PROVIDING THE TOOLS FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY

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Dear readers:

Thank you for picking up the Fall 2014 edition of the HANO news magazine. As we embark on this new season, we want to share stories on some of the good work that the HANO staff and resident leaders are doing.

The City of New Orleans, HANO Board of Commissioners and the agency remain focused on a mission to provide affordable housing opportunities for low-to-moderate income residents. We also have programs to provide assistance for residents to move towards a better quality of life through resources that go beyond safe affordable housing.

The Family Self-Sufficiency program for Section 8 voucher holders has been a major focus of HANO. Our staff continues to participate in outreach activities so that every low-income resident receiving HANO assistance is aware of the opportunities that are available to them.

I want to also acknowledge the work of our partners for their commitment to our residents. We continue to partner with third party management agencies and developers to host Section 3 employment fairs and community supportive services at each site while embarking upon the total transformation of HANO communities to mixed-income, mixed-use neighborhoods with modern and energy efficient homes. Iberville celebrated the completion of the first off-site housing component at the Marais Apartments recently, and construction at Florida is on its way to concluding. Construction at Lafitte and Guste III continues, and Columbia Parc recently celebrated the opening of the St. Thomas Community Health Clinic, an extension of the St. Thomas Community Health Center located in Uptown New Orleans, that can be utilized by residents in the entire Bayou District neighborhood.

HANO is now in a position to continue its forward movement, advancing from a troubled agency into a standard performing entity. This new season represents a new day and a new administration with the primary focus remaining on the betterment of our residents and reestablishing the public trust. I thank the HANO Board of Commissioners, staff, resident leadership and our community partners for their efforts in working toward a new HANO.

—Gregg Fortner

Gregg Fortner
Executive Director

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In July, residents and staff welcomed Gregg Fortner as the first Executive Director appointed to the Housing Authority since 2002. This announcement follows more than a decade of oversight by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the signing of official transition documents by Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu, and the former HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan, bringing HANO back under local control.

Fortner, a New Orleans native, began his tenure on July 7th to manage the day to day operations of the agency. He will work closely with HANO's newly appointed Board of Commissioners, and will maintain the agency’s strong partnership between HUD and the City of New Orleans during the transition monitoring period.

Within the first week of his arrival, Fortner met with over 200 HANO employees to introduce himself and to reassure them of his plans to continue the forward movement of the agency. Fortner stressed the importance of working as a team to provide the best customer service to the residents and the City of New Orleans. “Our mission will remain focused on providing affordable housing opportunities for low to moderate income families, including the elderly, children under 18, working families, and non-working families with an immediate need for public assistance,” said Fortner. “We will work together to determine how to maintain our current portfolio and to increase Section 8 and public housing resources for those families in need. Together, we will meet with the community, mayor’s office, and the city council members to make sure our vision is in line with the overall affordable housing strategy for the City of New Orleans.”

Fortner expressed interest in allowing all employees an opportunity for success. He also mentioned his expectation of a daily commitment and dedication to provide high-quality customer service, and to reestablish the public’s trust.

“Moving forward, I will make sure that you have all of the necessary training and tools available to succeed and to keep this agency operating as a standard performer if not higher. Others will always identify us as the HANO with ills of the past, but together we will show...”
the community and our residents that we are competent and dedicated housing professionals.”

Fortner referenced past allegations and his willingness to aggressively investigate all accusations of impropriety or wrongdoing. “All complaints will be investigated to make sure that we are not culpable, but if we are responsible for any wrong doing, we will fix it immediately. We will make mistakes because there are no perfect agencies. But we have to demonstrate to our clients that when and if we find something wrong we have the ability to fix it.”

Fortner brings over two decades of executive-level experience to HANO from several public housing authorities. He most recently served as the Executive Director of the Miami-Dade Public Housing and Community Development Department, managing one of the largest public housing authorities in the nation while administering the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership, Neighborhood Stabilization, and Documentary Stamp Surtax programs for Miami-Dade County.

Prior to his arrival to Florida, he served as the Executive Director for the San Francisco Housing Authority, Deputy Executive Director and Chief Administrative Officer for the Oakland Housing Authority, and held several management and administrative positions at the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency, the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles, and the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles.

HANO AND CITY WORK TO COMBAT HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS

HANO joined forces with Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu and other local entities to combat homelessness among veterans as part of a national challenge issued by First Lady Michelle Obama and former HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan.

