruit, and water.

Kudos to Shakela Scott on her first youth project as HACM's Education Initiative Assistant!



HACM Youth Attend Pre-college Summer Opportunities Fair

On Saturday, March 13, as part of the Housing Authority's Education Initiative, 20 high school and middle school students attended the Pre-College Summer Opportunities Fair at Marquette University. Pre-college programs throughout Wisconsin converged on the beautiful Marquette campus to disseminate information on enrollment opportunities, college life, and scholarships. Some of the college/university participants were UW-Platteville, UW-Milwaukee, UW-Stevens Point, Milwaukee School of Engineering, UW-

Wisconsin, UW-Eau Claire, UW-La Crosse, UW-Whitewater, and Carroll College. Students also toured the Marquette campus and met with representatives working in the fields of Architecture, Engineering, Business, Law, Art, Music and Nursing. Pre-college programs allow young students to use their summer months to learn about college life, develop their academic goals, and strengthen their resolve to achieve a quality education. Students who are eligible for free or reduced price lunch qualify for a scholarship provided by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. According to Education Specialist Darrell Finch, "The programs are fun and an excellent way to acclimate HACM students to an academic environment that will assist them in life skills, career planning, and college preparation, all at little or no cost to the youth and their families."

Parents: Summer is just around the corner!



Neighborhood Networks Computer Lab, located at 1818 W. Juneau Ave.? If so, call (414) 225-9498.

Are you strapped financially and wondering how in the world you're going to amuse your kids this summer, but can't find the cash? There is help available. Would you love to give your children the opportunity to attend a computer class for one week for **FREE at the Highland Gardens**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE PRE-COLLEGE SUMMER PROGRAM FOR KIDS/TEENS



Students, grades 5 through 12, had the opportunity to attend one class a day for two hours, Monday, June 28, 2010, through Friday, July 2, 2010. Certificates of completion from UWM will be awarded to students, who finish the one-week program. This year's classes offered Blogging Basics and Web Citizenry.

Don't Bug Me...I'm



Reading!

Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee 2010 Summer Reading Challenge

Read books this summer and win!

Welcome one and all to the second annual HACM Summer Reading Challenge!

We begin our reading journey together this summer. The challenge will start Wednesday, June 23, 2010, and will run until Friday, July 23, 2010.

The reading challenge will take place at the
Highland Gardens Neighborhood Networks Computer Lab

Monday through Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Cherry Court Neighborhood Networks Computer Lab

Tuesday through Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



Rules

Simply show up at one of the above locations and times and log your book and reading time into the computer.



Prizes
McDonald's Gift Certificates,
Book Bags, Supplies, Tee-Shirts
Happy Reading!



2010 Student Recognition Awards



Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr.

The Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee (HACM)'s Education Initiative celebrated achievements among its students at the annual Student Recognition Awards on June 22, 2010. The event was held at the Hillside Family Resource Center, 1452 N. 7th Street. Common Council President and Housing Authority Board Chair Willie L. Hines, Jr., (a former Highland Park resident) served as keynote speaker and recognition awards were given to youth who achieved exceptional grade point averages and who have shown improvement in their studies over the past year. "This event showcases the achievements of our youth and the success of the

Education Initiative. Through regular attendance in school, hard work and the support of the Initiative, they are achieving their goals and preparing for a successful life," said Hines. The event marked the fifth year in a row with a 0% dropout rate among youth who participate in the Education Initiative. Additionally, 92% of high school seniors in the program graduated this spring. The Initiative currently works with 314 youth who live in the Highland Homes and Scattered Sites developments. In addition to the recognition they received from the Housing Authority and Chair Hines, graduates received congratulations from Mayor Tom Barrett. "These youth are the future leaders of the city, and there is no limit to what they can accomplish with a strong education," said Barrett. "The Education Initiative has helped provide a solid foundation for their continued success," said Barrett.

Since 2005, the HACM Education Initiative has sought to improve school attendance and educational achievement among youth at Highland Homes and Scattered Sites. "The Initiative strives to provide youth with an environment that consistently reinforces the importance of education and links them to resources that can help them accomplish their goals," said HACM Secretary-Executive Director Tony Pérez. Education Specialist Darrell Finch works with the children to ensure they attend school every day, links them to community learning centers and tutoring programs, and helps reduce barriers to their success in school. He also works one-on-one with parents to develop an educational achievement plan for each child.

"The kids inspire me every day, because they want a good life and they know that education is the key to achieving that goal," said Finch. HACM provides safe, high-quality and affordable housing to a diverse population of residents in over 4,000 public housing and 1,000 multi-family market rate rental units. In addition, HACM manages a Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program that serves more than 5,600 families. HACM further provides a wide range of educational, employment, and social services to enhance residents' self-sufficiency.



The Washington family is awarded the Finch Family Scholarship for their overall commitment to education. From left in back: HACM Manager of Youth & Family Services Maria Rodriguez, Common Council President and Housing Authority Board Chair Willie L. Hines, Jr., Education Specialist Darrell Finch, Housing Authority Associate Director Steve Falek, Theresa and Bennett Washington, and three of their grandchildren.

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
- In compliance with the terms and conditions of lease agreement

HIPPY PROGRAM

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



Welcome to COMPASS Guide

<http://epic.cuir.uwm.edu/compass/>

Welcome to KnowHOW2GO WISCONSIN

<http://knowhow2gowisconsin.org/>

The hub for college planning in Milwaukee! It can point you in the right direction for career, college and financial aid information and tools. These are great web sites for your children who are going to college. Compass Guide will be taught to each middle school and high school student in the after school mentor/tutor program.

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

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