



# GET INVOLVED

Tom Barrett  
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

September 2010

Issue No. 9

### A COMMITMENT TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



Darrell B. Finch-Education Specialist

“Children Don’t See The World The Way It Is, They See The World As They Are”

All individuals become what they are because of their dominating thoughts and desires stored in the subconscious mind. Conscious thoughts are the seat of action for the subconscious. As parents, we must feed our children’s minds with desirable foods which will be stored in the subconscious mind. Desire is a state of mind which may be induced or created by affirmations or repeated instructions to the subconscious mind through the principal of auto-suggestion or self-suggestion. Simple reinforcing to your child that *“You will graduate from high school and you can attend college,”* will have an enormous impact on one’s self-esteem. How our children perceive themselves and how they feel society perceives them has a huge impact on their self-esteem, motivation, initiative and behavior. Peer pressure and some music videos would have our children believe that graduating from high school, reading books, dressing properly, or speaking correct English is not being cool.

All children look for an identity; and whether it is positive or negative, they will obtain an identity. In order to have an identity, they will first have to identify with someone or something. Our children make their decisions either through the process of pain, pressure, or perspective. Parents, if we want to see change, we must change from within for our children to succeed academically and become responsible citizens. Parents, you are unquestionably the most important factor in your child’s educational development. What you say and do will have a profound effect on your children’s mind-set which will help shape their future. Seeking excellence and setting standards must be ingrained in our youth at an early age to set a foundation of dedication and discipline. Our perspective to empower our children should be to infuse their subconscious with positive reinforcements such as affirmation, praise, and encouragement to reinforce that *“Being Cool is Being Smart.”*

Giving our children wisdom, knowledge, and information will help them make intelligent decisions that will assure that their future goals are attainable. Our children are exposed to all the reasons why they can’t obtain a quality education and attend college. The color of their skin, where they live, income, lack of jobs, or the quality of the schools they attend are just some of the reasons that are embedded in their subconscious. The most addictive drug of all is our children’s belief in people’s negative opinions. It is a destructive force that robs our children of trying to sustain high self-esteem, discipline, dedication, motivation, creativity, and belief in self. There is a thinking process called “terminal thinking” that relates to young people not preparing for the future, because they don’t foresee themselves in the future. They are spending time engaging in various activities without having a clear plan in mind.

I’m saying all of that, to say this!

The HACM Education Initiative is a pro-active approach that was designed to assist your children in identifying with positive resources and programs that will acclimate, enrich, expose, and inspire them into a learning environment that is conducive to obtaining a quality education and seeking post-secondary education. The HACM Education Initiative was designed to entrench into your children’s subconscious to plan for the future and that they will graduate from high school and they can attend college. We are elated to announce that the HACM Education Initiative has had a 97% graduation rate in the last three years with our seniors and 0% dropout rate in the last five years with our students.

When graduating from high school is a 50/50 proposition, we need to infuse more than hope to our children. Hope is a place or a state of being, to wish for or expect something. Hope plants a seed of doubt in the subconscious that lays a foundation of, “It might happen.” ***A burning desire with a goal, a plan, realistic objectives, plus action = Success.*** A burning desire will propel dreams and aspirations to fulfillment. No doubt needs to exist; only an overwhelming burning desire that will be a catalyst for our children to cultivate a positive attitude that will reinforce positive behavior when they are at school.

I want to encourage you to take advantage of these wonderful opportunities that the HACM Education Initiative offers you toward the enhancement of your children’s learning development. It is a pleasure and a wonderful experience for me as we work together in our pursuit of a “Commitment to Educational Excellence.”

Darrell B. Finch



## Youth Attend UWM Pre-College for Teens/Kids Program

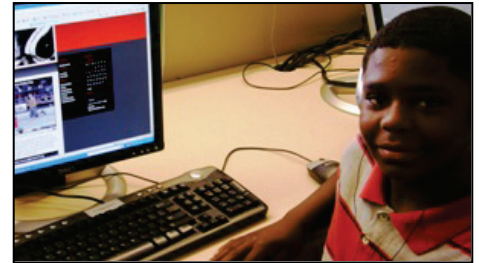


As part of the HACM Education Initiative, students from Highland Homes and Scattered Site Homes attended enrichment classes for one week from June 28, 2010, to July 2, 2010, at Highland Gardens Neighborhood Networks Computer Lab. Each year, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Pre-College for Teens/Kids Program helps to acclimate youth to academic surroundings and inspire them to achieve a quality education. UWM instructor Megan Fox trained students through

10 hours of classes, including "Blogging Basics," which taught students a great way to share creative writing with friends and family online. The workshop also helped develop excellent



spelling, grammar and punctuation skills. Web Citizenry 2.0 taught students how to be successful Web citizens by showing students how to safely use Facebook, blogs, online portfolios, podcast and video



streams. Upon completion, the attendees received UWM certificates of completion and celebrated with a pizza party. HACM provided free daily lunches to all of the students and provided t-shirts for participating in the program.