Led by Mayor Landrieu and Senator Mary Landrieu, along with the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System, the New Orleans Veterans Administration (NOVA), and Unity for Greater New Orleans, HANO will provide up to 200 housing vouchers to help end homelessness and to offer supportive services for eligible homeless veterans.

For the past three years, the Obama Administration worked with governors and other political figures to decrease and eliminate homelessness among veterans by the end of 2015. Mayor Landrieu accepted the challenge along with 76 mayors and other government officials across the country, and set a more aggressive goal of ending homelessness in New Orleans by December 2014.

To achieve this goal, the federal government has provided resources to enhance housing assistance programs. They include: providing permanent housing without the barriers or unnecessary prerequisites; coordinating outreach efforts to identify and engage every veteran experiencing homelessness; leveraging housing and additional resources that can assist veterans that are ineligible for some of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs programs; providing access to preventive services for at-risk veterans and their families so that they can remain in a stable housing condition; and closely monitoring progress toward the goal of ending veteran homelessness and the programs put in place to achieve it.

HANO initially began providing more enhanced housing assistance for local homeless veterans in 2011. The agency partnered with U.S. Department of Veterans Administration to distribute housing vouchers with an estimated value of over $900,000 to homeless veterans through the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program, aiding the national call to offer clinical assistance to the men and women who served our country.
OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY
HUD-ROSS grant to assist HANO public housing Fischer, Guste, and Marrero Commons residents

This spring, HANO partnered with Dillard University’s Office of Community Relations to implement various community supportive programs and activities primarily focused on health and wellness, homeownership, and life skills for local public housing residents.

The newly-implemented programs are funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Resident Opportunities Self Sufficiency (ROSS) grant. The grant was awarded to Dillard University’s Office of Community Relations last year to provide self-sufficiency services to the residents of Fischer, Guste, and Marrero Commons/B.W. Cooper for the next three years.

In March, The Fischer Senior Village community utilized the HUD-ROSS grant to bring healthy food choices into their own backyard. Fischer senior residents and a team of 10 Harvard College students joined forces to build the first community garden at the Fischer Senior Village Community Center. The edible garden features a variety of spring vegetables including bell peppers, tomatoes, and herbs, and is handicap-accessible for seniors.

“The HUD-ROSS grant is an excellent vehicle to promote healthy life choices for residents in Fischer, Guste, and Marrero Commons through gardening and cooking demonstrations,” Nick Harris, the director of Dillard University’s Office of Community Relations, said. “It is our intent to promote healthier lifestyles, along with introducing fitness and exercise programs for youth and adults to combat obesity and chronic diseases.”

HANO recently participated in Dillard University’s Pontchartrain Park Homeownership Fair to promote the agency’s Homeownership program to potential first-time home buyers. HANO’s Client Services Department utilized the fair as an opportunity to inform public housing and Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) participants about the importance of...
homeownership, and the valuable technical and financial resources offered by the staff throughout the home buying process.

Attendees also participated in a number of seminars during the fair. Topics covered included preparing for homeownership, understanding credit, and obtaining a home loan.

In the Guste community, senior residents participated in home maintenance workshop training. “Making Your Home Your Heaven” was the first session led by Meshawn Tarver, the executive director of the Common Ground Health Clinic, and discussed the challenges seniors experience when maintaining, organizing, and cleaning their home. To address this issue, Tarver provided a “seven steps to heaven” plan for seniors, which consisted of identifying troubling areas, getting help, decluttering, discarding of unwanted materials, organizing the remaining items, cleaning areas of the home, and maintaining a cleaning routine.

The second session of the home maintenance workshop has not been scheduled yet for Guste seniors, however the “Making Your Home Your Heaven” workshop will be offered to Fischer Senior Village residents this year.

Visit http://portal.hud.gov to learn more about the HUD-ROSS grant.

HANO Homeownership Counselor Audrey Williams speaks about homeownership opportunities offered through HANO

HANO partnered with The City of New Orleans, Woodward Design Build, HRI Properties, and Urban Strategies, Inc. to host a Section 3 Employment and Training Opportunity Fair at the Tremé Recreation Center. The fair connected Section 3 eligible residents with upcoming employment and training opportunities.

