

RRHA Awards 2010 Tomorrow's Promise Scholarships

















Whitcomb **Resource Center**

RRHA proudly presented awards to its 2010 Tomorrow's Promise Scholarship recipients, all residents of Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority communities, on June 16th during the Board of Commissioners meeting held at

the RRHA Headquarters.

Established in 1995, the Tomorrow's Promise Fund aids hard-working, gifted students who live in public housing in continuing their education after high school. To date, RRHA has awarded over \$22,000 to about 75 students. An attorney, a college professor, a real estate agent, and a bank loan officer are among the past RRHA scholarship winners.

"Helping our residents achieve higher education is part of our mission of building stronger communities," said Anthony Scott, RRHA's Chief Executive Officer. "The students will receive mentoring and coaching from RRHA staff throughout college, in addition to being awarded the scholarships."

RRHA celebrates and congratulates the following seven 2010 Tomorrow's Promise Scholarship Recipients:

Mikala Carrington, a Fairfield Court

resident, graduated from Armstrong High School and plans to major in criminal justice at St. Augustine University. Mikala served as Senior Class Chaplain, and as Captain of the track team, for which she was voted most valuable player.

Jodeci Coleman-Long, a Creighton Court resident, graduated from Richmond Community High School with a 4.01 GPA and plans to major in political science at Old Dominion University. Jodeci was the editor-in-

continued on page 6

Creighton Court, Randolph and Fulton Apartments and Other RRHA Communities Get New Appliances and Other Improvements from Housing Stimulus Funds

Residents of Creighton Court, Randolph Apartments, and Fulton Apartments and other RRHA communities will see improvements thanks to a \$10.7 million stimulus grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Community Development (HUD). Residents will enjoy new kitchen and bath appliances, new paint and flooring, as well as other upgrades to modernize the housing units.

"We are in the process of revitalizing our public housing communities through

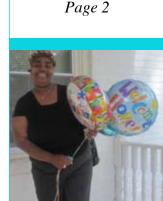
extensive modernization to bring improved systems, energy- efficiency, and unit and site improvements," said Anthony Scott, RRHA Chief Executive Officer.

Creighton is the first housing community to undergo the improvements. Construction started in June and is expected to be completed within the next 15 months. RRHA held information meetings at Creighton Court in March along with meetings for Fulton and Randolph residents to share what will

happen while the apartment units get facelifts. RRHA also has a relocation staff available to assist families who will be moved temporarily during the upgrades, and as families move into their new units. Funds are also providing for all related relocation benefits for the affected families.

"We are doing everything possible to minimize any disruption of normal family life of our residents during this

continued on page 7



Resident Becomes New Homeowner Page 4



RRHA Youth Scuba Divers

Page 4



RRHA and Richmond City Health District Open Second Health Resource Center for Residents New location is in Whitcomb Court

"If you need your blood pressure checked, you don't have to catch a bus or pay someone to take you way uptown to see a doctor," said Anne Giles, Whitcomb Court Tenant Council President, as she praised the new Whitcomb Court Resource Center. "For people with health problems, this makes a big difference."

Giles was on hand with other Whitcomb Court residents to enjoy healthy food, good music, blood pressure checks, a facility tour and other activities on May 10 to celebrate the grand opening of the Whitcomb Court Resource Center. RRHA, the Richmond City Health District and the Whitcomb Court Tenant Council welcomed the community to a ribbon cutting ceremony at the center, located at the corner of Deforrest and Whitcomb Streets in Whitcomb Court.

In addition to enjoying health vendors and various grand opening activities, residents took advantage of free immunizations and other important health screenings. Another highlight was the planting of vegetables and flowers in a community garden, sponsored by Leadership Metro



RRHA, Whitcomb residents and Richmond City Health District officials cut the ribbon at the grand opening.

Richmond and the Home Depot. Backyard Farmers, a local community organization, will help residents maintain the garden and Whitcomb residents will enjoy the vegetables when they ripen.

The Whitcomb Court Resource

Center will provide RRHA residents, primarily the Whitcomb Court community, with services that include family planning, health education, teen peer support, wellness referrals, well family workshops, blood pressure checks, and HIV screening. The

Richmond Health District received a family planning grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and partnered with RRHA to bring these services directly to public housing residents.