## Don't Bug Me...I'm Reading! Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee 2010 Summer Reading Challenge



The second annual Summer Reading Challenge took place at Highland Gardens from June 23, 2010, to July 23, 2010. Youth from Highland Homes and Scattered Sites Homes participated in the reading challenge. Together, the students logged

in hours of reading this summer. The Summer Reading Challenge 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 were rewarded with book bags filled with school supplies, t-shirts, McDonald's five dollar gift certificates, and a summer reading experience they will never forget.





2009 Spelling Bee Winners



2009 Fire Poster Contest Winners



## BEE SEEN! BEE COOL! BEE THERE!



### The Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee TENTH ANNUAL SPELLING BEE CONTEST

For all HACM 6th, 7th and 8th Graders  
Thursday, October 28, 2010  
6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
Hillside Terrace Resource Center  
1452 N. 7th Street, First Floor

**Please contact**  
Shakela Scott  
HACM Education Initiative Assistant  
414-224-1790 Office  
414-335-1255 Cellular  
[sscott@hacm.org](mailto:sscott@hacm.org)

(1st place) \$100 (2nd place) \$50 (3rd place) \$25.00  
(for each age group)



WITI-TV, FOX 6's Bob Moore Weather  
Anchor/Reporter  
2010 Spelling Bee pronouncer

**Trophies-Food-Fun-Tee-Shirts-Money**

## HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE 2010 FIRE PREVENTION CONTEST



*Sign Up Now*

### Poster Contest

This event is being sponsored by the Housing Authority Insurance Group (HAIG) to promote fire safety within the community. The Fire Prevention Poster Contest goal is to promote the importance of families developing and implementing a home fire escape plan. "Smoke Alarms, a sound you can live with" is the theme of Fire Prevention Week, October 4-9, 2010.

Youth from the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee are encouraged to participate in the Fire Prevention 2010 Poster Contest. Participants must create a poster displaying fire prevention and safety around fire prevention. 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 winners will receive a check in the amount of **\$50**, second place winners receive **\$30**, and the third place winners will receive **\$20**. Deadline to submit your poster is September 30, 2010.

It's not enough to have a home escape fire plan. To escape safely, you must make sure that everyone in the home has practiced the plan. The Housing Authority encourages residents that when it comes to escape plans, practice is the key. With this in mind, the HAIG wants to make children aware of these potential hazards and teach them ways to prevent fires.

**Please contact**

Shakela Scott  
HACM Education Initiative Assistant  
414-224-1790 Office  
414-335-1255 Cellular  
414-224-7605 Fax  
[sscott@hacm.org](mailto:sscott@hacm.org)



## ETIQUETTE FOR YOUTH "THE ROAD TO SUCCESS"

As part of the HACM Education Initiative, We have designed and implemented a six-week etiquette program for youth called "*The Road to Success*." The primary objective is to expose students to professionals who will teach them social skills that will prepare them when they seek post-secondary education or employment. As part of the program students will attend and be exposed to theater, arts, travel, music and fine dining.

Jeffery J. Butler, M.D., Orthopedic Surgeon at St. Luke's Hospital will be volunteering his services and facilitating the six seminars with students from Highland Park Homes and Scattered Sites Homes.

- Basic manners
- Etiquette at the dinner table
- Planning your career
- Dressing for success
- Phone etiquette
- Interviewing for employment

The program will run (6) consecutive Mondays, starting September 13, 2010, 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. at Highland Gardens.

## 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

## HACM Mentoring/Tutoring Program Enroll Now

The Afterschool Mentoring/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. Starting September 13, 2010.

Highland Gardens

Monday through Friday-3:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.

## 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 of the Children Outing Associations (COA) 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

## 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

HACM Education Initiative  
Darrell Finch  
Education Specialist  
414-225-9498 Office  
414-335-1254 Cellular  
414-224-7605 Fax  
[dfinch@hacm.org](mailto:dfinch@hacm.org)

HACM Education Initiative  
Shakela Scott  
Education Initiative Assistant  
414-224-1790 Office  
414-335-1255 Cellular  
414-224-7605 Fax  
[sscott@hacm.org](mailto:sscott@hacm.org)

