

# ONE VOICE

Housing Authority of the  
City of Austin  
P.O. Box 6159  
Austin, TX 78762-6159  
[www.hacanet.org](http://www.hacanet.org)



## Our Mission

The **Housing Authority of the City of Austin** is a public agency whose business is to:

- ◆ Ensure that safe, quality affordable housing opportunities exist for families of low income,
- ◆ Break the poverty cycle by serving as a catalyst for our residents to become economically self-sufficient,
- ◆ Create meaningful partnerships to maximize available community resources for our residents,
- ◆ Efficiently and effectively meet federal, state and local mandates

The Housing Authority of the City of Austin will pursue entrepreneurial opportunities to address emerging trends and respond to the challenges of the future.

### Important Phone Numbers

HACA Administration	477-4488
24 Hour Resident Hotline	495-1897
Maintenance Work Orders	477-8518
Section 8	477-1314
Fire/Police	911
Non-Emergency Police	311
Poison Center	800-764-7661

## ONE VOICE *Newsletter*

Published by the Housing Authority of the City of Austin  
Judy Paciocco, Sr. Director of Operations

Comments, articles and photographs are welcomed for the  
One Voice newsletter. E-mail submissions to Monique Hennington.  
[moniqueh@hacanet.org](mailto:moniqueh@hacanet.org)

Or by mail to:  
HACA, Attn: Media Relations  
P.O. Box 6159  
Austin, TX 78762

*All submissions must have a name and phone number to be considered. Due to space limitations, the editor reserves the right to reject or edit copy as necessary.*

*Taxpayer dollars were not used for the production of this publication.*

# ONE VOICE



*Creating and sustaining healthy communities that promote individual responsibility, economic growth, human dignity and hope for the future.*

February 2011

[www.hacanet.org](http://www.hacanet.org)

Volume 21 • Number 2

## Housing Authority Board of Commissioners

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Vice Chair

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Second Vice Chair

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Board Member

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Vice President of Housing & Community Development-District II

**Ron Kowal**  
Vice President of Housing Development/Asset Management

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Vice President of Southwest Housing Compliance Corporation



## skillpoint alliance

*where community, education, and business connect*

Skillpoint Alliance offers low-cost computer training and employment services for adults. Classes are offered in various locations around Austin, but specifically for HACA residents at Booker T. Washington Terraces. The classes cover all skill levels from beginners through advanced in a supportive environment. Additionally, the program allows participants to take advantage of their career counseling services to help refine employment goals, searches, and skills.

James Noblitt, the Skillpoint Alliance instructor for HACA says, "Our goal is to provide residents with computer skills training to achieve their career and personal goals." The computer classes are modular or based on the level that best fits the participant. Noblitt says, "The great thing about the computer classes is we work one on one with the resident. Each person receives a self-assessment to determine where to start their computer training." There

are 18-20 different classes offered. Participants can retake the computer course as often as needed. The first two classes are free for HACA residents. Classes thereafter are free or low-cost based on a sliding scaled and financial assistance is available. "We will not turn anyone away for inability to pay," Noblitt says.



Your go to computer guru, James Noblitt, Skillpoint Alliance

Skillpoint Alliance also provides career training for those who face barriers to employment. Career training courses include vocational construction, allied health, electrician, and medical front office. Noblitt says, "Our electrician career option allows an individual to gain a year's worth of apprentice training in six months." The Skillpoint Alliance program is successful in having individuals trained and working in a short amount of time. Noblitt describes it as the "rapid employment model." To sign up, please contact a HCV FSS Coordinator or ROSS Specialist.

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**HACA offices will be closed Monday, February 21, 2011 in observance of President's Day.**

The February Board of Commissioner's Meeting will be held at the HACA Administration Building, 1124 South IH-35, Austin, TX 78704 on February 17, 2011 at 12:00 pm.



# Celebrate Black History Month

2011 Theme: African Americans and the Civil War. The African American Civil War Memorial, (pictured left) in Washington, D.C., commemorates the service of 209,145 African-American soldiers and sailors who fought for the Union in the American Civil War. The sculpture, *The Spirit of Freedom*, is a nine-foot bronze statue by Ed Hamilton.



LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED FOR SATURDAY CLASSES. DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED FOR EVENING CLASSES. ATTENDANCE FOR THE ENTIRE PROGRAM IS REQUIRED FOR A CERTIFICATE.

Contact Suzanne Schwertner at (512) 477-4488 ext. 2118 to register and location information.

## Realizing the American Dream HOMEBUYER WORKSHOP For HACA Clients Only

- Saturday, Jan. 15th: 8:00am -5:30pm
- Mon. & Thurs., Feb. 7 & 10: 4:30pm-9:00pm
- Saturday, Feb. 19th: 8:00am -5:30pm
- Saturday, March 19th: 8:00am -5:30pm
- Tues. & Thurs., Apr. 5 & 7: 4:30pm-9:00pm
- Saturday, Apr. 16th: 8:00am -5:30pm
- Saturday, May 21st: 8:00am -5:30pm
- Tues. & Thurs., June 7 & 9: 4:30pm-9:00pm
- Saturday, June 18th: 8:00am -5:30pm



## Caritas of Austin Upcoming Life Skills Classes

Caritas of Austin offers two free class series open to all HACA Public Housing Residents. All classes are offered in English and Spanish. Public Housing residents that complete either series will **receive a free \$50 gift card!**

