

# ONE VOICE

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



# ONE VOICE

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



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## GOOD MORNING, MR. PRESIDENT!

### *A Trip of a Lifetime*

On the historic morning of January 20, 2009 two HACA students braved the winter cold to witness the inauguration of President Barack Obama. "It was 25 degrees! I was really excited to be there," says Elijah Cofield, one of the students on the trip. Elijah and Benjamin "Ben" Chisolm, both eighth grade students at Martin Middle School, received a chance of a lifetime they will never forget.

Elijah and Ben are both apart of Business Professionals of America, an in-school organization

that molds and prepares students for the professional world. Under the leadership of Mrs. Katrina Hicks, 15 students and their chaperones, flew to Washington D.C. The road to the D.C. was exciting and challenging. "At first we didn't believe Mrs. Hicks. It wasn't until everyone started saying, 'you all are really lucky to go to D.C.' that we believed it," says Ben. The boys were very grateful

for the opportunity saying, "We thank her a lot for the opportunity- we know it wasn't easy." Then the excitement began. Elijah says, "We each had to raise \$500 in donations and buy a suit." The Housing Authority of the City of Austin contributed the money for both Elijah and Ben to attend the inauguration. The funds covered their hotel, flight and meals.

Ben says he was relieved his sponsor paid for the trip. It was Elijah's first time out of the state and his first time flying. The group landed in Baltimore where they resided for the duration of the

trip. They arrived the celebration for Saturday prior and were able to participate in the celebration for Martin Luther King Day. "We heard President Obama speak at the MLK Day event. It was different seeing so many people singing together," says Ben.

On the morning of the inauguration, Elijah says, "We left the hotel at 2:00 a.m. going to the Metro Station to ride the Red Line into D.C. We walked and walked and walked until we reached the National Mall." The students say they walked a total of fifteen miles to the location. They discovered



L to R: Elijah Cofield, Ramon Diaz (Martin Middle School CIS Program Manager), Benjamin Chisolm

long lines upon arrival as other bystanders patiently waited to plant their feet on the capital grounds. The students' vantage point was fortunately close. Ben says, "We were three jumbotrons away from the podium where President Obama stood. We could hear him loud and clear."

The students spent over 12 hours in the cold to embrace the remarkable occasion with

countless Americans and people from other nations. Ben says, "I was expecting a feeling of greatness. We were very lucky to be there." The student's trip to D.C was expanded to visiting the Smithsonian Museum, the Lincoln Memorial and the Nation's Capital. The swearing-in ceremony was inspiring to the students, as they look ahead to what they want to become when they grow up. Elijah says, "Barack Obama being president means that whatever your color or race you can achieve what you want. You can do it, if you believe in yourself."

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## 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.



## March Celebrates Women's History Month!

History maker and local Austinite, Wilhelmina Delco is celebrated for her achievements as a successful woman in history. Born on July 16, 1929 and originally from Chicago, IL, Delco was raised in the public housing community of Ida B. Wells Apartments in Chicago. "I was one of five children. We had a wonderful experience in public housing. We had a front and back yard, a community center, the grass was beautiful," she says. Delco goes on to say they were proud of their home, "There was no shamed attached to housing." Delco remembers her mother always said, "We are not poor. We just don't have much money. You have to go to college to earn money." Delco did just that, graduating from Fisk University in 1950.

A strong proponent of education, Delco was the first African-American elected to the Travis County school board where she served from 1968-1974. "I was elected two days after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. Back then, people wanted to get involved-to do their part," she says. Delco was on the Founding Board of Austin Community College and served on the board of Huston-Tillotson College for 15 years. She holds nine honorary degrees and has taught as adjunct professor at the University of Texas. Delco served on the Texas House of Representatives for 20 years and in 1986, she was inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame.

The Delco legacy has been immortalized with three buildings named after her: Wilhelmina Delco Primary School in Pflugerville, TX, Delco Education Building at Prairie View A&M University and the Delco Center in Austin named after her and her husband Exalton A. Delco, Jr.

Delco is still blazing trails today standing on many boards such as the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Advisory Board, The Asian Chamber of Commerce, Texas State Ethics Commission, Austin Chapter of Links, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and sings in the choir at Holy Cross Catholic Church. Delco and her husband have four children, Deborah, Exalton Alfonso III, Loretta, and Cheryl and nine grandchildren.

### HACA Grants Donations to Area Schools

Each semester HACA donates funds to area schools where HACA youth attend. This includes 30 school's in the Austin Independent School District. The total amount awarded averages to \$14,000 each semester. It is recommended that the schools use the funds to reward students for high achievement, rewards after TAKS testing, parent involvement and scholarships.

