



ONE VOICE

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WEST POINTERS BRING ROBOTICS WORKSHOP TO HACA'S YOUTH

When 12-year old HCV client Jason Jetter signed up for a robotics workshop taught by U.S. Military Academy at West Point faculty, cadets, and alumni, he hoped he was signing up to be a part of a BattleBots-style robot competition.

However, Jason and about 39 other HACA middle school kids spent one Saturday last month learning much more than how to build and manipulate robots. They learned about career opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

During the first part of the workshop, kids including 14-year-old Bieke Campos from BTW, worked with West Point and U.S. Army Research Laboratory volunteers to build a robot out of special building blocks and batteries.

The second portion of the camp consisted of campers putting their robots through their paces. The workshop participants were split into teams and were given an iPad and a map. They were told that at the end of the map, there was an island in dire need of snacks. Each team was given 30 minutes to program their robots using an iPad app to make them maneuver the path and deliver snacks.

The future tech and science scholars scrambled to measure distances on the map and calculate the angles of each turn. Some teams even programmed their machines to spin in celebration as they reached the island.

After programming was complete, the teams went head to head to see which robot would take the island its snacks, and be named the ultimate hero of the day.

The students cheered on their friends' robots as they inched closer to being named champion. Bieke and his team's robot, The Dark Knight, made it to the finals. In the end, The Dark Knight was not victorious, but when the workshop wrapped, there was a noticeable advance in what Bieke and the other kids had learned about STEM



Bieke Campos (right) and another student during the West Point Robotics Workshop at the Henry Flores Education and Training Center, located at Meadowbrook Apartments.

throughout the day. In that way, everyone who attended the camp was a winner.

Lori Sheetz, director of West Point's Center for Leadership and Diversity in STEM, reminded HACA youth that the STEM fun didn't have to end with the workshop. She provided parents with information about USMA and Army Educational Outreach Programs, including a summer STEM program at West Point.

Before everyone headed out the door, Austin Pathways, HACA's nonprofit subsidiary, announced that although the kids could not keep their robots, they would each take home a free, refurbished laptop for their family. Each machine came pre-loaded with 32GB of interactive educational content.

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.

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL AT HACA'S ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Join us for a family-friendly lunch celebrating HACA's 80 years of transforming lives! The party starts at 11:30 a.m. on Feb. 13

at the Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex located at 1156 Hargrave St. Residents are invited to come and enjoy a barbecue meal, fun activities for the kids, photo opportunities, music, and more! RSVP to your property manager by Feb. 6. Transportation is available.



AMPLIFY AUSTIN PATHWAYS



During Amplify Austin, March 1-2 you can help HACA and Austin Pathways with their mission to help residents reach self-sufficiency! Schedule a minimum \$10 donation to Austin Pathways' campaign at: <http://bit.ly/17qCdRF>.

Your donation helps provide services for your neighbors. You may also cheer us on by liking us on Facebook and following us on Twitter!

JOBS PLUS ATX HELPS RENEE NEAL DISCOVER SHE'S A REAL GO-GETTER

Chalmers Courts resident Renee Neal moved into public housing at age 22 after losing her job, her car, and her apartment. Living at Chalmers has provided a stable environment for her children, and has given her time to regroup. Renee sought job readiness and job search assistance through Jobs Plus ATX shortly after the birth of her fifth child.

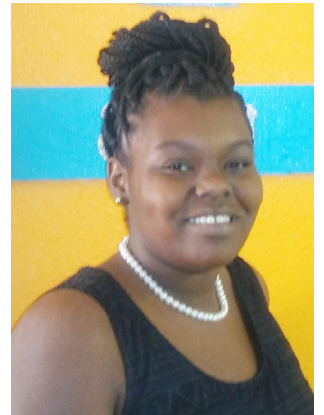
"I was not sure how I was going to reenter the workforce," she said.

Renee got the answer she was looking for when she was connected to a Jobs Plus ATX Job Developer who helped her identify job opportunities that fit her specific needs. She was then referred to Austin Area Urban League (AAUL). AAUL staff helped Renee secure employment. Renee said she is grateful for the collaborative efforts of the Jobs Plus ATX team and AAUL.

