

## Youth Wins National Poster Contest

Symeon Davis, a 12-year-old middle school student from Hampton Homes, has been named a winner in the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials' "Housing America" poster contest.

His poster depicting a home resting in the hands of God will be included in NAHRO's 2011 Housing America Calendar.

"It's exciting," Symeon said.

The poster included a five-line poem:

*Home is where your heart is bursting at  
the seams with love.  
Home is filled with blessings from above.  
Home is about family that understands.  
Home is a safe place...  
Are you in good hands?*

He said the words "just sparked in my head" after thinking about it for a couple of days.

"I usually don't write poetry," the youngster said. "I write songs."

He said a neighbor got him into writing rap songs but,



WINNER - Symeon Davis, 12, and his winning poster.

"I focus on R & B."

The young artist, who used crayons and colored pencils, will get a \$100 savings bond and a

framed certificate from NAHRO. The poster and those of 12 other winners were previewed at the NAHRO National Conference in October.

The theme of the contest was: "What Home Means to Me."

Symeon's winner was one of nearly 60 local

entries.



## Basketball Ready to Start



The 2011 PHASAC basketball season is right around the corner.

This season's roster and cheerleaders were chosen in November and are getting ready for their first game in January.

To participate, all youth must be residents of Public Housing or the HCV program, maintain a grade point average of at least 2.0 and be drug free.

## They Were Leaders for GHA and the Community



*Ms. Baldwin*

Two important members of the GHA family passed away recently on the same day.

Lillie Mae Baldwin and Willie Lee Gordon Matthews, who passed away Nov. 10, both left a life of service to GHA and the community.

Ms. Baldwin served on the GHA Board of Commissioners and also as Resident Council President of Hickory Trails. With the help of First Baptist Church, she helped open an emergency food pantry for the residents of Hickory Trails and assisted other residents within the GHA housing communities.

Ms. Baldwin retired from the L. Richardson Hospital after 22 years of service.

Ms. Matthews served as both Vice President of the Ray Warren Homes Resident Council and was a PNR Manager. She was active in the community for many years, especially in assisting the Boys & Girls Club at Ray Warren.

She was an active member of Saint Paul Baptist Church.



*Ms. Matthews*

## GHA Named “Housing Counseling Agency”

Greensboro Housing Authority was named a HUD approved Housing Counseling Agency in July of 2010.

GHA has two Certified Housing Counselors and was approved to offer classes in Pre-purchase and Post-purchase, Fair Housing, Predatory Lending, Homebuyer Education, Mortgage Delinquency and Default Resolution, Financial Management/Budgeting, and Renters Assistance Counseling.

GHA’s Housing Counseling Program is designed to help residents learn about financial management whether they are looking into homeownership or staying as renters. For more information on upcoming classes or joining the Homebuyers Club, please contact Robert Cooper, FSS/Housing Counselor/Youth Services Coordinator, at 303-3002.



## “College Night” Motivating, Educational and Helpful

Nine Public Housing and HCV youth attended the recent “College Night” at the Greensboro Coliseum, moving booth to booth speaking with representatives and admissions officers from colleges and universities located throughout the country.

More than 120 institutions of higher learning participated in the event.

“I thought it was an excellent opportunity for local youth to see a multitude of colleges in one place,” said

Robert Cooper, FSS/Housing Counselor/Youth Services Coordinator.

The College Foundation of NC held a financial aid session for the students, as well.

“College Night was a life-changing experience for youth,” said Operation Smart Choices Coordinator Sabrina Abney. “It was educational, beneficial and motivational. Youth who never thought about going to college are now considering college as an option.”

# Halloween was a Fun Time at Hall Towers

Residents at Hall Towers had a fun time on Halloween this year, dressing up in all sorts of costumes for a party sponsored by the Resident Council.

There was a DJ playing music and a video camera set up to record the whole thing.

“There was fun, food, music, dancing and prizes,” said Anne Stossmeister, Resident Services Counselor.

Saundra Gardner won the costume contest, with Pam Purcell taking second place and Sue Michaels third.

Additional activities at Hall Towers included a trip to the newly opened Tanger Outlet Mall in Mebane, a Health Fair arranged by Piedmont Health Services and Sickel Cell Agency and a Thanksgiving brunch coordinated by the Community Nutrition Site and the Resident Council.



## Residents Have Responsibilities

Residents of public housing have certain responsibilities. To ensure that the housing community in which they reside remains a suitable home for both them and their neighbors, all GHA residents are responsible for:

- Complying with the rules and guidelines that govern their dwelling lease.
- Paying the correct amount of rent on a timely basis each month.
- Providing accurate information to the Housing Authority to determine their eligibility for assistance and consenting to the release of information by a third party to allow for verification.
- Conducting themselves, their guests and visitors in an orderly manner.
- Not engaging in criminal activity in the unit, common area, or off the premises.
- Keeping their unit clean and not littering the grounds or common areas.
- Disposing of garbage and waste in a proper manner.
- Complying with local codes that affect the health or safety of the residence.
- Maintaining their apartment and common areas in the same general physical condition as when they moved in.
- Reporting any defects in building systems, fixtures, appliances, or other parts of the unit, the grounds, or related facilities to the management office or work order phone line.

For more information or to inquire about your lease, please contact your management office or Nancy Johnson, Regional Property Manager, at 336-303-3343.



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Youth Services  
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Ambulance / Rescue / Fire / Police  
911

Crime Stoppers  
373-1000

Police Non-Emergency  
373-2222

The mission of the Greensboro Housing Authority is to provide safe, quality, affordable housing to low-income, elderly, and the disabled in the Greensboro Community; to maintain a safe and secure community environment; and to encourage personal responsibility and upward mobility of residents while maintaining the fiscal integrity of the agency.

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*THE CAST - (Front row left) Niandre' Woods, D'Marko Attaway, Jamie Brooks, Dominick Parker, Tahlík Taylor and Jessica Watson. (Second row left) Gabriel Hairston, Tiesha Allred, Shontia Void and Cameron Attaway. (Third row left) Jasiah Hairston, Niante' Woods, Denzel Florence, Marquesha Whitaker, Jahmere Daniels and Operation Smart Choices Coordinator Sabrina Abney. Cast members Alexia Brooks, T.J. Parker, Isaaah Florence and Marquez Eleazer were not available for the photo.*

## Summer of Secrets

The 20 youth in the "Operation Smart Choices Program" performed their play "Summer of Secrets" recently at City-Arts Studio Theater to rave reviews.

"This play depicts the realism of youth facing pressures to engage in risky behaviors like joining a gang because of being bullied in school, engaging in drug use because everyone else is doing it and date rape," said Operation Smart Choices Coordinator Sabrina Abney. "As rumors of what happened over the summer of 2009 go around in the school, secrets start to be revealed."

By the end of the play, the youth learn that negative consequences come from negative behavior, and secrets that may be a matter of life or death should be told.

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