HACA Youth Gets a Stellar Opportunity at West Point this Summer

A
strophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson said, “Everyone should have their mind blown once a day.” Well, one day last month, Georgian Manor resident Joseph Williams and his mother Lenora got the mind-blowing news that 12-year-old Joseph was among about 100 kids in the U.S. chosen to attend the 2017 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Workshop from May 30 to June 2 at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York. This unique program is especially designed for seventh and eighth graders like Joseph who demonstrate strong interest and skills in science, technology, engineering and math. HACA ROSS Specialist Ben Calvo encouraged Lenora to help Joseph apply for the program. Within weeks, Lenora received an email confirming Joseph had been accepted, and HACA began making travel arrangements for Joseph. “We’ve never had the opportunity to leave the state before, and I thought this will be great for him,” Lenora said. “I appreciate HACA’s help because I never thought that he would have this kind of opportunity.” Joseph is a student at Gus Garcia Young Men’s Leadership Academy where he consistently makes the A/B honor roll. He said his favorite class is science. “I like astronomy,” Joseph said. “Studying space.” In his free time, Joseph enjoys camping under the stars with his Boy Scout troop where he currently serves in the rank of Tenderfoot. We at HACA hope Joseph’s experience at West Point is out of this world!

The First Tee of Greater Austin Offers Golf Camp for HACA Kids

The First Tee of Greater Austin helps shape the lives of young people by reinforcing values like integrity, respect, and perseverance through the game of golf!

In partnership with HACA, the First Tee is offering a free, four-day summer camp open to HACA children ages 9 to 14. Full-day camps run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Thursday. Half-day camps run from 8 to 11 a.m. Monday-Wednesday. Campers will be introduced to drills and compete in fun games at the Harvey Penick Golf Campus’ three-hole short courses and practice several golf techniques. Campers will then cool down from the Austin heat at the adjacent East Communities YMCA pool, which even has a water slide! Sound like fun? Contact YES Manager Felisa Jones at (512) 767-7825 or email felisaj@hacanet.org to participate in the camp’s selection lottery. Hurry! The lottery is open now and closes May 15.

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.
It didn’t come in a basket or wrapped in a bow, but the new playground equipment at Bouldin Oaks was a welcome Easter surprise. A few young HACA residents broke in the new playscape last month during a property-wide Easter egg hunt on Easter Sunday, April 15. Children took a break from collecting colored eggs to run in the wood chips, climb on the monkey bars, and swing on the swingset. The covered playscape is one of several improvements being made at Bouldin Oaks and other HACA properties as part of the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) project. For HACA residents, RAD=PIC, protections, improvements, and choices.

Exterior improvements will continue at Bouldin Oaks throughout the summer. Additional upgrades at the property will include barbecue grills and an onsite laundry facility. For more information about RAD, visit www.hacarad.org, email hacarad@hacanet.org, or call the RAD Hotline at (844) HACA-RAD (422-2723).

Lakeside resident Ailana Larson wrote and illustrated her first book when she was 6 years old. She remembers her mother reciting lines from Robert Louis Stevenson as she pushed Ailana on the swing. Now 67, Ailana is an award-winning poet who recently took home a trophy during the 25th Annual International Poetry Festival. Ailana competed in a Haiku Death Match against international, state, and local poets. “Thanks HACA and Family ElderCare for Badgerdog! They provided the opportunity to publish my first works, attend poetry evening classes for free and meet other wonderful poets,” Ailana said. “I am now part of a group that is lead by a wide variety of instructors who offer new and different styles of poetry instruction. This has built a peer community which continues to enhance my literary skills and bring about friendships. I feel like I’m HOME.”
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: “MAY FLOWERS.” The first 15 callers could win one of 10 gift cards. Contest open only to subsidized and public housing residents.

Join Us for Mayfiesta This Month!

¡Vámonos a Mayfiesta! The 25th Annual Mayfest is set for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 5 at the Doris Miller Auditorium, located at 2300 Rosewood Ave. This year’s theme is a fun and colorful party, or fiesta, to celebrate Older Americans Month! All seniors and persons with disabilities living at HACA’s public and subsidized housing properties are encouraged to attend. The afternoon will feature games, prizes, a resident talk show, and vendors from several local service organizations like Family ElderCare, AGE of Central Texas, and United Healthcare, and a taco lunch. Call your ROSS specialist or FSS coordinator if you need help with transportation.

HARVARD VISITS HACA

Researchers from the Harvard Chan School of Public Health recently visited HACA as part of a Smoke-Free Policy study. HACA was one of 15 public housing authorities in the U.S. invited to participate in an on-site visit. The study, led by researchers Robyn Rae Keske and Jodi Anthony, explores smoke-free policies at public housing communities. Researchers met with HACA executives, directors, managers, and residents to discuss the impact HACA’s smoke-free policy (implemented on September 1, 2015) has had on residents, agency staff, and overall operations.

Jobs Plus Honors Community Liaisons

Jobs Plus ATX hosted a thank you and good-bye party last month celebrating the end of the service term for the first cohort of Jobs Plus Community Liaisons. Outgoing Community Liaisons had the opportunity to talk with partners to plan their next steps in the Jobs Plus program, such as training or employment services.
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.