

Greensboro Housing Authority's "Reading is My Superpower!" Receives Award of Excellence

Greensboro Housing Authority (GHA) has been chosen as a recipient of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) Awards of Excellence: Resident and Client Services for "Reading is My Superpower!" The official presentation of the award will take place in New Orleans, La. on October 15 during NAHRO's National Conference & Exhibition.

"The NAHRO Awards of Excellence Program notifies the public of the virtuous work that NAHRO member organizations do for their residents and community. The award recognizes the innovative housing and community development projects, programs, and services that member organizations provide to make a difference in the lives they serve," said NAHRO President Steve Merritt.



In the summer of 2015, the Greensboro Housing Authority did more than feed the body of those attending the Summer Lunch Program in their communities. Thanks to 27 heroes, the "Reading is My Superpower!" program nourished young minds as well. These heroes, all GHA staff members, volunteered their Reading Superpower and a portion of their lunch hour to visit and read to communities. "Reading is My Superpower!" combines existing resources to offer this low-cost literacy program for youth and challenged GHA to do more to place books in the hands of youth living in their communities.

"This program celebrates the accomplishments of services that our members do each and every day for their residents and community to ensure a safe and affordable place to call home. By awarding the efforts of housing agencies and agency officials through NAHRO's Awards of Excellence," said NAHRO Acting CEO John Bohm. "We hope that the general public, community leaders, private industry and government itself will become inspired to create, produce, and reform new and existing housing and community development programs to meet the housing necessities of our nation's most vulnerable inhabitants."

Intake Specialist Darren McGill dresses as the Cat in the Hat and shares his lunch hour and a story with children at Hampton Homes Resource Center.

The Agency Awards Program is a two-tiered program consisting of the Awards of Merit and the Awards of Excellence. The first tier of the program, the Awards of Merit, are submitted to National NAHRO and sent to Regional Juries for review. NAHRO's Awards of Merit recognize outstanding achievement in housing and community development programs in five categories. The second tier of the program, the Awards of Excellence, are selected from the Award of Merit winners nominated for an Award of Excellence by the Regional Juries. They are then sent to National Juries who may select up to 24 awards. This year out of the 90 entries nominated for the Awards of Excellence, only 20 were selected to receive this honor. The Awards of Excellence will be featured in upcoming articles in the *Journal of Housing and Community Development*.

Due to the success of the program that began in 2015, "Reading is My Superpower!" has continued during the 2016 Summer Lunch Program. _____ GHA staff members devoted _____ hours of their lunch hours to visit _____ affordable housing communities to read over _____ books.



CEO Tina Akers Brown reads "Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters" by Barack Obama to youth at GHA's Claremont Courts Resource Center.