

FREE CLOTHING CLOSET OPENS AT DOUGLASS CENTRE

- ** Have you ever been judged by the clothes you wear?
- ** Have you ever been self-conscious about the way you were dressed for a job interview?
- ** Have you ever wished you had money to buy a new outfit or suit for church, a job, a job interview?

We would like to introduce the Geared for Success Clothing Closet which is sponsored by the Young Professional Committee with the Huntington Chamber of Commerce. It is located on the second floor of the Douglass Centre, 1448 10th Ave.

This program provides business dress and business casual dress to anyone in our region who needs nicer professional clothes for work, church, job interviews, or family reunions.

Suits, shirts, ties, dresses, pantsuits, dress shoes, purses, jewelry, hats, overcoats, briefcases, polo shirts, sweaters, and much more. Stop by and take advantage of this free program and get ready to look and feel your best at work, church, or any other place or event for which you need to dress up. Now you can be Geared for Success and dress like a professional too.



Marvin Z. Gray Family Center News

by Sockie Minor, Sports Center Clerk

We now have a Step/Bible Group. Ms. Aime Chapman from His World Ministries has volunteered to teach our youth how to Step dance. One of the requirements to participate is group Bible Study. The group already has 6 girls participating. They enjoy the dancing and the Bible study is going well. Ms. Chapman also has some young men who participate in her other group. This is not just for girls. Step/Bible group is on Tuesday 5:00 to 6:30 PM. Bring your dancing shoes and come dance with us.

I would like to congratulate Kishauna Harper, one of our 9 year old girls who participates in the Operation Right Choice class at the Sport Center. She wrote a paper for school called "STAYING DRUG FREE". Kishauna received an "A" for her paper. Well done, Kishauna, we are very proud of you!

This is one of the things that Operation Right Choice is helping the youth to learn that there is more in life than getting high. It is about making right choices for your life and to help teach others how to make the right decision. Operation Right Choice is for youth ages 11-17 and meets on Mondays at 5:00 to 6:00 PM.

STAYING DRUG FREE

By Kishauna Harper

To stay drug free here are somethings that you can do.

- * Stay busy so you don't have time for drugs
- * Be in my drug free club: Operation Right Choice



- * Keep your word about staying drug free
- * Stay away from people who do drugs

Staying drug free is the best decision you will make. To stay drug free there are some things that you can do. First, stay busy so you don't have time for drugs in your life. I stay busy because one day I want to be a singer, a teacher, or a counselor to juveniles and it takes a lot of work. By staying in school you won't have time for drugs. You should also keep your word to stay drug free and if someone offers you some drugs say "NO" and walk away. Last, stay away from people that do drugs. Your friends may do drugs, but you don't have to. I would ask them to join my drug free club or I would stop hanging around them and find me some new drug free friends. It is hard to stay away from your friends that do them, but believe me it is the best decision you will ever make.

UPDATES FROM THE PUBLIC HOUSING STAFF

Jamie Baumgardner, PH Manager
Terry Henry, Maintenance Supervisor

Fairfield Tower conversions are ongoing. The third floor is now complete and is fully leased. Work is continuing on the first and second floors and within the next couple of months floor tile will be removed from the first floor with a minimum of inconvenience to the residents.

I would like to thank all those residents that have been coming to the RAB meetings. Madison Manor Resident Council continues to stay busy and not only sponsors activities in their own community but reaches out to other communities, thanks to you all and keep up the good the work!!!!

We also would like to recognize our own Carol Williamson, she is a resident in our Acquisition communities and was recognized as Hometown Hero for March. Ms. Williamson has been with us for a long time and was recognized for her many hours of volunteering at the VA, great job Carol, we're proud of you!!!

We want to remind our residents to use the Drug Hotline 526-4440 to report all suspicious or criminal activities in and around your apartment complex.

We also want to remind all our residents to help with trash and litter on the grounds in our communities. Together we can make a difference.

April Is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Know what you can do to prevent and recognize child abuse?

Here are a few suggestions!

Start with yourself...

- Ask yourself how you are doing as a parent. Learn something new about parenting by reading or talking to other parents. Reach out to any available community service that offers parenting help.
- Respect your family. Don't be afraid to ask their opinion or to make use of their experiences. Learn to say, "I am sorry" to your kids when you know you are wrong.
- Make time with your children. Play games. Praise your kids for being good, even if it is for little achievements. It is very important to make them feel valuable.
- Say, "I love you" as often as possible.
- Try to discipline your children without hitting. Violence teaches violence. Find other alternatives to dispense punishment.

Reach out to your community...

- Reach out to neighbors and families who have children. Offer to baby sit and give them a much-needed rest.
- Get involved with your community and organizations that work to prevent child abuse. A good place to start might be the PTA at your child's school.
- Volunteer with organizations that work to prevent child abuse or who offer services to victims of abuse.

Reach out to the world...

- Write a letter to your elected representatives and let them know it is your choice that they act to support parent education and child abuse prevention.
- Register to vote and use your vote to reflect your concern about children.
- Support the child abuse prevention organization in your community.

If you or someone you know needs help with preventing child abuse you may contact the following resources.

Shelly Adkins, LSW Huntington Housing 526-4436 ext 144 or 781-3575
West Virginia Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-352-6513 WV DHHR (CPS) 528-5800

Community Service Requirements Explained

Why do I have to do Community Service?

In accordance with Federal Regulation and Section VIII Paragraph O of the lease, you and all adult members of your household (18 – 61) must complete 8 hours of Community Service each month. An individual not exempt from the requirement would be those individuals who are not employed, not age 62 or over and/or do not meet the definition of a disabled person. Enclosed you will find a form that you must have the agency fill out and sign once you have completed your 8 hours of service for each month and an explanation of Community Service Requirements.

THE COMPLETED FORMS ARE TO BE TURNED IN AT YOUR MANAGERS OFFICE MONTHLY.

In other words, Community Service is a HUD REQUIREMENT! You must do Community Service or risk losing your housing.

Who has to do Community Service?

All members of your household ages 18 – 61 who are not exempt due to disability, employment status, in school status, or participation in a qualified economic self sufficiency program. If you are unsure ask the Community Service Coordinator or you Manager. You must contact the social worker if your status changes.

What if I don't do my Community Service?

Remember! Section IX of your Lease states "This Lease may be terminated by: HHA action, if the Family becomes ineligible for continued participation in the Public Housing program for failure to comply with the Federally mandated community service requirement."

In other words, you could lose your housing!!!

If you have any questions please contact SHELLY ADKINS at 781-3575 from 8-12 daily or by pager at 690-9466. You can also leave voice mail at 526-4436 ext 144.