



GET INVOLVED

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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

April 2013

Issue No.15

A COMMITMENT TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Open letter to my students,

"A Dream Without A Plan Is Only A Wish"

It's been eight years since the implementation of the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee Education Initiative and we have seen our high school graduation rate hover between 85% and 100%. I am elated to announce in 2012 the Education Initiative assisted students achieved an 88% high school graduation rate among our high school seniors. While we are elated with those results and have made tremendous progress, we still face tremendous challenges and an incredible amount of work. One of the goals of the Education Initiative is to ensure that after you graduate from high school that you are on par to compete in twenty-first century technology and globalization.

Each one of you will need to develop a plan and goal with realistic objectives to achieve those goals. And most importantly you will have to unearth the desire to follow up with action. Setting career goals consists of identifying clear objectives, plus the steps needed to achieve them. The main reason people do not achieve their dream is that they don't set any goals. In the 21st century, there are only two kinds of people, those who are educated and those who are not educated. Without a good education you have limited legal options for earning money. While obtaining good grades and testing are very important,

I don't want you to get discouraged if you have not met your goals. Tests can't determine inventiveness, creativity, imagination, conceptual thinking, inquisitiveness, effort, judgment, commitment or a mass of other valuable attributes that you will need to compete globally. Making it in the real world today requires more than good grades. Today's jobs require workers to have a greater ability to think critically, be problem solvers, analytical thinkers, creative thinkers and the ability to work effectively in groups. It is estimated that 80% of the jobs created in the next decade will require some form of math and science skills. If you consciously believe that you have the ability to achieve your goals and you can hold a picture of those goals clearly in your mind long enough and hard enough, eventually your outer world will correspond with it. What's stopping you! There is a thinking process called "terminal thinking" that relates to young people not preparing for the future, because they might not foresee themselves in the future.

They are spending time engaging in various activities without having a clear plan in mind on what they want to accomplish. You have to without delay, disengage from spending all of your time watching meaningless media reality shows, engaging in pointless social networking such as; updating Facebook, emails, texting, mp3 players, spending time divulged in mind sedating computer games and excessive social celebrations, sports and partying. Yes, you are more connected in technology today that any other generation in history, but you are also more disconnected: you have lost a valuable skill, the ability to engage and connect with people.

I challenge you to flip the script; redirect your energies toward your goals; spend 75% of your time on homework and career goals and 25% on social homework. Your dreams will remain unattainable if you continue to spend 75% of your time socially networking. Focus on developing your interview and listening skills; sharpen your ability to hold a dynamic conversation and advance your reading and writing skills.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to meet with you one on one throughout the years. Sometimes our meetings were not easy, but necessary. I enjoy listening as we set goals. Knowing that we have focused on your educational goals at those meetings regarding your personal endeavors makes me feel that there is aspiration and design for students in the Education Initiative.

A majority of people are walking the earth without direction because they have no plans, goals, or purpose. But for me, you are the reason why I strive to be a better educator: why I wake up each morning. I am here to provide support as you prepare to face the world. I am honored that you work with me and I will work hard not to fail you. Your enthusiasm to do better is my inspiration and the reason I am an educator.

Again, thank you for giving me a continued sense of fulfillment, a purpose and for furthering my passion for advocacy of education.

Darrell Finch

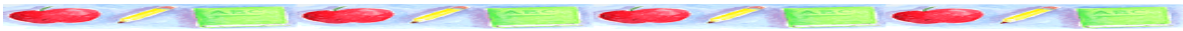


Project Manager, Nzinga Kahlid with parents

Education Initiative Partners with GreatSchools

On Saturday, February 16th, HACM parents and students joined together with GreatSchools, a national educational nonprofit, to identify solutions to obstacles that hinder academic success for youth. The effort is part of the Education Initiative's mission to ensure that all students

graduate from high school, and it fits with HACM's efforts to provide intensive support to youth who are not finding success in school. GreatSchools is a K-12 program that provides one-on-one meetings with parents, conducts workshops and improves schools by getting parents more involved. The meeting was facilitated by HACM staff Darrell Finch and Tracy Revels, along with Nzinga Kahlid, the Milwaukee-area GreatSchools Project Manager who was on hand to offer tools to assist families in choosing the right school for their children. The Education Initiative-GreatSchools partnership, which is supported nationally by HUD, has made it possible for students to obtain quality education and to graduate from high school.