“The HANO, The City of New Orleans, and partners are excited to once again provide job and training opportunities for our residents during the redevelopment and full transformation of Iberville,” said former HANO Administrative Receiver Marilyn O’Sullivan. “It is important that local residents who are looking for work attend this important job fair to connect with employers and learn about training opportunities.”

During the job fair, contractors, such as Durr Heavy Construction LLC, Helwig Construction Company, Northside Electric Company Inc and Pontchartrain Mechanical Company Inc, spoke with fair attendees about future job placement opportunities at the Iberville site. In addition, attendees had the opportunity to register and complete the required Section 3 application.

Fair participants also took advantage of workshops led by HANO and Urban Strategies Inc. HANO’s Section 3/MWBE Program Coordinator, Larry Barabino, Jr., presented a session for sub-contractors on the agency’s Employment, Training, and Contracting Policy. Urban Strategies Inc. provided job seekers with tips on how to obtain and retain a job.
This summer, HANO’s Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program hosted two outreach events for public housing and Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP) participants as part of the program’s recruitment month activities.

In partnership with the HCVP Department, FSS kicked off their recruitment activities in March with HCVP’s Second Annual FSS Program Resource Fair at the Helen W. Lang Memorial Board Room. About 50 current FSS participants attended the fair and met with representatives from local and national organizations who offer community supportive resources for families in need.

Non-profit organizations such as Green Light New Orleans and Habitat for Humanity of Greater New Orleans offered volunteer opportunities for attendees to give back to their community. Representatives from Daughters of Charity and St. Thomas Community Health Clinic provided affordable health care options for participants. Local colleges, including Delgado Community College and Cameron College, were also on hand to provide educational and training program information.

Other featured vendors included Hope House, Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Louisiana, Urban Strategies, Capital Area Corporate Recycling Council, Urban League of Greater New Orleans, and many more.

In June, the program’s recruitment month activities came to a close with the FSS Program Recruitment Resource Fair at the Helen W. Lang Memorial Board Room. The fair connected public housing and HCVP residents with representatives from the FSS Program and other community supportive organizations.

During the resource fair, representatives from HANO’s FSS Program were on hand to discuss the eligibility requirements of the program and the benefits of participation while also accepting new applicants for the program.

Other local community supportive organizations participated in the fair, including Daughters of Charity, Iberia Bank, Family Resources of New Orleans, HANO’s Homeownership Program, Neighborhood Housing Services of New Orleans, Delgado Community College, Urban League of Greater New Orleans, Courtesy Growe, and many more.

Currently, the FSS program assists 425 HCV participants in reaching their goal of self-sufficiency. To register for the HCVP FSS Program, contact Alisha Key at (504) 670-3438.
FATHER’S DAY

HANO communities celebrate fathers across the city

This past summer, The Estates, Guste, Fischer, Iberville, River Garden, and Faubourg Lafitte celebrated the importance of fatherhood. This tradition is a part of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Father’s Day Initiative that aims to strengthen the bonds between fathers and their children.

Residents at The Estates kicked off the Father’s Day celebrations with the “Dad’s Day in Desire” cookout. During the event, The Estates’ community supportive providers honored members of the Desire Dads for their longtime commitment and service in the community. Fathers also enjoyed barbecue and music while their children created Father’s Day cards.

The Guste and Fischer communities honored fathers with an “It’s a Father’s Day Affair” luncheon at the Fischer Senior Village Community Center. Residents in attendance heard from a number of speakers including Guste Resident Leader Cynthia Wiggins, Lloyd Dennis of the Silverback Society, and Guste Homes’ Rickey Vaughn about the importance of being a father not only to their children, but also to other children who may be in need of a father figure.

Residents of River Garden also gathered at the HRI Community Resources Center for a Father’s Day luncheon. During the luncheon, fathers heard motivational words from Attorney Ivy Wang of Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, Small Business Incubator Adero Lewis at Southern University New Orleans, and Dominick Puipuro, Jr. from Primerica.

In the Lafitte neighborhood, over 100 residents participated in the Father’s Day cookout hosted by the Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center. Families enjoyed barbecue, line dancing, face painting, and card games during the celebration. In addition, the fathers heard a motivational speech from Rev. Rodney Baptiste about the importance of building character and being righteous while on the path to leadership and service.