CORONADO HILLS - FEBRUARY 2011		
My Money, My Life Series / Serie Mi Dinero, Mi Vida		
Class / Clase	English	Español
Personal Finances / Finanzas personales	Feb 1st, 10am	Feb 22, 10am
Savings / Ahorros	Feb 2nd, 10am	Feb 23, 10am
Avoiding Scams / Estafas	Feb 3rd, 10am	Feb 24, 10am
Energy Conservation / Ahorro de Energia	Feb 10th, 3pm	Feb 17, 3pm
Smart Shopping / Comprador Astuto	Feb 17th, 10am	Feb 28, 1pm
Tools for Wellbeing Series / Serie Herramientas para el Bienestar		
Class / Clase	English	Español
Take Charge / Toma el Control	Feb 7th, 10am	Feb 14, 10am
Self Esteem / Autoestima	Feb 8th, 10am	Feb 15, 10am
Goal Setting / Establecer metas	Feb 9th, 10am	Feb 16, 10am
Time Management / Manejo del Tiempo	Feb 10th, 10am	Feb 17, 10am
Find a Job / Encuentra un trabajo	Feb 3rd, 3pm	Feb 24, 3pm

## 2011 Scholarships Available to HACA Residents

*If returning to school this year was your New Year's Resolution, it is time to start thinking about how you will fund your education.*

*Scholarships are a great way to pay for college. The money can be used towards tuition, books and school supplies.*

*HACA residents who are graduating high school seniors as well as returning students are eligible to apply.*

*In 2010, HACA awarded \$109,000 to 57 residents the Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher Programs. Don't delay-this could be you in 2011!*

Visit <http://www.hacanet.org/services/scholarships.php> for more information and instructions on how to apply!

### 2011 Scholarships with approximate deadline

<i>PHADA Scholarship</i>	<i>January 27</i>
<i>Texas NAHRO Scholarship</i>	<i>February 1</i>
<i>Southwest NAHRO Scholarship</i>	<i>March 4</i>
<i>HACA Resident Scholarship</i>	<i>March 11</i>
<i>HAIG Scholarship</i>	<i>TBA</i>

## 2011 Financial Aid Saturdays

### February Schedule

**Hours: 8:30am to 12:30 pm**

**February 5** – Hendrickson, Westwood, Westlake, Hays and Eastside Memorial High Schools

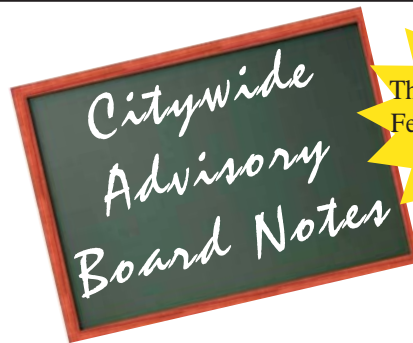
**February 12** – Lanier, Pflugerville, McNeil, San Marcos, Leander and Dripping Springs High Schools

**February 19** – Travis, Connally, Manor, Hays, Pflugerville, Hutto and Taylor High Schools (Hosted at Hutto High School)

**February 26** – Akins, Connally, Stony Point, Lehman, Reagan Point and Georgetown High Schools

*Remember, the earlier you apply the better! Submitting your application before March 31 may increase your financial aid opportunities.*

You can find more information on Financial Aid Saturdays including what to bring by visiting <http://www.collegereadyaustin.com/fascalendar.html>



The next meeting is February 8, 2011 at 10:00 am

Last month's CWAB meeting was held January 11, 2011 at the Central Office.

Mandy Beal spoke to the audience about the ROSS Subcommittee. A vote was passed to continue refreshments at CWAB meetings.

**NEW!** YOU MUST SIGN THE LIST FOR TRANSPORTATION AT YOUR MANAGEMENT OFFICE BY 5:00 P.M. ON THE FRIDAY BEFORE THE CITYWIDE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING.

Transportation to CWAB is provided, but not guaranteed. North properties call Mary Gonzales at 589-7451. South properties call Angie Cortez at 589-7985.

## New Home For the Holidays



**J**ennifer De La Garza's three sons played in a yard they could finally call their own. For the first time in her life, Jennifer could call herself a homeowner.

Jennifer has been a resident of the housing authority for five years at Chalmers Courts. She was approved to receive \$10,000 down payment assistance through HACA's Homeownership Program. She also qualified for her home to be built by Habitat for Humanity.

In an interview with KVUE news, Jennifer says, "I had the opportunity to receive a 'habitat' house and to give my kids the dream of moving in a house and having a bigger house. It just makes me happy."

The build began after Thanksgiving and ended right before Christmas. Thanks to a partnership between State Farm Insurance, Habitat for Humanity, and KVUE, volunteers worked tirelessly to build the De La Garzas a home in time for the holidays.

Jennifer's work, however, began more than two years ago when she applied for the home. Many sweat equity hours later, she finally received her keys. Jennifer and her boys will move into their home after the home closing in late January.

### Energy Conservation Tips

by Energy Manager James Bean

*Call in a maintenance request if you have a dripping faucet. A single dripping hot water faucet can waste 212 gallons of water a month. That not only increases water bills, but also increases the gas or electric bill for heating the water.*