

ONE VOICE

Housing Authority of
the City of Austin
P.O. Box 6159
Austin, TX 78762-6159
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

HACA 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 Duvall.
moniqued@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.

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



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Coats for Kids has been in service for 22 years. They strive to ensure every child in the Austin area has a warm winter coat. Coats for Kids works with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Austin Independent School District (AISD), surrounding central Texas school districts and social service agencies to identify children who are eligible for this important program.

Families will be qualified onsite at the Palmer Events Center,
900 Barton Springs Rd. on
Saturday, December 6, 2008, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

To receive a coat:

* Children must be 18 years of age or younger and accompanied by a parent or guardian. Parent or guardians without children present on Distribution Day must present proof of children's birth.

* Parents or guardians must show proof of enrollment in a governmental assistance program or family income at or below the national poverty level (\$14,000 for family of 2, \$21,200 for family of 4, \$35,600 for family of 8 and add \$3,600 for each additional member).

* Please note: A MAXIMUM of SIX coats (for children not present) will be allowed per adult and a MAXIMUM of ONE coat will be allowed per child. For more information, the residents should contact their FSS Specialist.



Operation Blue Santa has been a program of the Austin Police Department since 1972. This charitable outreach began when two patrol officers realized that some families on the patrol beat would not have gifts or food for their children at Christmas.

Blue Santa is located at:
4101 S. Industrial Drive, Suite 260

To apply for assistance for Operation Blue Santa, you need to have two proofs of your address, (1) an identification with a picture and (2) proof of your address, such as a utility bill, lease or insurance card. FEMA Cards and Red Cross cards will be accepted in lieu of photo id. You can only apply for your own household and children listed on the application must reside in that household.

Proof of age must be provided for all children (school records or shot records).

You may apply for assistance November 12th - December 12th at any of the Blue Santa locations or contact your FSS Specialist on-site.

Did you KNOW?



All television networks will transition to a digital signal on February 17, 2009.

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of the **Quarter**

FSS MEMBER

Shermaine Jones is the recipient of the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Member of the Quarter Award. Shermaine was nominated by her FSS Specialist, Keisha Hampton. Keisha says, "Shermaine shines above the rest." Recently, Shermaine's mother passed away, but through everything she has pushed herself to live a better life. Her main goal on the FSS Program is to become a homeowner. Shermaine lives at Chalmers Courts and has been approved by Habitat for Humanity for a home.

FSS Specialists work very close with FSS members to link them to education, job training programs and supportive services to better prepare them for today's competitive job market. In turn, they have the tools to earn an income that can support their family without public assistance.

Keisha says, "I am very proud of

Shermaine. She is smart, responsible, consistent, a go-getter and has a great personality. She has impressed me so much because in spite of what she has faced, she is using the tools that are available to her to improve her life."

Shermaine's goals and perseverance are admirable and encouraging to others like herself. "She is an example of what any person can accomplish if they don't give up through difficulties, work with the tools they are being offered, and move forward consistently. Making positive little steps will make her dreams a reality. To me she is a winner and I applaud her 100%", Keisha says.

The Family Self-Sufficiency Program was established by the Housing Authority of the City of Austin in 1993. The goal of the program is to help Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher tenants achieve economic independence.

If you would like more information about the FSS Program or about how to be nominated as the FSS Member of the Quarter, please contact your FSS Specialist on-site.

Doc and Gayle Young Annual Food Drive



Every Tuesday before Thanksgiving something special happens that touches the lives of many appreciative families. Over twelve hundred food baskets with a turkey and all the trimmings were presented to them to prepare a Thanksgiving meal. Those baskets stretch to feed families for days after Thanksgiving Day. The Doc and Gayle Young Fall Food Drive, in partnership with the Austin Apartment Association, has annually contributed to the Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA) public housing residents to provide Thanksgiving baskets.

Resident Outreach Specialist, Mary Gonzales, has coordinated the event for over 20 years. She says many of the families feel they have been forgotten because they do not have any other family around. "If it weren't for the Austin Apartment Association many of people would go without a Thanksgiving meal." The HACA staff work together to provide meals to as many residents as possible. Preference is given to the elderly/disabled, single mothers, and low income families.



