



Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — November 17, 2016

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FORMER HOUSING AUTHORITY CLIENTS CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE

WHAT: The Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA) and its nonprofit subsidiary Austin Pathways will host “Sources of Our Strength,” the agency’s 19th Annual Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) and Homeownership Recognition Luncheon. This year, 20 FSS participants and six homeowners will be honored.

WHEN: 11 a.m. Friday (Nov. 18)

WHERE: Hilton Austin, 500 E. 4th St.

EVENT: Austin Board of Realtors President Paul Hilgers will be this year’s master of ceremonies, and Austin City Council Member Sheri Gallo also will be in attendance. This year’s graduates include a woman who started the FSS program making minimum wage in the food service industry, and with HACA’s help, now has a promising career as a radiologist. Another graduate is a mother of two who earned a master’s degree from the University of Texas and is now working as an elementary school teacher and no longer in need of public assistance.

HACA’s FSS program equips residents with the tools and knowledge they need to achieve housing and financial independence. Services include education, workforce, health and life-skills programs, bolstered by access to child care, transportation and other support.

Participants accrue escrow savings funds as their earned income increases, which are then used to support education, homeownership, debt repayment or other self-sufficiency goals. To date, more than 200 participants have graduated from the FSS Program.

The Homeownership Program, provided through the Austin Affordable Housing Corporation (AAHC), provides services including Down Payment Assistance to aid residents with \$10,000 toward a down payment and closing costs on a home. In addition, an in-house financing and an affordable stock of homes is available through AAHC’s Community Land Trust. HACA has helped 103 families become homeowners since 2004.

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