

ONE VOICE

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New Early Head Start Center Opens at Meadowbrook Apartments

Research shows that small children who are enrolled in programs that introduce them to subjects like music, language, math and science are more likely to stay in school, go to college, and get good jobs when they become adults.

HACA, Child Inc., and Mainspring Schools recently opened new Early Head Start Center in a former Meadowbrook community building to provide full-day, year-round services to Head Start eligible infants, toddlers and their families in the south Austin neighborhood.

“We value our partnership with HACA and Mainspring,” said Child Inc. Executive Director Albert L. Black. “These partnerships enable us to spend much-needed time with each child for early education and social and emotional growth, because if we don’t spend time with our children ... the system will.”

Mainspring has hired new teaching staff, an Early Head Start program director, and enrolled six existing teachers in



Child Development Associate programs to better support the additional children who will be enrolled.

The new 3,025-square-foot Early Head Start Center at Meadowbrook houses two infant classrooms, staff offices, and a parent breastfeeding room and lounge. Early Head Start toddlers will be served in classrooms at Mainspring’s main building on West Live Oak.

GRAMMY Camp

Four lucky HACA youths attended GRAMMY Camp in San Antonio last weekend, courtesy of Best Buy and the GRAMMY Foundation. The group of high school students spent the day learning how to get into the music and video production business. They met musicians and industry professionals and learned how to pursue a career in electronic music production, video production or song writing. The trip is part of Austin Pathways’ partnership with Best Buy and the ConnectHome initiative.



We're Proud of Our Outstanding Residents!



Bouldin resident Montranae Ellison recently earned her high school diploma from the Goodwill Excel Center.



Lakeside resident & author Aliana Larson won \$100 in a competition at the Austin International Poetry Festival.



Meadowbrook resident and ROSS participant Jasmine Garcia graduated with her nurse aide certificate from Skillpoint Alliance last month.



HACA Scholarship recipient and Lakeside resident Lester Vernon Ealey Sr. was inducted into The National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

Tech Starters Reunite Over Lunch

Members and leaders from the inaugural Tech Starters cohort recently met for a reunion lunch to reflect on how far they've come since they began computer classes with Austin Free-Net and Google Fiber almost one year ago. Many graduates have gone back to school, earned jobs, and have inspired 220 other adults living in public housing to learn how to use a computer. The Tech Starters II class officially kicked off last month at the Henry Flores Education and Training Center. To learn more about Tech Starters, contact Catherine Crago at catherinec@hacanet.org or call (512) 477-4488 ext. 2109.



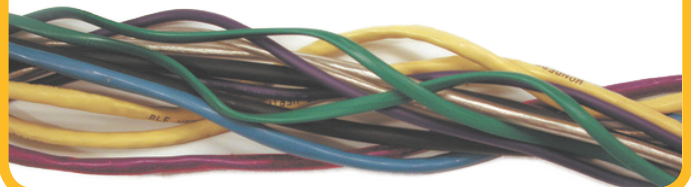
Get Wired at HACA

HACA offers computer labs at each public housing property. In the computer lab, you can go online to look for jobs, or use software to write letters or resumes.

Need a little extra help? Lab apprentices are available at for a few hours each day to help residents navigate the digital world. Contact your property manager to learn more about computer lab and apprentice hours.

Internet speed at each community computer lab has been significantly increased over the last few months. However, if you have any computer issues, please report them to a Community Development or property staff member.

If you are in the computer lab, and encounter a problem, please do not try to fix a computer issue yourself. All computer cords should remain plugged in at all times.



Apply Now for Free Minds 2017

If you're an adult who wants to go to college, let Free Minds help you reach your educational goals! Applications for the Free Minds class of 2017 are due July 1. Classes take place two evenings a week over two semesters. Tuition, books, child care and support services are free. University of Texas and Austin Community College (ACC) professors teach literature, philosophy, history and writing. Students who finish the course earn six credit hours from ACC. You are eligible if you: are at least 18 years old; have a high school diploma or GED; don't have a college degree and haven't been enrolled in a degree program in the past two years; have demonstrated financial need; can read challenging books in English; and can attend class regularly and complete all assignments. For more information or to apply, visit www.FreeMindsAustin.org, email FreeMinds@foundcom.org, or call (512) 610-7961.

Mayfest is this Month

The 2016 western-themed Senior Mayfest celebration is scheduled from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 20 at the Doris Miller Auditorium, located at 2300 Rosewood Ave. All seniors and persons with disabilities living in HACA public housing properties are encouraged to attend. The afternoon will feature games, prizes, vendors from several local service organizations and a barbecue lunch. Call your ROSS specialist or FSS coordinator if you need help with transportation. We hope to see y'all there!

We've Improved Our Employment and Job Training Services!

Starting this month, the Austin Area Urban League, Beacon Workforce/African American Youth Harvest Foundation, and Goodwill will provide support resources to HACA public housing residents. The goal of this workforce continuum is to help our residents grow through increased employment and education opportunities. These opportunities include

employment-focused case management; job readiness skills and employment referrals; support for people with barriers; linkage to high school and GED programs and professional development in the form of workshops and career coaching. Contact your ROSS specialist or FSS coordinator for more information about how you can access these services.

i-DADS Kicks off at Santa Rita Courts

Local author Isaac Rowe with local nonprofit, The Man In Me, is helping men at HACA develop in a positive way through the i-DADS (Involved Dads of Action, Development and Success) program at Santa Rita Courts. Program participants meet for 12 weeks from 6 to 8 p.m. every other Wednesday at Santa Rita Courts, 2341 Corta St. Partners including Goodwill, Austin Community College, the Austin Area Urban League, and Capital Idea, work with attendees to help fathers and father figures living in public housing access employment, education and training. For more information about i-DADS, or to get involved, contact Franchesca Caraballo at franchesca@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. Mention the key phrase, "May flowers." 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	2	3 Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ North Loop	4	5 Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ Lakeside	6	7
8 Mother's Day	9	10 Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ North Loop	11	12 Resident Council Gaston 1:30 p.m. Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ Lakeside	13	14
15	16 Resident Council Thurmond 1 p.m.	17 Resident Council BTW 11:30 a.m. Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ North Loop	18	19 Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ Lakeside	20 Resident Council 3 p.m. Santa Rita Senior Mayfest 10 a.m.-1 p.m. @ Doris Miller Auditorium 2300 Rosewood Ave.	21
22	23 Resident Council Meadowbrook/Bouldin 1:30 p.m.	24 Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ North Loop	25	26 Resident Council Shadowbend, Manchaca, Man. Village, Goodrich Rosewood/Salina 11 a.m. Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ Lakeside	27	28
29	30 Memorial Day	31 Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ North Loop				

MAY 2016