"Jobs Plus and the Urban League really supported me. They helped me regain my confidence and provided the space for me to try," Renee said. "Once I started trying, I was not stopping until I found good employment."

Renee now works full time at Austin Energy. She is also receiving child care assistance, which will help her maintain her employment.

For more information about how you can participate in Jobs Plus ATX, visit www.jobsplusatx.org, or call (512) 477-4488 ext. 3415.



COUNCIL MEMBERS RECOMMEND CHALMERS FOR 9% TAX CREDITS



Thanks to the support of HACA's residents, Austin City Council's Housing and Planning Committee last month unanimously recommended a 9 percent low-income housing tax credit be awarded to the Chalmers Courts redevelopment project. HACA plans to use the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program to redevelop the 158-unit Chalmers Courts in three phases over four years. By the end of the project, the Pathways at Chalmers Courts will consist of nearly 400 new units of affordable housing in East Austin. HACA went before City Council on Feb. 1 for approval of the committee's recommendation to help move the project forward.

FILE YOUR TAXES EARLY WITH HELP FROM FOUNDATION COMMUNITIES

Don't pay \$300 to \$500 to have your taxes prepared this year! Foundation Communities Community Tax Centers have trained volunteers in Austin and Round Rock who are ready to help prepare you for this year's IRS tax deadline April 18.

If you claim the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) or Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC) on your tax return, the IRS must hold your refund until mid-February 2018. This new law requires the IRS to hold the entire refund — even the portion not associated with EITC or ACTC.

This change helps ensure that you receive the refund you are owed by giving the agency more time to help detect and prevent fraud. It is a new law that applies to everyone, regardless of who prepares your tax return. Whether we prepare your taxes for free, you pay someone to file your taxes, or you file your taxes yourself, you will not receive your refund until mid- to late February if you claim EITC or ACTC on your tax return.

Don't delay filing your tax return! Let Foundation Communities Community Tax Centers file your taxes for



File your 2018 federal tax return by April 18.

free and claim all your tax credits, so you receive the largest refund possible.

For more information about Community Tax Centers, email taxes@foundcom.org or call (512) 610-7374. You may schedule an appointment online at <http://bit.ly/2DBgcjU>.



RESIDENTS ENJOY REMODELED NORTH LOOP COMMUNITY ROOM

RAD construction is nearly complete at North Loop, and despite the remaining task list at the property, resident leaders Thelma Pannell of North Loop, Alice Merida of Gaston Place, and Diane Owens of Lakeside, recently organized a dominoes tournament and hot-dog lunch for their neighbors. "We had a lot of fun," Thelma said. "We are able to do our events with no problems due to construction. It's real nice. The residents are enjoying it." Winners of last month's North Loop dominoes tournament took home \$10 H.E.B. gift cards. Runners up received complimentary household goods. Thelma said the next resident gathering will be a billiards tournament at 11 a.m. Feb. 28 at Lakeside Apartments.

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: "MARDI GRAS." 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.

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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February 2018

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Rent due Austin City Council Meeting @ City Hall	2 Resident Council: 11 a.m. @ Georgian 1:30 p.m. @ Santa Rita Courts	3
4	5 Resident Council 1 p.m. @ Bouldin Oaks	6 Resident Council 11 a.m. @ Coronado	7	8 Resident Council 1:30 p.m. @ Gaston	9	10
February is Black History Month						
11	12 Resident Council 1:30 p.m. @ Meadowbrook	13 Citywide 10 a.m. HACA 80th Anniv. Party 11:30 a.m. 1156 Hargrave St.	14 Valentine's Day Resident Council: 10:30 a.m. @ Northgate 2 p.m. @ Lakeside	15 Resident Council 1:30 p.m. @ Rosewood/Salina HACA Board Meeting	16	17
18	19 President's Day HACA Closed	20 Resident Council 11 a.m. @ BTW	21 Resident Council 1:30 p.m. @ North Loop	22 Resident Council: 10:30 a.m. Chalmers 11 a.m. Goodrich 1 p.m. Shadowbend/ Man. Village/Man. 11	23	24
25	26 Resident Council 1 p.m. @ Thurmond	27	28			