"Our partnership with the City Health District enables our residents to have easy access to health resources and information that will help put them on the path to ensuring a healthier lifestyle," said Anthony Scott, RRHA Chief Executive Officer. "Without the support of residents, the Center cannot exist so I encourage all to take advantage of the Center and the essential health and wellness services now available in Whitcomb."

Giles said the community response has been overwhelming. "It's a blessing," Giles said. "Everyone is really excited about it, especially the young people who want immunizations and wellness information."

The Whitcomb facility is the second center at RRHA. The Fairfield Resource Center opened in November 2009.

For more information, call the center at 382-4353.

An Important Message To Our Residents from the CEO and the RRHA Chief of Police

Summer has arrived, bringing more residents outdoors to enjoy warm weather activities and spend more time with fellow neighbors. Unfortunately, summer may also bring an increase in crime. We want you to know for RRHA, during this summer, our Police Department and others are working hard to make this summer a safe summer.

For RRHA, safer communities are a most important priority for RRHA. Please be aware that we will take all measures to prevent and reduce crime in our housing communities, including lease enforcement action when situations require such a response by RRHA. We will not tolerate persons or activity which threaten the health and safety of our children, families, and elderly residents!

We encourage everyone to be mindful of the increase in our children being outdoors and crossing our residential streets. Traffic enforcement has and will be even more strenuously enforced through the use of marked RRHA Police vehicles utilizing Radar Speed Enforcement, traffic safety checkpoints and our campaign with the Richmond PD for the "Click it or Ticket" seatbelt enforcement campaign throughout our communities.

We ask for your active participation to ensure that everyone has a safe and fun summer. We want you to know that our RRHA Police Department and its partners will be working closely with the community and enforcing all policies to promote a crime-free environment.

We encourage you to report any incidents through our Safety Hotline at 780-4006.

Public safety is everyone's responsibility. Working together, we can provide a safe and healthy community for everyone to enjoy.

Thank you for your support and have a great summer!

Anthony Scott Chief Executive Officer

Hal Hazelton Chief of Police



Driven In Style – Shanequa Patterson Makes a Grand Prom Entrance

Hillside Court resident Shanequa Patterson, 18, went looking for her senior prom dress and came home with not only a dress, but also a free ride to the prom in a Range Rover Limousine. She was escorted by the Richmond Police to the Hilton Hotel in downtown Richmond. The benefit of having the Police escort you to the prom is that you could ride though town disregarding all of the red lights and get there in time to make a big entrance. "This one topped the cake!" Patterson said.

A small group of students from high schools around Richmond took

advantage of the resources offered by the Richmond Outreach Center (ROC) through its Jesus Couture store. The store organized an event to give away free prom dresses and accessories to high school girls who could not afford to buy them. While Patterson and a few others were shopping around, they were asked to participate in a short game to test their knowledge of the realities of drinking and driving on prom night.

According to Patterson, the first







Shanequa joins her date and family members.

few questions weren't that difficult, but as the game went on the students were asked to estimate the statistics of deaths and accidents on a given prom night. Though the topic of the questions was somewhat morbid, the students became more aware of the ills of drinking and driving, Patterson said. She beat out the other contestants to win the game and did a little dance to celebrate as she walked off stage.

On prom night, the Range Rover Limousine pulled up to Patterson's

door and a police officer rang the door bell promptly at 7:30 p.m. "I think my mom was more excited than I was," Patterson said. But when she got into the shiny black limo with silver rims and a TV inside amongst other things, she changed her mind. "It made me feel like a super star!" she added.

This year's George Wythe High School Prom was themed "An Evening in Paris" and Patterson wore the classy 1920's silver dress with black lace that she had picked out at the ROC. She was escorted by her date Antonio, 19. Due to her love of music and dance, Patterson said she had a blast at her senior prom. The only thing she regrets is wearing heels all night. Now she knows to bring a pair of flats, as well.

Patterson recently graduated from George Wythe High School. Her favorite subjects were geography and English, but she wants to move to California to be a pop singer.