Austin Affordable Housing Corporation, a non-profit subsidiary of HACA, also donates funds to area schools near Eastland Plaza. These schools include Oak Springs Elementary, Govalle, Kealing Middle School and Eastside Memorial High School.



### HACA AWARDED GOVERNMENT PARTNER OF THE YEAR

On February 20, 2009, the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GAHCC) honored outstanding community leaders at its 36th Annual Awards and Installation Banquet, "Building Paths to Prosperity."

HACA was honored as the Government Partner of the Year. As a longstanding member of 10 years, HACA has maintained continuous involvement with GAHCC. In collaboration with HACA, GAHCC's Hispanic Technology Institute of Austin (HTIA), established Emerging Enterprises Business Development Resource Center, a business incubator designed to provide Austin residents with an unparalleled opportunity to develop and operate their own business.

HACA's Director of Quality Control, Pilar Sanchez was presented the "Chair Award" for her service on the GAHCC Board of Directors for 3 years.

### HACA Parent Leader Summit "Advocacy in Education"



Wednesday, March 11  
8:30 am-1:30 pm  
ACC Eastview Campus

Child care - Transportation - Gift Bags - Lunch  
All provided FREE for HACA residents

Come together with other parent leaders from HACA communities and learn what it takes to advocate, support and help your child be a winner in school. Lots of free giveaways and time with other parent leaders.

Sponsored by HACA, FamilyConnections, Superior Health Plan, Austin Voices and AISD. To sign up, call FamilyConnections at 478-5725, ext. 204. Please join us!

### RESIDENT SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Help fund your education! Scholarships exclusively for residents of public housing and Section 8/Housing Choice (with approximate 2009 application deadlines):



2008 Recipients

- HACA Resident Scholarship **March 13, 2009**
- Southwest NAHRO **April 3, 2009**
- Housing Authority Insurance Group **April 17, 2009**

Ignore the date and submission address on these application forms because these applications require HACA certification to be valid. Please submit your application directly to HACA by the deadline shown.

The scholarships are available on a competitive basis and the award amount varies from year to year, depending on the availability of funds.

Download and print the applications online at <http://www.hacanet.org/services/scholarships.php>. For questions call Barbara Jackson, Youth Educational Success Coordinator, at 512-477-4488 ext. 2145.

### Dates to Remember

**Daylight Saving Time Begins**  
March 8, 2009  
Move clocks ahead one hour.



**Austin Independent School District Spring Break**  
March 16-20, 2009



**Digital Television Transition Delay**  
The switch to Digital Television has been postponed to June 12, 2009, to give U.S. households more time to prepare for the digital switch.

## 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

- Roof Replacement—Salina**—Replacement of existing roof and associated repairs, on Community/Management Center, with energy efficient coating material to qualify for COA energy rebate. **Complete.**
- Interior Unit Renovations, Phase I—BTW**—Interior renovations to the first two multi-family buildings of BTW, including kitchen and bath remodeling, flooring repairs and cabinet replacements. Currently underway, with approximately 120 days to complete.
- Interior Unit Renovations, Phase II—BTW**—Interior renovations to second, larger group of buildings at BTW, approximately 20+ Units. Work scope identical to Phase I, but with pier and beam foundation repairs, as necessary. In design.
- Exterior Site Grading, Erosion Controls and Retaining Walls—BTW**—Large scale project to remove excess soils, re-grade site areas for proper drainage, repair sidewalk areas and replace retaining walls on the site. Bids opened January 9, 2009. Contract approvals for two separate contracts, brought to February Board Meeting.
- Community Center Improvements—Thurmond**—Renovations and improvements to the undeveloped area of existing Community Room. Currently underway, with approximately 40 more days for completion.

## Citywide Advisory Board Notes



Last month's Citywide Advisory Board meeting was held February 10, 2009 at the Central Office.

Maggie McGifford with FamilyConnections was the monthly guest. She promoted the HACA Parent Leader Summit to be held on March 11, 2009 at the ACC Eastview Campus.

There were two items discussed for future voting: moving the meetings to 10:00 am to allow more time to transport residents and the possibility of having a luncheon in April.

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

### Energy Conservation Tips

by Energy Manager James Bean

**Don't keep your refrigerator or freezer too cold.**

Recommended temperatures are 37 degrees to 40 degrees for the fresh food compartment of the refrigerator and 5 degrees for the freezer section.

To check refrigerator temperature, place an appliance thermometer in a glass of water in the center of the refrigerator. Read it after 24 hours.

To check the freezer temperature, place a thermometer between frozen packages. Read it after 24 hours.