Residents of Iberville joined together to honor the fathers in their community. Hosted by Urban Strategies Inc., families came together to enjoy food and music while 12 fathers received free haircuts during the first hour of the event.
his summer, Emelda Paul, a 30 year resident of Lafitte, has retired from her position as the Lafitte Resident Leader. Mary Johnson, the Vice President of the Lafitte Tenants Association, officially assumed the responsibilities of the Lafitte Resident Leader position in July.

In 1995, Paul, a widower and mother of three children, became involved in resident leadership at the suggestion of her neighbor, Harvey Reid, a member of the Faubourg Lafitte Tenants Association. Paul was selected as the Court Captain for the Roman Court neighborhood, and was a voice for the residents. Four years later, Paul transitioned into the role of Faubourg Lafitte Resident Leader.

During her tenure as Resident Leader, Paul took on similar responsibilities as her previous position of Court Captain, now also serving the entire Lafitte community. In her sixth year of service, Paul experienced her biggest challenge yet in 2005 after Hurricane Katrina completely devastated the Greater New Orleans area. Damaged by Hurricane Katrina, Paul’s longtime Lafitte neighborhood was in danger of being completely demolished by HANO and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

“Before the demolition took place, iron bar doors were placed on each of the residences in Lafitte,” Paul said. “And, that made me realize, we may never be able to go back to our community.”

As a result, Paul, in conjunction with eighteen other residents who were living in public housing before Katrina, filed a federal class-action lawsuit in 2006 against HANO and HUD to halt demolition. Shortly after filing, Paul received word that the CEO of Providence Community Housing, Jim Kelly, was very interested in meeting with the HANO resident leaders to make a decision about the future of Lafitte. After hearing Kelly’s plan to move forward with demolition and redevelopment, Paul felt confident about withdrawing her petition.

In an effort to improve housing at Lafitte, Paul testified in front of Congress in 2007 to advocate for its demolition. During Paul’s testimony, she emphasized the importance of change for Lafitte residents. “People want to come home, but we can’t have people living in the same conditions they were living in before Katrina,” Paul said. “We’ve got to bring our residents home.”

Two years later, Paul had the pleasure of welcoming home former residents that were previously displaced by Katrina after the completion of the first phase of redevelopment. “As soon as they started rebuilding Lafitte, I wanted to be certain that every resident that was in Lafitte at the time of Katrina could have the opportunity to come back home. I wanted these residents to have the first preference to move back,” Paul said.

After living in the Fischer Senior Village community for over five years post-Katrina, Ms. Paul officially moved back into the community she has called home.
for over three decades in 2012. “I wanted to be the last resident to move back to the community,” Paul said. “I did not want the other residents to think that just because I opened the door for them to move back that I had to move back first.”

Although Paul has achieved notable accomplishments in her resident leadership career, she made the decision to retire after 15 years of service. In celebration of her 80th birthday and many years of dedicated service, HANO resident leaders, Lafitte residents, and close family and friends honored Paul at two celebrations in May. Hosted at the Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center, Lafitte residents, family, and friends honored Paul with a festive send off featuring a second line band. HANO resident leaders and staff also honored Paul with a luncheon and celebratory birthday cake.

During her retirement, Paul will remain an active member of the Lafitte community. Paul will continue to serve on the Providence Community Housing Advisory Board and the Lafitte Greenway Steering Committee. Along with being a mother, grandmother, and great grandmother, Paul will continue to work as a parishioner and Eucharistic Minister at St. Peter Claver Church, a member of the Ladies Auxiliary Knights of Peter Claver, and other local organizing ministries. Lastly, Paul plans to volunteer as a Senior Companion at Touro Hospital four days a week, visiting sick patients and also spreading birthday cheer to these patients.

“It has never been about me,” Paul said. “It’s always been about serving others and serving God.”
CONGRATS GRADUATES!
The Housing Authority celebrates high school and college graduates across HANO communities

With the conclusion of the 2014 graduation season, the Housing Authority is recognizing the accomplishments of recent high school and college graduates in HANO communities. Each featured graduate has a unique story, and truly demonstrated the hard work and determination needed to successfully complete their high school and college education.

Here are two stories of the 2014 high school and college graduates from HANO communities across the city:

In May, Ashley and Kari Fleming, former participants of the HANO Summer Employment Program, had much to celebrate as the first-generation college graduates in their family. Both attending University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL), Ashley received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Communications with a minor in History, and her sister, Kari, received a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations with a minor in Business Administration.

