



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

THA has been in existence since 1949, which is more than sixty-eight years. An article I read recently stated that about thirty percent of new businesses fail within the first five years. Obviously THA has outlasted that by a few years.

However, we have encountered numerous challenges over the past year. Including a reduction in funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), related to the new administration and obtaining tax credits for development of new housing has become extremely competitive.

In order to overcome these challenges, we must be more innovative. Part of our ongoing plan is to establish new partnerships, which are mutually beneficial. We are currently working with USDA in helping some of our program participants become homeowners. With the lowest interest rates in years, home loans are becoming more affordable. In some cases, mortgages are less than rent. We are also in discussions with Habitat.

Ben Carson, HUD Secretary is encouraging housing authorities to develop public/private partnerships to help address funding cuts. Continue to follow us in 2018, we have a variety of new things coming in the new year. We want to make sure we are here at least another 60+ years!

Ebby Green, Chief Executive Officer

TEXAS NAHRO SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The Texas Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (TX-NAHRO) provides scholarships each year to deserving high school seniors graduating in the Spring who are currently living with their families as Public Housing or Section 8 program residents. Available scholarships are one (1) \$2,500, and eight (8) \$1,000 scholarships. To begin the application process, use the following link (<http://www.txnahro.org/Scholarship/Applicationoverview.html>) where you can find the eligibility requirements, the online checklist and the application. Please read the instructions carefully as incomplete applications will be rejected. The application deadline is February 9, 2018 so if you are interested in your child applying, you should submit early. Contact the housing authority at (512) 352-3231, if you have questions.

SECTION 8 VOUCHER PROGRAM IS MOVING ALONG

The Housing Choice Program department has been extremely busy this year. Once we received approval to demolish Avery, we were awarded seventy new vouchers as replacement housing. We first offered vouchers to Avery residents and then began housing people from the waiting list. During the past year we have issued more than forty vouchers.

We also accepted applications for the program during the month of August 2017. We had 368 families apply and now have approximately 240 persons remaining on the waiting list. Some of the original applicants did not provide the necessary documentation or did not qualify.

As part of issuing vouchers, we have recruited more than ten new landlords. The new landlords feel that the program is easy to participate in and is beneficial to them. Janet Banister, a new landlord stated the following, *"I just recently heard about the Housing Authority's voucher system and I thought it was great! Hassle free on time direct deposited payments, plus I helped someone in the community enjoy a nice place to live and thought it was a win-win. Working with Angie helped it all come together."*

If you or anyone you know is interested in participating as a landlord please contact our office at (512) 352-3231, ext. 112.

PUBLIC HOUSING SPOTLIGHT

MAINTENANCE:

Charles Andrews and Ricardo Arana



We would like to introduce our current maintenance team. Charles Andrews has been with the Housing Authority for the past 6 months and is doing a wonderful job. He is a husband and father of a daughter, step-daughter and a step-son. He is also a musician (plays guitar), loves to play golf, and is a great guy to work with. Charles has worked for the City of Leander and the Forest Creek Golf Course.

Ricardo Arana is the newest member of the team and has been doing a fantastic job, as well. Ricardo is quiet, soft spoken, and funny. He is a husband of 28 years, and has 10 children ranging from 20-40 years of age. Ricardo helped build houses for about 24 years and worked for the Round Rock Housing Authority for approxi-

Main Office

311-C East 7th St.
Taylor, Texas

p: 512.352.3231
f: 512.365.5464

www.taylor.org

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
7:00 am - 6:00 pm

Friday
Closed

Closed during lunch
12:00 noon - 1:00 pm

After Hours

MAINTENANCE CALLS
512.352.3231, x122

December Dates

- 1st-5th: Rent is due
- 6th: Late Rent fees begin
- 12th: Resident Bingo - 1pm
- 22nd - 1/1/18: CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY - OFFICE CLOSED
- 26th: NO Bingo due to office closed for Holidays
- 27th: NO Bible Study due to office closed for Holidays
- Pest Control: Every 2nd Wed. (specified units)

mately 14 years. He enjoys helping people, which he says he loves to do. He even gets his children to help him when possible.

Both men have gained the trust and confidence of the residents. Many of them have on several occasions, expressed how pleased they are with the work they have performed. Each of them is knowledgeable in a variety of areas and draw off the strengths of the other to make a strong team. In the time they have been working here, they have saved the Housing Authority significantly by handling jobs we would have otherwise had to call a contractor for. We are very happy to have them as part of the staff.