Public Comment Period and Public Hearing for HACA Public Housing Authority Annual Plan

The Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA) will have a public comment period for its FY 2009 Annual Plan commencing on October 17, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. and closing on December 10, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

A copy of the plan may be reviewed at 1124 S. IH-35 Austin, TX 78704 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and all comments should be sent or hand delivered to this address. There will be two more public hearings regarding this plan: December 1, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. to be held at the Booker T. Washington Apartments located 905 Bedford (78702) and December 9, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. at the HACA Central Office located at 1124 S. IH-35 (78704).

HACA is committed to compliance with the American Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Please call 477-4488, ext 2112 for assistance.

New Doors Open for Affordable Housing!

Austin Affordable Housing Corporation, a subsidiary of the Housing Authority of the City of Austin, recently purchased Park at Summer's Grove Apartments acquiring 240 more doors to the affordable housing inventory. Park at Summer's Grove is a tax credit property built in 2005. It is located at 2900 Century Park Blvd, Austin, TX 78727.

The affordable housing units will be available to Housing Choice Voucher and Six-Star Residents. There are already more than 80 Housing Choice Voucher individuals occupying units at the apartment complex.

Park at Summer's Grove has Class A amenities and a wide range of floor plans for 1-3 bedroom units.



Citywide Advisory Board Notes

There was not a CWAB meeting in the month of November. The HACA Central Office was closed in observance of Veteran's Day Tuesday, November 11th.

The next Citywide Advisory Board meeting will be held December 9, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. at HACA's Central Administration Building. After the meeting, will be the final Public Hearing for the Draft Annual Plan.

Please come to the meeting to discuss resident council information and upcoming activities for the new year.

Transportation is provided.
Call at least 1 day in advance.
North properties call Mary Gonzales at 589-7451.
South properties call Angie Cortez at 589-7985

HACA Property Improvements

The Planning and Development team is dedicated to making the Housing Authority of the City of Austin a place residents are proud to call home. The following are improvements that are either currently under way or are scheduled for the near future:

Current Project Status

- **Playground Improvements**—Rosewood & BTW—In negotiation with equipment manufacturer for pricing on components and work needed to improve existing small playscape at Rosewood and larger installations at BTW.
- **Interior Unit Renovations**—BTW—Interior renovations to first two multi-family buildings of BTW, including kitchen and bath remodeling, flooring repairs and cabinet replacements. Contract approved at September Board Meeting. Pre-construction meetings underway prior to any on site work. Phase II currently in design!
- **Parking Lot Improvements**—Northgate—Resurfacing of entire parking and drive area with curb cuts for accessibility and re-stripping of all spaces. Sidewalk repairs and replacements are scheduled to eliminate trip hazards and improve accessibility. Progress underway.
- **Exterior Site Grading, Erosion Controls and Retaining Walls**—BTW—Large scale project to remove excess soils, regrade site areas for proper drainage, repair

sidewalk areas, and replace retaining walls on the site.

- **New Mgmt. & Community Facility**—Meadowbrook— Planning & design work to begin as soon as possible.
- **Sidewalk Repairs**—Agency Wide—Assisting various Public Housing sites with sidewalk reviews, planning, and replacement efforts. Santa Rita, North Loop, Shadowbend, Manchaca Village and Coronado Hills-complete. Northgate will be completed in the near future. Assessing conditions for priority and planning needs for next site.
- **Walkway Repairs**—Gaston—Address of existing 2nd and 3rd floor exterior walkways to repair surface cracks and handrails attachments. In consult and design.
- Upcoming Projects:**
- **Community Center Improvements**—Santa Rita—Renovation of existing spaces to improve services and appeal of these resident oriented facilities.
- **Mailbox Replacements**—Santa Rita & Georgian—In design stages for replacement of existing clusters with new sets.
- **Interior Renovations**—Rio Lado—Beginning stages of design for renovations to kitchens and baths of each site. Update! This project is now being scoped to include furnace replacements!
- **Fencing**—In the planning stage to address various fencing needs at multiple developments. First site, Northgate, complete.

Energy Conservation Tips

by Energy Manager
James Bean

Heating Tip:
During the winter season, keep the draperies and shades on your south facing windows open during the day to allow the sunlight to enter your home and closed at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.