“Our entire family is extremely proud and excited for my girls,” said their mother, Maise Fleming, a Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) resident. “It all has happened so fast. I remembered them growing up and now they are both graduating from college.”

With a degree in Mass Communications, Ashley, 21, hopes to pursue a career in advertising. “I wanted to pick a career where I could use my creativity and critical thinking skills while also still having job stability,” said Ashley Fleming.

Her sister, Kari Fleming, 22, will apply her undergraduate education in international law to launch her law career. Ultimately, Kari’s dream job is to become a lawyer who represents an international organization such as the United Nations.

Both Ashley and Kari credit much of their success to the hands-on experience they received while participating in the HANO Summer Employment Program. “HANO’s Summer Employment Program helped me build my résumé in the law field,” Kari Fleming said. “When the admissions committee at Loyola looked at my résumé, they were very impressed that I had the opportunity to work in a law office.”

This fall, Kari will attend Loyola University of New Orleans’ College of Law on a partial scholarship. Ashley also has big plans in her future with the goal of continuing her education at Louisiana State University or ULL.

In the Estates community, resident Leonard Galmon, a graduate of Cohen College Prep High School, and his mother, Wanda, have much to celebrate as he begins his college education at Yale University this fall.

In August, Galmon, 18, began his undergraduate education in the creative arts field thanks to the Ron Brown Scholarship. “It was kind of unexpected for me to select Yale University for college,” Galmon said. “But I knew it was the university for me because it has the best art program out of all the schools I applied to.”

Galmon is not certain of the career path he will pursue after college, but he truly has a very prosperous future ahead.

Congratulations to the 2014 high school and college graduates across HANO communities!
HAPPY EASTER FROM HANO!
The Estates and River Garden communities host Easter celebrations

In April, residents of The Estates and River Garden celebrated the Easter holiday with fun and colorful events for the young children in their communities.

In celebration of the festive holiday, HRI Management hosted an Easter Egg Giveaway at their River Garden community center. Over 80 young children from the River Garden community participated in the event, and received an Easter basket filled with coloring books, candy, trinkets, and other special treats thanks to donations from HRI Management and the Hyatt Place New Orleans.

In The Estates community, families and their children were treated to an Easter Egg hunt. During the event, participating children celebrated the holiday by coloring Easter theme pictures, and enjoyed colorful cupcakes and other tasty treats.

CAREER EXPLORATION
HANO’s Family Self-Sufficiency Program prepares participants for future job opportunities

In June, over 50 public housing and Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) residents participated in a Career Expo at the Helen W. Lang Memorial Board Room hosted by HANO’s Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program. The career expo connected representatives from local non-profit organizations that provide community supportive resources to FSS families in need of assistance.

Participating organizations, including Goodwill Industries, Dress for Success, and Destiny’s Closet, provided expert advice for job seekers during the event. The seminars focused on enhancing interview skills, career preparation, and professionalism in the workplace.

Representatives from Goodwill Industries opened the career expo with helpful tips and tricks to boost job interview skills. Dress for Success’ Madge Donald, the former executive director, spoke with attendees about how to dress for success from head to toe, discussing proper business attire, makeup, and hygiene. During their presentation, two attendees were selected for a professional makeover to demonstrate the do’s and don’ts of job interview attire. Lastly, Destiny’s Closet Executive Director Deanne Renard offered information on free career training and life skills workshops for families in need.

For more information on HANO’s FSS Program, visit www.HANO.org/tenants.aspx.
WHAT'S NEW IN YOUR COMMUNITY

HANO continues redevelopment projects

Residents throughout New Orleans continue to observe the progress of one of the most massive public housing redevelopment projects in the nation. The Housing Authority began to reconstruct its public housing portfolio in the 1990’s through U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) HOPE VI grant program which was established to transform distressed housing into traditionally designed neighborhoods. This model called for higher quality construction paired with integrated street patterns; something the conventional sites lacked. Since then, the agency has leveraged additional grant programs and funding sources to continue the progress of turning older, conventional sites into modern mixed-income, mixed-use communities.