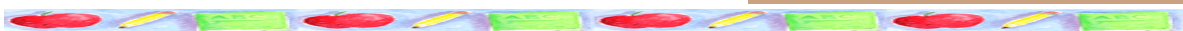
Youth find inspiration in Theater

As part of celebrating Black History Month, youth from Scattered Sites Homes and Highland Homes attended the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts production, "The Promise Land". Reeling from the loss of her brother during recent Civil Rights actions, Ruth, a young African-American in 1960s Milwaukee, is ready to quit school when she finds inspiration in the autobiography of Golda Meir - past student of the former Fourth Street

School who rose to become the first woman prime minister of Israel. Through the HACM Education Initiative, students of all ages are being acclimated and exposed to theatre, dance and performing arts 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 time attending a production, it made for a wonderful, unforgettable experience for the students". First Stage Children Theater develops and produces plays that celebrate the history and the people of Wisconsin.



Volunteer, Kristina McHenry with student





SAVE THIS DATE

Keynote Speaker:
Dr. Demond Means

Superintendent Mequon-Thiensville School
District
Housing Authority of the City of
Milwaukee Presents
2013 Student Recognition Awards
***"The Past, The Present,
Our Future!"***
Wednesday, June 19, 2013
5:45 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
HACM Community Center, 1ST floor
650 W. Reservoir Street

"On Juneteenth we come together young and old to listen, to learn and to refresh the drive to achieve. It is a day where we all take one step closer together - to better utilize the energy wasted on racism. Juneteenth is a day that we pray for peace and liberty for all."

- Family style dinner will be served
- Trophies, awards, gift certificates will be awarded
- Raffle will take place

Do you want to help prepare your child for college?



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 child the opportunity to attend the **UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE PRE-COLLEGE FOR TEENS SUMMER PROGRAM FOR FREE?**

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.

Students in grades 6 through 12 have the opportunity to attend two classes a day for four hours on the UWM campus during the week of July 8th-12th, 2013.

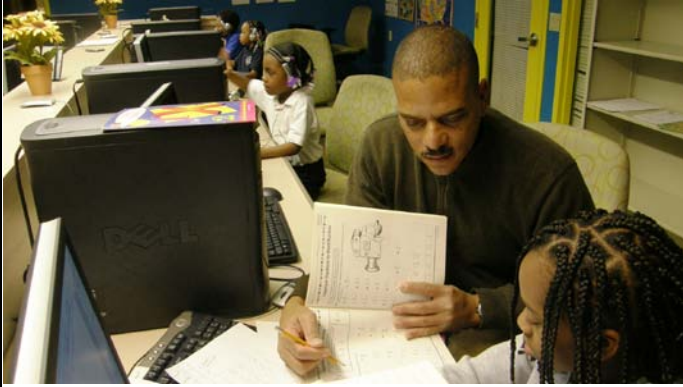
(Participants need to have a 2.50 grade point average and be qualified for the free or reduce-fee school meal program)

Summer Schedule

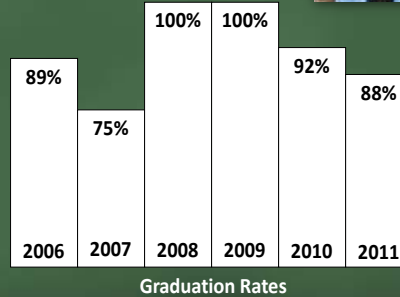
Build Your Own Business: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Lunch 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Healthy Habits: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.



Attendees that finish the program receive UW-M Certificates of Completion and we will celebrate with a pizza party.



EDUCATION INITIATIVE SNAPSHOT



Education Specialist Tracy Revels with student

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

Highland Gardens

1818 W. Juneau Avenue (Back Door)

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



Welcome one and all to the Saturday Reading Challenge!

Let's all begin this reading journey together! The Education Initiative is challenging you to read!

Did you know that reading 15 minutes a day will improve your reading?

The reading challenge will take place on the below listed Saturdays, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the Highland Gardens Computer Lab, located at 1818 W. Juneau Avenue, (Back Door Entrance) You can go on wonderful adventures, laugh with characters, and try to solve a mystery, or spook yourself silly just by reading a good book! **April 6, 13, 20, 27 & May 4, 11, 18, 25**

Your Children Are Our Priority

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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.

