

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



November 2008

A publication of the
Housing Authority of the City of Austin

Volume 18 Number 11
www.hacanet.org

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Vice President of
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Success Stories

Former Residents Voluntarily Give Up Assistance To Help Others In Need

Thanksgiving season is a great time to give thanks and to help someone else in need. Maria Martinez and Crystal Harris are two women who have moved their families out of assisted housing to allow another family in need to use their housing resources. Maria and Crystal have voluntarily moved out of subsidized housing into a home or an apartment becoming independent.

Maria is very satisfied that she was able to move off the program and into her own place saying, "I want to open this space for another family to live." Maria says while she was living in assisted housing, she was also extremely grateful of the opportunity to be able to raise her three boys in a safe and decent environment. She says, "It's not easy

new job is challenging, but she is earning more money and now lives at the new apartment complex. She says, "The assisted housing program was a gift from God... now there are families that need help more than I do."

Crystal Harris purchased a home this year which was a dream come true for her and her family. She has worked for the State of Texas as a Legal Administrative Assistant for eight years. She is currently attending school to receive her Bachelor's

degree in Criminal Justice Administration. Crystal's father was an inspiration to her because he taught her that the sky is the limit. He instilled in her that she can achieve her dreams. Crystal did not use the housing authority's Down Payment Assistance Program. She says, "If I can do it, anyone can do it. Use the Section 8 program as a stepping stone not as a crutch." For most people, assisted housing is a temporary stepping stone to independence. There are many paths to self-sufficiency. If you are like Maria and Crystal and you see yourself living in your own home or apartment, the housing authority would like to help you achieve your dreams!



Maria Martinez

Crystal Harris

Ways To Self-Sufficiency

- Focus On Job Training
- Continue Your Education
- Own Your Own Home
- Lease A Rental Property
- Become A Business Owner
- Set Achievable Goals

Did
you
KNOW?

Vote
on
November
4th!

If you have not participated in early voting, Please cast your vote on Election Day November 4

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Appointed by the mayor of the City of Austin, the Housing Authority of the City of Austin's Board of Commissioners chart the direction of the agency. We say farewell to our former resident commissioner, Kelly Roth, who resigned from the board. We are grateful to Ms. Roth for her hard work and dedication to the housing authority's board.

Our new resident commissioner is Thelma Pannell. She was born and raised in the city of Taft. She has one daughter, 4 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren. When asked how she felt to be appointed by the mayor for such a position she says, "It is a high honor that I was not expecting. I was overwhelmed." Her appointment began September 25, 2008 and Ms. Pannell will serve on the board until 2010. She has hit the ground running as a commissioner, already making decisions in board meetings and presenting awards at our annual FSS banquet.



Thelma Pannell

New

Resident Commissioner!

Ms. Pannell is up for the challenge of being the resident commissioner, as she is currently a leader at the housing authority. She serves as both the President of the North Loop Resident Council and the Citywide Advisory Board. Ms. Pannell says at one point she was homeless. She moved into North Loop Apartments in the year 2000. Ms. Pannell says she is a "people person" and she loves to bring resources to her community. "I love to show the elderly residents and anyone else that they can have the resources to be self-sufficient!" She wants to continue to assist her fellow residents saying, "With the help of the housing authority staff I am sure I will be successful in helping the community as resident commissioner." Let us all welcome our new resident commissioner as she begins her new role. Ms. Pannell says, "I hope to learn and be of help to the residents and their concerns."

Emerging Enterprises Upcoming Schedule

Last month's Emerging Enterprises' ribbon cutting ceremony was an exciting celebration and the business center is now open! If you own a business or would like to own a business, here is some important information about upcoming sessions at Emerging Enterprises.

Track one is focused on technology, emphasizing the use of computers to increase work productivity and effectiveness. At this level, basic computer concepts will be introduced such as Microsoft Office Suite, Word, Excel, Power Point, Electronic Mail, QuickBooks and introduction to web design and the use of the Internet as a tool to perform business research and information retrieval. Track one will emphasize the use of spreadsheets to emulate business scenarios to improve the decision making process.