Here is a snap shot of what’s going on around New Orleans:

In 2013 the agency in partnership with the City of New Orleans and HUD broke ground at Iberville as a part of the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI). Later this month, officials will celebrate the completion and full occupancy of the Marais Apartments located at 101 Marais Street, which is the first completed off-site construction component of the project. The site includes 112 project-based, replacement housing units for elderly residents. The vertical construction of 227 units in phase I and II is underway with an expected completion date of March 2015. Construction of phase III which includes an additional 106 units will begin this fall with an estimated completion date of December 2015.

Former residents of the Florida community danced in celebration of the anticipated return of their community last summer. The construction of 51 affordable housing units and management office is nearing completion, and HANO residents are expected to start reoccupying their new, energy efficient homes this fall. The project was funded through the use of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding and HANO’s Capital Fund program.

Construction in the Faubourg Lafitte community continued with the start of its final phases of the full
RESIDENT LEADER

Emelda Paul, a 30 year resident of Lafitte, has retired from her position as the Lafitte Resident Leader. Mary Johnson, the Vice President of the Lafitte Tenants Association, officially assumed the responsibilities of the Lafitte Resident Leader position in July.

In 1995, Paul, a widower and mother of three children, became involved in resident leadership at the suggestion of her neighbor, Harvey Reid, a member of the Faubourg Lafitte Tenants Association. Paul was selected as the Court Captain for the Roman Court neighborhood, and was a voice for the residents. Four years later, Paul transitioned into the role of Faubourg Lafitte Resident Leader.

During her tenure as Resident Leader, Paul took on similar responsibilities as her previous position of Court Captain, now also serving the entire Lafitte community. In her sixth year of service, Paul experienced her biggest challenge yet in 2005 after Hurricane Katrina completely devastated the Greater New Orleans area. Damaged by Hurricane Katrina, Paul's longtime Lafitte neighborhood was in danger of being completely demolished by HANO and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Ms. Emelda Paul pictured with HANO resident leaders and staff at her 80th birthday celebration

The construction of Guste III is underway. The new 155 duplex and townhome units have been designed to include New Orleans-style architecture with large porches and narrow tree-lined streets. The $50 million project is funded by a combination of HANO and FEMA dollars along with tax-exempt bonds and tax credit equity, and is expected to be completed by March 2015. Plans are also underway to build a multi-family building and community center within the neighborhood.

COLUMBIA PARC OPENS BAYOU DISTRICT HEALTH CENTER

This summer, St. Thomas Community Health Center, located in Uptown New Orleans, officially opened the doors of a satellite clinic in Columbia Parc to its residents and the surrounding community. The clinic is open to residents in the Bayou District, which consists of the communities between Bayou St. John and the London Avenue Canal, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

“We saw a great opportunity to bring patient-centered, personal care that St. Thomas has always provided to the people of Gentilly,” said Dr. Don Erwin, St. Thomas Director.

St. Thomas offers high quality, cost-effective care for all general health needs for adults and children. Primary care services offered at the clinic include pediatrics, adult primary care, preventative medicine, behavioral health, vaccinations, and women’s health. The clinic will also offer patients same day/next day appointments with walk-ins welcomed.

Any patient who seeks medical care will receive treatment, regardless of their ability to pay at the time of care. Affordable prescription plans are also available, and some patients may qualify for discounts and/or free care depending on their income.

For more information on the St. Thomas Community Health Clinic, visit www.stthomaschc.org, or make an appointment at (504) 529-5888.
STOP THE VIOLENCE RALLY
Residents of The Estates hope to reduce crime and fatalities in The Estates community

This spring, residents of the Estates gathered within their community to promote positive change for young males.

Over 100 residents from The Estates and its surrounding community participated in the “Stop the Violence” rally hosted by the Desire Dads and Pastor Tyrone Smith of the Next Generation of the Original Morning Star Church. This anti-violence rally was utilized to reduce criminal activity and strengthen community partnerships in The Estates community.

“Desire Dads is a program that launched nearly 13 years ago to encourage the men who reside in The Estates and the surrounding areas to participate in promoting positive male involvement in the community,” said The Estates CSS Senior Case Manager Nzinga Talbert. “With ‘I am my brother’s keeper’ as the underlying theme, this rally raised awareness to the tragic crimes in the community.”

Throughout the event, participants enjoyed food, music, and encouraging words from Representative Cedric Richmond and guest speaker Eric “Lion Man” O’Neal.

