

Celebrating Fatherhood – Event Hopes to Reconnect Father and Child

Greensboro, NC - For the second straight year, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) encouraged housing authorities across the nation to participate in *Father's Day*. In keeping with HUD's commitment to engage fathers in meaningful involvement with their children, Greensboro Housing Authority (GHA) sponsored its first Celebration of Fatherhood on Saturday, June 9th, 2012. The celebration, held from 10 am to 2 pm at the Ray Warren Homes public housing community, had a dual purpose - providing fun activities to support the bonding of fathers and their children, and connecting fathers to economic development resources.

GHA staff, volunteers, businesses and social service organizations worked together to offer not only fun but economic and social community resources to the families attending. Goodwill Industries, JobLink, Legal Aid, City of Greensboro, Greensboro Police Department, Serenity Counseling and Resources, Alcohol & Drug Services of Guilford, Guilford County HeadStart and GHA Family Self-Sufficiency and Supportive Housing set up information booths. Polo Ralph Lauren



Corporation, a clothing manufacturer with a distribution center in Greensboro, donated shirts and hats as giveaways for the day. In addition, eight \$25 gift cards were awarded as door prizes. "Bounce houses", carnival games, and arts and crafts supplied hours of fun and entertainment for the children. A great lunch was catered by Butler's Catering of Greensboro.

The day was certainly worthwhile for the families but also helped HUD work towards its 2010-2015 Strategic Plan Goal 3: "using housing as a platform to improve the quality of life of our residents." This focus on fatherhood in public housing flows from current statistics that show fathers are absent. Nationally, the majority of public housing households with children are headed by single women who earn less than \$9,000 annually. In Greensboro's public housing, 75 percent of homes are led by single-female head of households with an average income of \$5,780. While fathers are often present in and around public housing developments, most of them are not officially on the household's lease and are often disconnected from services that could lead to economic stability for themselves and their children.