Track two is related to management and business processes. Topics such as marketing, advertisement, business plan development and capitol acquisition strategies will be taught. This track will be enhanced by seminars on lending, including conventional and non-conventional loans.

Upon completion of the business courses, the participants will be able to conduct business out of the business resource center for up to six months at no cost. As an added benefit, each participant that completes the program will receive a membership to The Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Classes will begin January 26, 2009. For an interview please call Monica Willey at (512)476-7502. Space is limited. The location for Emerging Enterprises is 1144 Airport Blvd, Austin, TX 78702. -Contributed by *Nidia Ramirez, Program Administrator*

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 three public hearings regarding this plan: November 20, 2008 at 12:00 p.m. to be held at the Meadowbrook Apartments located at 1201 W. Live Oak (78704), 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.

UT Austin School of Nursing Announces Study to Help Women Lose Weight after Pregnancy

The School of Nursing at the University of Texas at Austin recently announced the approval of a pilot program to help women lose weight after recently delivering a baby. The program is available only to women over 18 years, who received prenatal care covered through Medicaid, whose baby is between 6 weeks and 1 year old, who have not had more than 3 children, and who speak and write English. The study compares the effectiveness of losing weight through either a series of organized classes lasting 2 hours each week for 13 weeks or by completing assignments sent to the participant by mail or by telephone. Women are currently being interviewed and the program is scheduled to begin in January. Additional information can be obtained by calling 475-9718.



FREE MEDICAL CLINICS

Christian Women's Job Corps is collaborating with Mission Possible to host free medical clinics at Santa Rita, Rosewood/Salina, and Booker T. Washington on **November 22nd from 1:00pm - 4:00pm**. Over twelve doctors are volunteering their services to provide general exams, high blood pressure and diabetes screening, flu shots (depending on vaccine availability) and educational information on services provided. These properties were selected because the doctors are participating in urban submersion training with Mission Possible in the 78702 areas.

Mission Possible is consulting with ECHO (Empowering Church Healthcare Outreach) on the process and resources needed to start a faith-based clinic. ECHO is a nonprofit corporation founded to assist churches in launching and maintaining health clinics to provide a medical home for families who are struggling financially. ECHO is engaged in researching the modern challenges of healthcare in the US and how churches can help meet those challenges by developing nonprofit healthcare clinics for people in need.

Citywide Advisory Board Notes



Last month's Citywide Advisory Board meeting was held October 14, 2008 at the Central Office.

Pilar Sanchez, Director of Quality Control, addressed the members about the new business center Emerging Enterprises. She also invited the members to attend the grand opening and share the news with their communities.

The CWAB Appreciation Luncheon was held October 14 at the Central Office Cafeteria. It was a great success! The event was held to celebrate past and present Resident Councils and their respective officers.

There will NOT be a CWAB meeting in the month of November. The HACA Central Office will be 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.

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



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/work needed to improve existing small playscape at Rosewood and larger installations at Booker T. Washington. In process.
- **Interior Unit Renovations—BTW**—Interior renovations to first two multi-family buildings of BTW, including kitchen and bath remodeling, flooring repairs and cabinet replacements. Phase II currently in design.
- **Parking Lot Improvements—Northgate**—Resurfacing of entire parking and drive area with curb cuts for accessibility and re-striping of all spaces.
- **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. Solicitation of project being scheduled.
- **New Mgmt. & Community Facility—Meadowbrook**—Planning & design work to begin as soon as possible.

Energy Conservation Tips

by Energy Manager

Water Conservation

When you clean your fish tank, use the water you've drained on your plants. **The water is rich in nitrogen and phosphorus, providing you with a free and effective fertilizer.** Don't use running water to thaw food. **Turn off the water while you brush your teeth and save 4 gallons a minute. That's 200 gallons a week for a family of four.** Cook food in as little water as possible. This will also retain more of the nutrients. **Turn off the water when you shave and you can save more than 100 gallons a week.** Dump leftover ice from a cup on a plant.