



# ONE VOICE

A monthly publication of the Housing Authority of the City of Austin

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## HACA AND THE CITY OF AUSTIN HELP PLUG STUDENTS INTO LEARNING

HACA and Austin Pathways recently awarded 42 renewable scholarships totaling \$80,000 to residents of its public housing and Housing Choice Voucher programs at its 17th Annual Austin Pathways HACA Scholarship Ceremony. HACA has awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships since 2001.

Thurmond Heights resident Shellie Moore was one of this year's scholarship recipients, who range from newly graduated high school students to returning adult students and those attending college for the first time. Shellie is a mother of two who left school in 2007 to work full time and care for her children, one of whom has a learning disability.

"I re-enrolled in college to establish a secure foundation for my children," Shellie said. "In my first semester as a nursing student, I had my car repossessed. I had to take all of the tax return I'd saved up and put it into getting another car."



Shellie Moore

Shellie said the scholarship funds from Austin Pathways and HACA will allow her to devote 100 percent of her time to finishing her studies by helping pay for child care and other living expenses. Shellie is a second-year nursing student at Austin Community College and is expected to graduate this month.

In addition to receiving a scholarship, Shellie and the other scholarship awardees this year were also loaned a de-asseted computer from the City of Austin. The pilot loaner program is funded in part by the Grant for Technology Opportunities Program (GTOPS). The City of Austin is loaning de-asseted computers to local nonprofits, including HACA, to increase digital inclusion in underserved communities. Currently, City computers past their service life go to a recycling center.



**Congratulations to all of this year's Austin Pathways HACA Scholarship Recipients!**

## Our Mission & Vision

*To cultivate sustainable affordable housing communities and partnerships that inspire self-reliance, growth and optimism. We envision neighborhoods where poverty is alleviated, communities are healthy and safe, and all people can achieve their full potential.*

## SUMMER'S ALMOST OVER! ARE YOUR KIDS READY FOR SCHOOL?



**SUMMER SCHOOL:** *Chalmers & BTW youth in the Summer Youth Employment Program hit the road with Austin Tejano Trails, and spent the break teaching visitors about Texas' history!*

Austin Independent School District (AISD) students go back to school Aug. 28. Now through Aug. 10, HACA will provide free school supplies including notebooks, folders, pencils, pens, crayons and erasers, to school-age children living in our public housing communities.

Contact your ROSS specialist or your FSS Coordinator to register your child for your property's back-to-school event.

Also, don't forget to mark your calendars for AISD's Back-to-School bash from 9 a.m. to noon on Aug. 12 at the Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Road. Five hundred booster seats will be given away!

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## RESIDENT GIVES COMMUNITY GARDENING A GREEN THUMBS UP

Dinah Abrams' love for gardening goes back to her Arkansas roots. Dinah used to spend hours in the garden with her mother, planting, nurturing and harvesting vegetables to feed their family of seven.

"We lived in a small farming community," Dinah remembers. "My mother had to travel 20 miles once a month to go to the grocery store."

Dinah came to Central Texas to help her daughter. However, Dinah fell on hard times, finding herself without a job, a car or a home. Her life started to come together again when she received word from HACA that an apartment was available at Lakeside.

"It was very nice to move in here, and I love being on the lake and the hike and bike trail," she said.

Since living at Lakeside, Dinah has gone back to church. She's also started a community garden at the property, thanks to a tip from a friend in her congregation.

"She told me about the Green Corn Project," Dinah said. "I contacted them, and they gave me a free garden!"

The Green Corn Project is a nonprofit organization that helps educate and assist Central Texans in building organic gardens so that they can have access to nutritious, affordable food.

"We believe that everyone should grow some of what they eat and have access to delicious, organic vegetables," said Green Corn Project Manager David Huebel. "Our outreach extends to folks with limited



*One of Dinah Abrams' favorite dishes that she makes using the vegetables from her garden at Lakeside Apartments is pimento cheese. She also enjoys steamed squash topped with Parmesan.*

access to good food and limited ability to build a garden. As long as they're able to maintain it, we'll help them get started and provide advice to help them be successful."

Since the Lakeside garden was planted by the Green Corn Project's Dig-In Leaders in November, Dinah and two other residents have established beds full of cucumbers, green beans, herbs, peppers, eggplant, and Swiss chard.