Summer Programs Offer Variety for RRHA Residents of All Ages

Are you ready to go hiking or swimming? Learn computer skills? Get moving with some low impact aerobic exercise for seniors? RRHA's Summer Programs offer enough variety to provide a safe, fun and exciting summer for everyone.

Copies of RRHA's Summer Programs guide were distributed door-to-door in June to every RRHA household to provide details on programs for youth, adults and senior citizens. Examples of youth activities include tennis, swimming, computer class, field trips and more. Senior citizens can enjoy a shopping trip to Wal-Mart, arts and crafts, water aerobics, movie nights and other activities. For adults, summer programs include a computer lab, a parent/top orientation program and a tuition assistance program.

Most of the programs are held at community centers within each RRHA neighborhood. For activities held outside of RRHA, transportation is provided.

Don't miss out on a memorable summer! Sign up today for the program of your choice. To learn more, about RRHA's Summer Programs, call 789-4835



From Public Housing to Homeownership – Cynthia Tyler Realizes Her Dream

Having spent most of her life, over 25 years, as a resident in public housing, Cynthia Tyler never imagined that this day would come. Today, she would officially become a homeowner.

"I never thought that I could be a homeowner," says Tyler. Growing up in Mosby Court with her mother, two sisters, and her brother, she had become accustomed to living in public housing. But, when the opportunity presented itself for her to make a change, Tyler took it. RRHA presented this opportunity in the form of the Neighborhood Homeownership Program.

Tyler began attending the program sessions over two years ago. She encourages others who are in the same situation that she was in to "come to the sessions." Tyler also offers encouraging words

about homeownership, saying "don't ever say you can't do it... I thought I couldn't do it, and I am." Tyler is quick to thank everyone involved in her success, including Geraldine Evans, Robert Jackson, and Elaine Key.

Evans, who works in Resident Services, worked closely with Tyler in the program and is delighted that this day has come. Evans encourages others



Cynthia Tyler accepts the key to her new home from RRHA's Robert Jackson.

to take advantage of the programs in place to assist with homeownership. The Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSSP) even offers an escrow incentive for those dedicated to the homeownership program. At the day of the mortgage signing, Tyler received a HUD-funded FSSP escrow check.

Robert Jackson, a homeownership coordinator, worked with Tyler for almost the entire two years

she spent in the program. He admires her diligent attendance and is glad to see Tyler become a "success story of public housing to homeownership." Jackson shared that the best part of the entire process was during the signing; Tyler leaned in his ear and whispered, "Mr. Jackson, I did it!" Jackson shares that this program is about changing lives for families and generations, giving them a better quality of life.

Also sharing in the excitement was real estate agent, Elaine Key, who was noticeably happy for Tyler, as she continually swept the steps and porch trying to make everything picture perfect for Tyler's signing.

Evans was clearly happy for Tyler and mentioned that Tyler displayed such "patience through the process" and that she "took advice and followed through." Evans had such a pleasure working with Tyler that she added she has

"gained a friend" in the process.

Undoubtedly, circumstances can change for the better. Cynthia Tyler has made a monumental step forward, not only for herself, but also for her family. "God is good," Tyler said.

For more information on this Neighborhood Homeownership Program, please call the Home Center at 804-780-4884.

RRHA Youth Achieve Scuba Diving Success

RRHA youth have traveled to exotic places like the Bahamas and explored areas deep under the sea thanks to their participation in the RRHA Youth Sports and Fine Arts Academy's Scuba Diving Program. The youth have also achieved certifications to demonstrate their success at the sport.

Launched in 2007, the RRHA Scuba Diving Program is a collaborative effort of the Richmond Dive Shop and Lake Rawlings Scuba Park in Rawlings, VA. The program was launched when Clifton Hicks, President of the Black Dolphin Divers of Richmond, contacted RRHA about introducing some of its swim team members to scuba diving.

As a result, the youth have had opportunities to travel to the Bahamas, Curacao, Connecticut, and Augusta, Georgia studying marine science and participating in a variety of scuba activities and

community service activities, as well as learning from experts in the field.