Members of the The Estates community rallies to stop the violence in their community

Young men from The Estates community also shared testimonials about their lives to encourage their peers in the community to put down their guns and support one another. Attendees also had the opportunity to register to vote and sign up for affordable health care.

For more information on how you can make The Estates community safer, contact The Estates Community Supportive Services office at (504) 948-9338.

EMPOWERMENT CAMP
Urban Strategies’ E-Camp prepares young students from HANO communities for their future

In partnership with the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI), Urban Strategies Inc. hosted an Empowerment Camp (E-Camp) this summer for students, between the ages of 14 to 17 years, to increase their life skills and enhance their level of functioning in today’s society.

“The E-Camp supports a belief in young people,” said Urban Strategies Education Director Lisa Green-Derry, Ph.D. “This program empowers students by using support groups, community members, and resource awareness to enhance school interactions for children and their families.”

In the first and second session, more than 20 youth from HANO communities participated in E-Camp and met with community professionals to develop a plan for their future. Participants had the opportunity to develop a plan for college, identify career choices for the future, and also pinpoint their strengths and weaknesses in regards to their collegiate and future career paths.

Urban Strategies is already planning to expand E-Camp in the near future. This September, Urban Strategies plans to hold weekly sessions for e-campers and will also collaborate with Kids Rethink, a local youth organizing and leadership development organization.

For more information on E-Camp, contact Don Francis, Urban Strategies’ Youth and School Engagement Coordinator, at (504) 309-7685.
DESIRE YOUTH COUNCIL
The Estates' Youth Council unites with neighborhood youth to create positive change in their community

This spring, eight youth from The Estates were sworn in as members of the Desire Youth Council by Judge Piper D. Griffin during a mock swearing-in ceremony at the Eastern District of Louisiana Courthouse.

“After experiencing the swearing-in ceremony, the members of the Desire Youth Council now know what it is like to officially become a member of a council, and they are also motivated to take their positions seriously within the council and in their community,” said The Estates CSS Case Manager Candace Toussaint.

Comprised of six females and two males, the Desire Youth Council launched last fall in response to the rising rates of violence among youth in the community. The primary goal of the Council is to identify and connect with troubled youth in the community, and encourage them to participate in creative and positive activities.

This summer, the Desire Youth Council participated in Southern University of Baton Rouge’s Youth Expo, a three-day event to help students become successful in the future. Council members attended seminars about science and technology in addition to healthy lifestyles and positive decision making skills.

Recharged from the Youth Expo in June, the Youth Council will organize a number of engaging and positive activities for fellow youth in their community this fall.

If you are interested in joining the Desire Youth Council, contact The Estates’ Community Supportive Services office at (504) 948-9338.

BACK TO SCHOOL
HANO prepares families for the upcoming school year

The Housing Authority partnered with Hammond Transportation and Daughters of Charity to host its Fourth Annual School Supply Giveaway for HANO communities at the Mt. Hermon Baptist Church.

About 500 families attended the event, and received essential school supplies to successfully start the first day of the school year. Each family and their children received pencils and pens, paper, highlighters, and backpacks.

Snowballs were provided for all attendees, and the kids enjoyed spacewalks, video games, and an on-site party bus with music. Blood pressure screenings were also available for attendees.

In the Lafitte neighborhood, Providence Community Housing hosted a back to school event for residents at the Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center. Lafitte families enjoyed food, music, games, and other activities with their children.

Mr. Snowball Catering provided free snowballs while the children played in the spacewalk and enjoyed face painting. Just Dental was also on hand to discuss the importance of dental health, and HeadQuarters Barber Beauty & Natural Hair Salon provided free haircuts to help prepare the young men for their first day of school.

HANO wishes all families a prosperous school year!
Domestic violence, also known as “The Hidden Crime,” is the leading cause of injury to women between the ages of 15 and 44 years old in the United States, which is more common than car accidents, muggings, and rapes combined.

Statistics show that eighty-five percent of domestic violence victims are women, and it occurs every 15 seconds by the hands of their husband or partner. Females who are 16 to 24 years of age are at the greatest risk of nonfatal intimate partner violence.

Most of the domestic violence incidents that occur are never reported to the police, most commonly because victims view the incident as a personal or private matter. Victims of domestic violence also fear retaliation from their abuser and do not believe that police will do anything about the incident.