"It's given me healthy food to eat and I don't have to buy as many groceries," Dinah said. "This has helped me financially, plus it's enriched my life. I'm happier gardening."

For more information about the Green Corn Project, or to apply for your own free garden, visit [www.greencornproject.org](http://www.greencornproject.org), or call Project Manager David Huebel (512) 632-4541.

## BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR. IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING.

HACA needs your help to make sure our communities are happy and safe places for families to live and thrive.

Recent incidents at a handful of properties, including Meadowbrook and Georgian (pictured at right) are good reminders for residents to be extra diligent about ensuring children and teens living on property are properly supervised at all times.

According to a City of Austin Ordinance, children under 17 are not permitted to be out without an adult after 11 p.m. On HACA's properties, the posted curfew is 10 p.m.

Please report any and all suspicious activity to your property manager. To make a report after hours, please call 9-11.

As they say, "It takes a village," and we need to work together to ensure our public housing properties are comfortable and enjoyable communities.



*(Top) Last month, the rubber flooring on the basketball court at Meadowbrook Apartments was pulled up and damaged. (Bottom left) Damage from rocks being thrown at the Georgian management office door. (Bottom right) the posted curfew on HACA properties is 10 p.m.*

## GET MONEY SMART: FINANCIAL WORKSHOPS WITH FROST BANK

Frost Bank will begin hosting Money Smart Financial Literacy Workshops for HACA public housing residents this month, starting on Aug. 28. The classes will be available through Sept. 13.

The five-class evening workshops, which will be hosted at Meadowbrook, Thurmond Heights, and Rosewood Courts/Salina Apartments, will focus on topics including borrowing basics, information about credit and loans, and other money matters.

During each final workshop session, participants will be treated to a celebration complete with gift cards

and an inspirational story from a guest speaker with the National Association of Black Accountants.

For more information about Money Smart with Frost Bank, contact HACA's Workforce Development Coordinator

Claudia Conner at (512) 477-4488 ext. 3406 or email [claudiac@hacanet.org](mailto:claudiac@hacanet.org).



## GIFT CARD GIVEAWAY

Are you reading One Voice? For a chance to win a \$10 gift card, call (512) 477-4488 ext. 2601, and leave a message with your name, phone number, property name and unit number. Say the key phrase: "BACK TO SCHOOL." The first 15 callers could win one of 10 gift cards. Contest open only to subsidized and public housing residents.

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

HACA Administration (512) 477-4488  
 Resident Call Center (888) 842-4484  
 Maintenance Work Orders (512) 477-8518  
 Section 8/Housing Choice (512) 477-1314  
 Fire/Police 911  
 Non-Emergency Police 311  
 Poison Center (800) 222-1222  
 Quit Smoking (877) 937-7848  
 RAD Hotline (844) HACA-RAD

One Voice is published by the Housing Authority of the City of Austin. Submit comments, articles and photos to One Voice via email at: [media@hacanet.org](mailto:media@hacanet.org).

*All submissions must include a name and phone number to be considered. Copy may be edited because of space limitations.*



HACA does not discriminate on the basis of disability status in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its federally assisted programs and activities. The following person has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in HUD's regulations implementing Section 504: Vice President of Housing & Community Development, 1124 S. IH 35, Austin, TX 78704, (512)477-4488; TTY: (800) 735-2989 or 711 Voice Relay.



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# August 2017

*Editor's Note: Scheduled meetings are subject to change.*

| SUNDAY | MONDAY                                | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY |
|--------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------|----------|---|----------|
|        |                                       | 1 Rent due  | 2         | 3        | 4   | 5        |
| 6      | 7                                     | 8 Citywide<br>10 a.m.<br><br>RAD Meeting<br>5:30 p.m.<br>@ Santa Rita | 9         | 10       | 11  | 12       |
| 13     | 14                                    | 15  | 16        | 17       | 18<br><br>Back-to-School Event<br>& RAD Meeting<br>4-6:30 p.m.<br>@ Meadowbrook | 19       |
| 20     | 21                                    | 22<br><br>RAD Meeting<br>1:30 & 5:30 p.m.<br>@ Lakeside               | 23        | 24       | 25  | 26       |
| 27     | 28<br><br>AISD First Day<br>of School | 29  | 30        | 31       |   |          |