The diving program has also made it possible for eight RRHA youth to become PADI (Professional Association of Dive Instructors) certified. Seven of the youth have achieved Advanced Open Water Certification.

One young diver, Latifah Neblett- Burrell, of the Fulton Apartments community, was named 2009 Female Youth Diver of the Year by the National Association of Black Scuba Divers (NABS). Members of the RRHA youth scuba team have been named to the newly formed NABS youth council of the national association. Youth will have opportunities to go into specialty diving once they have completed their Advanced Open Water training.



Members of the RRHA Scuba Diving Team participate in a recent training session at Lake Rawlings to complete navigation and deep diving.

Mayor's Youth Urban Conservation CORPS Kickoff





Richmond Mayor Dwight C. Jones spoke to students during the kickoff of the Youth Urban Conservation CORPS, a Mayor's Youth Academy program designed to involve more than 100 Richmond youth in an intensive horticulture and business development experience. Many of RRHA's youth from the East End will participate.

East End Charrette



East End youth discuss community design concepts at a children's charrette organized by the City of Richmond, Bon Secours Richmond Community Hospital and RRHA. The charrette was part of a series of public meetings to seek input from the community, business owners, public housing residents and other stakeholders in building a more vibrant Church Hill/Nine Mile Road corridor and East End Community.

Gilpin Court Bike-a-thon







RRHA hosted the Gilpin Court Bike-a-thon for the eighth year in a row on June 12, sharing messages of bicycle safety, crime prevention awareness and community involvement. Richmond Police Chief Bryan Norwood (in center photo) joined in the fun. The day's activities also included karate exhibitions by RRHA youth who train under Henrico Dai-Ichi Shotokan Karate.



Micah Camps Provide Summer Fun and Enrichment for RRHA Youth

From learning about the lives of the Powhatan Indians and the early English settlers to swimming and archery, 133 RRHA youth are participating in camps across the Richmond region and beyond this summer.

The camps are part of The Micah Initiative, a mentoring program that St. Paul's Episcopal Church launched in the city's East End in 1999. Since then, the program has grown to become citywide and has gained additional partners – Woodville Presbyterian Church and Good Shepherd Baptist Church.

The summer camp program of the Micah initiative started in 2004, providing free camp tuition and transportation for current and former students of Woodville Elementary School which serves RRHA's Creighton and Mosby Court families.

"All of the churches participating in the Micah Summer Camp Program want to help the children from Woodville Elementary expand their view of the world and of their own place in it," said Page Luxmoore, a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Students are selected by combining teacher recommendations with parent requests for their children to attend camp. "We try to match each child to the camp which is right for him or her," Luxmoore said.

A total of 210 children are participating this summer in more than 20 day camps and 10 residential camps. Day camp activities include swimming, kayaking, rock climbing, boating, sports, dancing and performing arts, as well as reading and academic support. Residential (sleepover) camps, which include some based on college campuses in Virginia, North Carolina, West Virginia and Pennsylvania, provide activities such as archery, swimming, games, science enrichment and arts.

Oryan Law, a 10-year-old Creighton resident and rising 5th grader, is participating in the 2-week Theatre IV Camp at the Barksdale Theatre and will next attend the St. Catherine's Camp.

"I love the instruments and musical things," said Law, who is a second-year camper. "I can actually show what I know how to do. I like my friends there. The counselors are nice. I play piano, drums, trumpet."

Financial support for the Micah Summer Camp Program comes from three sources: most camps provide full or partial scholarships; individual donors and special groups at the three



Paisley of Creighton Court paints a puppet at the Visual Arts Center of Richmond.

churches contribute funds to buy additional scholarships and support transportation; and UPS Freight provides additional funding.

Although parents don't have to pay for the camps, they are asked for a contribution more valuable than tuition. "The most important contribution asked of parents is support for their children's participation, including a commitment that their child will be present every day of camp and rested and ready to fully participate," Luxmoore said.

Shamia Smith, a seven-year-old

Mosby Court resident, is participating in the SPARC Sparklers Camp.

"It's really fun. I get to play games. We do crafts, and we have snacks, reading," she said. "We read through scripts and songs and we are preparing for the play "And the Dish Ran Away with the Spoon."

