

ONE VOICE

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There's No Stopping Manchaca Village Resident Christeen Wier

Christeen Wier says Google Fiber and HACA saved her life. Thanks to the free basic broadband internet connection offered at Manchaca Village, Christeen said she was able to achieve her dream of being the first person in her family to attend a four-year college.

"HACA has helped me tremendously in my life. It gave me basic necessities so I could thrive to be the best person I could. There were lots of programs and incentives that helped me in high school," Christeen said. "HACA also started to provide Google Fiber, and that helped me greatly with research projects for school and filling out applications for scholarships."

Christeen recently graduated from Harmony School of Excellence with a 4.45 GPA, earning the No. 1 spot in her class, and the prestigious title of valedictorian.

"I made it a priority to do well in school to make my family proud," Christeen said. "I wanted my mother to see me graduate and go to college."

Christeen was awarded the Neighborhood Longhorn Scholarship and the College for All Texans grant. In addition, she is one of 57 residents who will receive an Austin Pathways HACA Scholarship during the agency's annual Scholarship Ceremony at 1:30 p.m. on July 8 at Booker T. Washington Terraces.



The agency has been awarding scholarships to HACA public housing residents and Housing Choice Voucher clients residents since 2002. This year's awards put the total scholarship program distribution total over \$1 million. Christeen will attend the University of Texas at Austin in the fall, and plans to major in biomedical engineering.

"I really like physics, biology and medicine," Christeen said. "Biomedical engineering is the perfect mixture of all those things. I am beyond excited to enter that career field."

Biomedical engineers make products and tools to advance medicine, for example surgical tools and prosthetic legs. Just as HACA made a difference in Christeen's life, she is well on her way to using her education and drive to make the world a better place.

"Don't ever let someone push you down," Christeen said. "Your financial situation and your family's history does not define you. You truly can be anything you want to be with hard work and commitment to your goals. You define your future. The only thing that can stop you is you."

Meadowbrook Council President Earns Prestigious Tech Fellowship

Meadowbrook resident and Resident Council President Ernesto Resto Jr. was recently chosen by the Nonprofit Technology Network (NTEN) to serve as a Digital Inclusion Fellow. Fellows in this program are described as individuals who stand out in a crowd of hundreds as the most skilled and passionate digital inclusion advocates.

NTEN is the membership organization of nonprofit technology professionals. The group's members share the common goal of helping nonprofits use all aspects of technology more effectively.

Ernesto recently attended a week-long training in Portland, Oregon. When he returned to Austin, he was placed at Skillpoint Alliance. He will spend a full year creating, building and leading local digital literacy programs.

According to the NTEN website, Ernesto has studied computer technology independently since the age of 12 and he decided to share the technology knowledge that he obtained with fellow HACA residents.

Ernesto has lived at Meadowbrook for about two years. He serves a Digital Ambassador with Austin Pathways, and is a Lab Apprentice Program Leader for five of 12 HACA properties. In addition, he volunteers for Austin Free-Net. Ernesto was also recognized as the 2016 TX NAHRO Resident of the Year. Congratulations Ernesto!

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In his free time, Ernesto said he enjoys fixing computers, going to the movies and playing video games with his son.

HACA Extends Public Comment Period for Plan Revisions

HACA will have a public comment period for proposed revisions to the 2016 PHA Annual Plan, Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy and the Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan. The 45-day public comment period has been extended to 5 p.m. on July 28 for the revisions to the 2016 PHA Annual Plan.

The 30-day public comment period has been extended to 5 p.m. July 13, for the revisions to both the Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy and the Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan. All comments should be made in writing and delivered to: the HACA Central Office, 1124 S. IH-35 Austin, Texas, 78704, and made to the attention of Michael Gerber, President/CEO.

The HACA Board of Commissioners will vote on the

proposed revisions to the 2016 PHA Annual Plan, Admission and Continued Occupancy Policy and Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan at noon Aug. 18 at the HACA Central Office located at 1124 S. IH-35. A forum will be available during Citizens Communication to voice your concerns.

Copies of the proposed revisions to the 2016 PHA Annual Plan; the Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy, and the Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan are available at the HACA Central Office, 1124 S. IH-35, or on the HACA website at: www.hacanet.org.

HACA is committed to compliance with the American Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Call (512) 477-4488 ext 2112 for assistance.

Austin Pathways Welcomes Austin Community College Interns

There are some fresh new faces at HACA! A group of interns from Austin Community College's (ACC) Career Accelerator program is helping Austin Pathways refurbish computer devices donated to HACA by ACC as part of the agency's Unlocking the Connection digital inclusion program. For the next seven weeks, interns will be on property to help install software, teach residents about computer security, and help distribute earned computers to participants in HACA's digital inclusion programs. If you see these folks in your neighborhood, be sure to say hello!



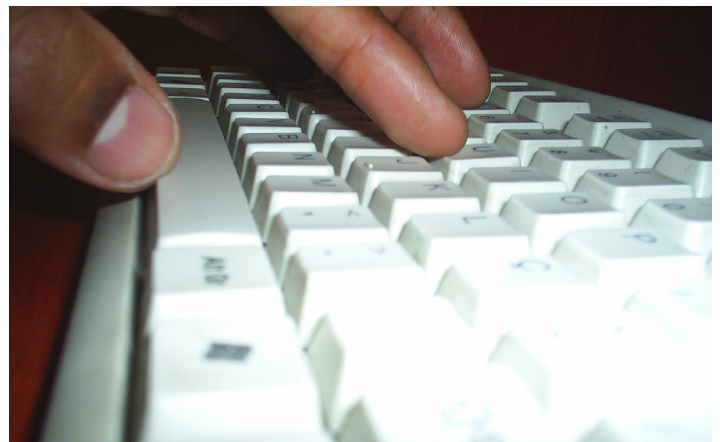
Online Site-Based Waiting Lists Open This Month!

As part of the improvements being planned and provided to public housing families through the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program, HACA is pleased to announce the agency is transitioning to property-specific (site-based) waiting lists for its public housing program starting July 20.

What does that mean for you? You'll have a chance to pick where you want to live! For example, if you live at a HACA property in south Austin, but want to live at a HACA property in north or east Austin, you will be able to apply to be on the waiting list for the properties of your choice.

There will be waiting lists for each of the 18 public housing properties HACA owns throughout the city.

If you are interested in applying for a different HACA public housing property, on July 20 visit <https://austin.apply4housing.com/> and complete the application process for the property of your choice.



You can save time and gas by applying online for a spot on any of HACA's public housing waiting lists.

You may apply for more than one property, but you must complete a separate application for each property.

If you have questions, please call 1-(844) 467-8513.

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. Mention the key word, "firecracker." The first 15 callers will be entered into a drawing to win one of 10 gift cards. Contest open only to 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

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.

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

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.



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Rent due Jobs Plus Party 10 a.m.-noon @ Chalmers Courts	2
3	4 Independence Day HACA Closed Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ North Loop	5	6 Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ Lakeside	7	8 16th Annual HACA Austin Pathways Scholarship Ceremony 1:30 a.m. @ BTW	9
10	11 Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ North Loop	12	13 Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ Lakeside	14 Resident Council Gaston 1:30 p.m.	15 Resident Council 3 p.m. Santa Rita	16
17	18 Resident Council Thurmond 1 p.m. Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ North Loop	19 Resident Council BTW 11:30 a.m.	20 Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ Lakeside	21	22	23
24	25 Resident Council Meadowbrook 1:30 p.m. Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ North Loop	26	27 Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ Lakeside	28 Resident Council Shadowbend, Manchaca, Manchaca Village, Goodrich 11 a.m.	29	30