What is domestic violence?
Domestic violence is a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors that one partner uses against a current or former intimate partner. This type of violence occurs in current or previous relationships in which the abuser and the victim are dating, living together, married, or divorced.

Who are the perpetrators of domestic violence?
Perpetrators of domestic violence come from all walks of life, have the capacity to be very charming, move quickly into relationships, and have a need for power and control. They use both charm and assault behaviors to gain control over their victims. They will isolate, verbally and sexually abuse, and threaten and/or stalk the victim. They may also attempt to gain financial control of the victim.

What to say when you think someone is being abused?
If you suspect a friend or family member is in an abusive relationship, talking with them about it can be hard. The most important thing you can do is to let them know that they have your support, and an option to end the relationship.

It is also important to remember that you cannot rescue your friend or family member from an abusive relationship. Although it is hard to witness someone you care about in an abusive relationship, ultimately it is their decision to do something about it.

Be sure to offer support without judgment or criticism. Feel free to show that you are concerned for their safety. Also, try to avoid confrontations and ask how you can be helpful. Most importantly, encourage them to get help.

What to say if you suspect someone is demonstrating abusive behavior?
It is important to note that someone demonstrating abusive behavior may not choose to listen to advice or entertain any sort of guidance. They may become defensive and angry, deny it, ignore you, or make excuses for their behavior. They may want to discuss and focus on what the other person may have done to provoke them. They may even laugh it off or make fun of the advice or criticism that you may offer. Do not back down from voicing your opinion about the situation and encourage them to seek help.

If you choose to remain silent, remember your silence is the same as expressing your approval of the situation. We encourage you to speak up because it could help save your loved one's life.

To report a crime of domestic violence, please call 9-1-1. To anonymously report a crime, please call the HANO Police Hotline at (504) 670-3372.
SUMMER 2014 AT A GLANCE

HANO communities host summer enrichment camps

Every summer, HANO communities provide exciting and enriching activities for its youngest residents. This year, The Estates, Faubourg Lafitte, Harmony Oaks, Iberville, Fischer, and River Garden hosted Summer Enrichment Camps to provide summer long activities for children and teens.

Campers enjoyed a variety of fun-filled, yet educational activities, including dance, music, writing, fitness, science, and much more!

Hosted by Urban Strategies Inc., over 60 youth from Harmony Oaks and Iberville devoted their summer to enhancing their musical and artistic skills. Campers enjoyed learning about hip hop dance, African dance and drums, jewelry making and theater. Participants also ventured out with field trips to the swamp, aquarium, insectarium, zoo, and skating rink.

In the Lafitte community, area youth had quite a full schedule. The first session of camp focused on the creative arts. Campers enjoyed daily workshops that included creative writing, music instruction, theater, dance, and drumline. In the second session focused on health and sports, campers enjoyed learning the essentials of soccer and tennis under the supervision of volunteer Linda Friedlander and tennis pros Gerald Davis and his son, Gerald Davis Jr.

Young children in River Gardens community had the opportunity to participate in the “Nurture through Nature” camp this summer. While most of the activities for the children focused on nature, campers also enjoyed arts and crafts, and taking field trips to the bowling alley, arcades, and much more.

The Estates and Fischer communities also hosted summer camps for young children and teens. Fischer campers remained active throughout the summer with sports and arts and crafts projects. Campers at The Estates displayed their talents and learned about performance dance from experienced instructors.

HANO summer camps came to a close on August 1st this year.
### IMPORTANT NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Main Office</td>
<td>(504) 670-3300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harmony Oaks</td>
<td>(504) 894-8828</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Estates</td>
<td>(504) 940-3060</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faubourg Lafitte</td>
<td>1-855-523-4883</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guste Homes</td>
<td>(504) 529-3392</td>
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<td>Marrero Commons</td>
<td>(504) 524-9011</td>
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<td>Fischer Homes</td>
<td>(504) 266-2503</td>
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<td>River Garden</td>
<td>(504) 412-8216</td>
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<td>Columbia Parc</td>
<td>(504) 284-4769</td>
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<td>Florida</td>
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<td>Scattered Sites</td>
<td>(504) 529-1591</td>
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<td>HANO PD Hotline</td>
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<td>Public Housing Hotline</td>
<td>(504) 670-3446</td>
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<tr>
<td>HCVP Hotline</td>
<td>(504) 708-2800</td>
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