Camp leaves a lasting impression that goes beyond summer fun, according to Luxmoore.

"Camp helps the children keep their bodies and their minds engaged and rejuvenates them to return to school in the Fall," she said.

2010 Tomorrow's Promise Scholarships cont.

with a 4.01 GPA and plans to major in political science at Old Dominion University. Jodeci was the editor-inchief of his school's yearbook and was a member of the Key Club, the National Technical Honor Society and Future Business Leaders of America.

Terrell Hamiel, a Whitcomb Court resident, graduated from Richmond Community High School with a 3.75 GPA and plans to major in music education at attend Hampden-Sydney College. Terrell was a member of the Jazz Band, the Japanese Honor Society and the Drama Club.

Danisha Logan, a Hillside Court resident, graduated from Huguenot High School with a 3.39 GPA and completed the Nurse's Aide Program through the Richmond Technical Center. This program will clearly benefit her as she majors in nursing at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College.

Jannel Lomax, a Fairfield Court resident, graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School and plans to study culinary arts and fashion design at Johnson & Wales University. Jannel was the yearbook editor-in-chief and a member of the track team member. She is also a member of her church's step team.

Sharon Thomas, a Fairfield Court Resident, graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School with a 3.84 GPA and joined the All District and All City Concert Bands as a talented clarinet player. She plans to major in biology at Randolph-Macon College.

Claire Turner, a Whitcomb Court resident, graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School and plans to major in nursing at Fortis College, a technical and career training school. Claire served as volleyball manager, a Yearbook Committee member and served as a youth usher at her church.

RRHA Salutes College Graduates

The Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority would like to salute the following former and current residents and RRHA Tomorrow's Promise Scholars who are now college graduates in 2010! We are proud to recognize their academic achievements and encourage each one to continue to strive to attain their goals.

- Ebony Ellis, a former Creighton Court resident, graduated from Howard University Law School.
- Ronnie Johnson, a Hillside Court resident, graduated from Shenandoah University and majored in Business Administration & Information Systems.

- **Keosha Cosby**, a Fairfield Court resident, graduated with a degree in Finance from Virginia Commonwealth University.
- Cherelle Smith, a Gilpin Court resident, graduated from Shaw University with a degree in Computer Information Systems.
- Marc Peters, a Hillside Court resident, graduated from James Madison University, where he studied technical communication and music industry.

Mosby Tenant Council Provides Summer Activities for Youth

Mosby Court youth are enjoying free breakfast and lunch, field trips, games and other activities to keep them occupied each weekday during the summer thanks to their Tenant Council.

The Mosby Court Tenant Council has organized the Summer Food Service Feeding Program, of the USDA / City of Richmond, and other summer activities with financial support from VCU, 7th District Councilwoman Cynthia Newbille and RRHA, said Patricia Williford, president of the Mosby Court Tenant Council.

"It's turning out to be a great success and Ms. Newbille has been very helpful," Williford said. "It's been a good turnout and has been a great experience for the children."

The program is held at the Mosby Court Community Room, located at 1973 Accommodation Street adjacent to the management office, for children aged one to 18 years old. Free breakfast is provided from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. and free lunch is served from 12 noon to 1 p.m. Both meals and snacks are provided through the USDA/ City's Department of Parks and Recreation





Mosby youth enjoy games and lunch as part of the summer activities.

Summer Food Service Program, Williford said.

There are also other activities during the day, including movies at Battery Park, and transportation is provided.

Williford said she wants to thank the tenants of Mosby Court for their support of the summer activities. "We want to thank our residents for allowing us to have their children for the 8 hours we do, trusting us," she said. "We also want to thank the kids for being great children and enjoying the programs."

The schedule for the remainder of July is as follows:

July 19	Storytime, 10:30 a.m.	July 26	Storytime, 10:30 a.m.
	Summer Feeding Program		Summer Feeding Program
July 20	Summer Feeding Program	July 27	Summer Feeding Program
	In-house Activities		In-house Activities
July 21	Summer Feeding Program	July 28	Summer Movie Program
	Movie Madness		Movie Madness
July 22	Summer Feeding Program	July 29	Summer Feeding Program
	In-house Activities		In-house Activities
July 23	Storytime, 10:30 a.m.	July 30	Storytime, 10:30 a.m.
	Summer Feeding Program		Summer Feeding Program

Creighton Court, Randolph and Fulton Apartments cont.