RESIDENT OF THE YEAR: CHRISTINA RIVERA

Christina Rivera has been a resident of the Taylor Housing Authority for more than 12 years. She says that she has always loved living here and enjoys the staff and her neighbors. Christina is a very good tenant. She pays her rent on time and generally participates in resident programs and activities. She is committed to whatever she agrees to do, and has been one of our faithful gardeners. She is always such a pleasure to work and interact with. We are happy to have her as a Taylor Housing Authority resident.



RESIDENT SERVICES KNIGHTS IN SHINING ARMOR

We would like to recognize the Knights of Columbus of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and Mr. Robert Trevino, Grand Knight for their generosity. For the past several years the Knights have been providing free Thanksgiving dinners for senior residents at Mary Olson and other families in Taylor. This year they served over 250 local families

Each year Robert Trevino, the Grand Knight, decides which community projects the Knights will focus on. Since 1991, the Knights have chosen to provide free Thanksgiving meals for the community. In speaking with Benito Gonzales, THA board chairman, he says it is a delight to be able to do this. Benito has been a member of the Knights of Columbus since 1982, and he says it brings him and his group much joy to do this project each year.

The event takes two full days of work. The first day the turkeys are cooked. For many years, Scott Morales did the cooking, but this year it was done by Raul Gonzales, from Fajitas on Wheels. This year, approximately fifteen Knights and fifteen youth from the church youth group, worked to get the meal ready for delivery after it was cooked. The youth and an assigned adult (which is usually their parent) then deliver the meals door to door. What a great example of how the community comes together to help their neighbors. A warm

thank you, to Mr. Trevino, Grand Knight, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, the Knights and the youth and their parents.

THANK YOU THA RESIDENTS!



On November 5th we held our **Resident's Thanksgiving Dinner** and had a full house. "Thank you" to all the residents that attended this event. Everyone that participated were able to meet and greet their neighbors and we all enjoyed food, fun and laughter with each other. The meal was catered by *New Life of Taylor United Pentecostal Church*, and it was delicious. We really appreciate Pastor Hutton and his wife Gladys for doing such a good job. Many of the residents are still talking about the good time they had and the good food they ate.

Happy Thanksgiving to All!

MAKE A NOTE!

Holiday Maintenance Hours: During the Christmas and New Year holidays our office will be closed. While we are closed, after hours maintenance will be available for emergencies only (clogged toilets, damage causing water leaks, gas smell/leaks, heaters, broken windows, door locks/lock outs, smoke alarms). During the winter months, we ask all residents to be mindful of their pipes and pets and encourage everyone to take the necessary precautions. As you listen to the news and weather reports, if there is going to be a freeze, remember to leave your indoor faucets dripping and open all cabinet doors to help keep the pipes from freezing. Keep your bathroom door open to let the heat in and make sure all exterior faucets are covered. Bring in your plants to keep them from freezing and your pets to keep them safe. Residents are responsible for making sure these precautions are adhered to.

Holiday Decorating Safety: Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas bring out the creator in many of us. Decorating is fun to do and brings joy to many homes. The Housing Authority asks that all make sure their outdoor decorations are taken down within the week following the holiday. As a safety precaution, make sure you don't overload plugs, report any cracked outlets to maintenance, keep live trees away from heat sources, only use the proper tree stand, and keep your tree hydrated. Have someone else help when climbing ladders, turn off all lighted decorations before you go to bed, don't stretch cords across the floor, replace damaged cords and keep your eyes on your children. Enjoy family and friends safely.

Computer Access

Available to residents participating in Taylor Housing Authority programs (Public Housing and Section 8). If you do not have computer access and need to take care of business on line, write or print out your resume, or contact a potential employer, you are welcome to visit our lobby and use our computer between the hours of 7:30am and 5:30pm, Monday-Thursday.

Website

Visit our new and improved website to read client testimonials, read our blog, and keep up with the latest THA information through our newsletter. Go to <http://www.taylorha.org> to print out forms required to keep both your public housing and/or Section 8 application current and active. Existing landlords can obtain instructions and information related to our Section 8 program also. Completed change/update forms, can be brought into our office or mailed (no faxes please). We encourage landlords who may be interested in our Section 8 program to please call (512) 352-3231, x112 to speak with Angie Lindgren. We need you.