Creighton Court is lined with construction fencing during the upgrades.

"We are doing everything possible to minimize any disruption of normal family life of our residents during this process," Scott said. "We appreciate their cooperation as we work through this exciting opportunity for our families and agency as well."

When the improvements are complete, residents will move into units at Creighton Court, Randolph Apartments and Fulton apartments that look and feel virtually like new homes. They will be greeted by new kitchens, baths, appliances, doors, flooring, interior painting, new siding or siding repairs. Other sites will receive stimulus-funded improvements, such as hot water boilers and tanks and

exterior painting and new roofs. The community rooms and management offices at six RRHA communities will also be spruced up, as well as the grounds and exteriors.

"We are working with our residents to build vibrant communities," said Scott.

Residents of Creighton, Fulton and Randolph who have questions about the improvements can contact a Relocation Specialist at 780-4835 or your property management office. Look for stimulus modernization updates in future issues of the Spirit or call the RRHA Information Line at 780-4344 or email info@rrha.com.

Elderly Housing to Receive Upgrades

RRHA was also awarded a HUD Competitive Stimulus Grant of \$706,000 to bring improvements to Decatur Apartments and other units of elderly housing. The grant will bring a new elevator to 1209 Decatur Apartments and other 504 Handicapped Accessibility improvements to units for elderly housing. Work is projected to get underway at 1209 Decatur in late summer 2010.

Attention Residents! Please Take This Quick Survey!



RRHA Resident Services

436 Calhoun Street Richmond, VA 23220

How can we improve programming for you?

Which of the following workshops or programs would you attend if they were offered by the RRHA Resident Services Division? Please check all that apply.

□ Dress to Impress □ Problem Solving/Conflict Resolution □ Housekeeping □ Meal Planning on a budget/Cooking □ Get organized and set goals □ Parenting □ Interviewing with confidence	HEALTH AND WELL BEING Nutrition			
FINANCIAL Individual Budget Prep Individual Credit Repair How to maintain a checking account Saving money	ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES Sewing Jewelry Making Arts & Crafts Poetry Writing			
COMPUTER CLASSES Computer Basics Basic Microsoft Word Basic Internet/Open free email account How to fill out an online application	WHEN WOULD YOU ATTEND WORKSHOPS? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY Day Hour (9am – 5pm) Evening Hours (6pm – 8pm) Saturday Mornings			
Please use the space below to write any additional workshops or programs that you would like to have at RRHA.				
If you would like to participate in future focus groups, please complete the information below:				
Name:	Phone:			
Address:	City/State/Zip:			

TO RETURN QUESTIONNAIRE YOU CAN:

- 1. PLACE IN RESIDENT SERVICES DROP BOX AT YOUR MANAGEMENT OFFICE
- 2. BRING TO THE FRONT DESK OF THE CALHOUN CENTER {436 CALHOUN STREET}
- 3. FAX TO (804) 780-3462/ ATTN: Resident Services
- 4. MAIL <u>TO:</u>

RRHA RESIDENT SERVICES
436 CALHOUN STREET
RICHMOND, VA 23220

Thanks for your participation!

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Whitcomb Student Wins Scholarships



Chiquitta Branch

along this line and return

RRHA would like to congratulate Ms. Chiquitta Branch of our Whitcomb Court community for her outstanding academic achievements. Branch is a recent graduate of Armstrong High School and plans to attend the University of Virginia. Chiquitta was awarded a full academic scholarship, nearly \$23,000, covering her entire cost of attendance.

Branch also received a \$2,000 Virginia Association of Housing & Community Development Officials (VAHCDO) Scholarship, and from the Public Housing Authorities Directors Association (PHADA), she was awarded a \$5,000 HD Supply Scholarship, an annual scholarship from Home Depot

We wish Ms. Branch luck as she continues to excel and attain her future goals.



