

# Resident's Digest

Miami-Dade Public Housing Agency

A Newsletter for Public Housing Residents

May, 2011

## Public Housing Executive Director Message



As Executive Director of Miami-Dade Public Housing Agency (MDPHA) since 2009, I have visited our public housing developments and have spoken with residents. I commend you for your dedication to your communities.

MDPHA priorities include better resident services. So we established a Resident Services Unit (RSU) which is responsible for outreach activities within our developments and work with resident councils to coordinate special events.

Linking crucial social services that benefit residents is a priority and your participation is important. We welcome your input in making our communities the best that they can be to live, work, and play. I also urge you to become familiar with the Admission and Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP) which outlines MDPHA's regulations for public housing residents. The ACOP is available at [www.miamidade.gov/housing](http://www.miamidade.gov/housing).

Looking forward to working together .....  
Sincerely,

## Miami-Dade Public Housing Agency Hosts Basketball Camp

Miami-Dade Public Housing Agency held its first "Boozer's Buddies Basketball Camp 2010" for boys and girls, ages 7-17, who resided within the agency's Public Housing program. Over 600 participants benefitted from an intensive week-long day camp experience which provided an opportunity to enhance their basketball skills, develop sportsmanship and learn valuable life lessons in a safe and encouraging environment under the expertise of professional coaches, current and former NBA and college players. MDPHA's "Boozer's Buddies Summer Basketball Camp" was absolutely free for public housing residents.

Throughout the day, campers played together and honed their basketball playing skills with fun drills on the court.



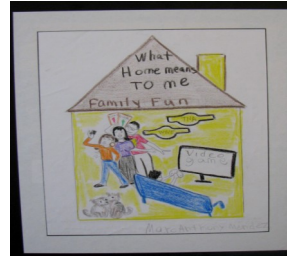
The awards ceremony was filled with trophies, t-shirts, brand new sneakers and free haircuts. There are over 4,500 youth in MDPHA's public housing program, and the 600 youth who participated in the summer basketball camps left with positive, life-changing memories.

**The Agency intends to repeat its summer camp program in the Summer of 2011.**

## Youth Residents: Poster Contest National Finalists

MDPHA congratulates the National Finalists of NAHRO's "What Home Means to Me" Poster Contest: **Dyamond Davis**, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade – Perrine Gardens; **Letysa Mendez**, 6<sup>th</sup> grade - Section 8; **Marc Anthony Mendez**, 5<sup>th</sup> grade – Section 8; **Gary Millings**, 10<sup>th</sup> grade – Perrine Gardens.

**The "What Home Means to Me" 2012 Poster Contest submittal deadline is June 20, 2011. Come see the submittals and vote for your favorite at the Resident Services Unit Quarterly Meeting on June 24, 2011. Visit [www.miamidade.gov/housing](http://www.miamidade.gov/housing) for contest rules.**



## Holiday Toy Drive 2010



The Miami-Dade Public Housing Agency (MDPHA) would like to thank everyone who participated in the Holiday Toy Drive for making the holidays special for so many children in public housing. As a result of the generosity of Cops for Kids, Inc., Maria Campos and the residents of Robert King High, and MDPHA employees, we were able to give toys to approximately 530 children/132 families as well as children in the surrounding neighborhoods. We have an excellent partner in the Miami-Dade Police Department and look forward to

working together in the future. MDPHA met and exceeded the two goals of the toy drive: assist families during the holidays and create positive engagement between children and police officers. We could not have done it without your help. Thank you again for creating so many smiles during the holiday season.

## Resident Services Unit

The Resident Services Unit is working on the Crime Reduction Initiative which is an innovative approach to crime reduction and community empowerment involving a coordinated effort by local law enforcement, social service providers and the Miami-Dade Public Housing Agency. The goal of the initiative is to reduce crime at MDPHA properties and provide long-term solutions to strengthen positive relationships between residents, management, police, and the community.

In May 2011, the Citizens Crime Watch of Miami-Dade County, along with the Resident Services Unit and various Police Departments will be visiting public housing sites in an effort to encourage residents' participation in establishing crime prevention groups. Residents will learn crime prevention techniques and establish a working relationship with various police departments. For more information please visit [www.citizenscrimewatch.com](http://www.citizenscrimewatch.com)

## Hope VI Update

Miami-Dade County, through its Public Housing Agency, is currently developing Phase II of the HOPE VI Revitalization Plan under a Master Development Agreement (MDA) executed December 31, 2009 with McCormack Baron Salazar Inc. and Reliance Housing Foundation as co-developer. Phase II consists of 354 rental units, of which 177 are public housing units, 107 tax credit units and 70 market rate units. Former Scott/Carver residents in good standing, who were displaced due to the HOPE VI initiative, will have first right of refusal to lease the new 177 public housing units.

Former Scott-Carver residents and other community stakeholders have been involved in all aspects of the HOPE VI revitalization initiative. In Phase II, Scott/Carver residents participated from the initial design charrettes, and continue to be involved in the

Steering Committee, and various sub-committees which address various aspects of the overall project. Information has also been shared with the residents by mail, and in Monthly Community Meetings, where residents are strongly encouraged to stay involved with HOPE VI activities and participate in case management services, to address any issues which may affect their return to the revitalized community.

Residents are also encouraged to contact the MDPHA Community and Supportive Services (CSS) staff with any questions or concerns at either the Merline Matthews Community Center, 5200 NW 22 Avenue, or by phone for an appointment at 305-633-2093. Residents can also communicate via e-mail at [HOPE6CSS@miamidade.gov](mailto:HOPE6CSS@miamidade.gov)

County services are integral in the lives of so many in our community. Not a day goes by that all of us don't benefit in some way from the many the things the County does...when we turn on our faucet, there's water. When we're driving on our roadways, we rely on signs and signals to keep traffic moving safely. When we put our trash at the curb, it's gone when we get home. And for those who are less fortunate in our community, County services mean even more. From transportation for people with disabilities to meals for the elderly, the services received from Miami-Dade County are essential. Like most things in life, we tend to take this for granted. Learn more about how the County is serving our community every day, and take the time to tell others. <http://www.miamidade.gov/wearemiamidade/>

## RESOURCE CORNER:

Are you a MDPHA Resident?

Do you need a job? Would you like to be contacted for employment opportunities?

If you answered yes to the questions above, then MDPHA's Resident Services Unit (RSU) can refer you to the resources you need for employment. Visit your Site Manager's Office to fill out the Section 3 RSU Intake Form today.

**Family Self Sufficiency Program**

**786-469-4141**

**Consumer Services Department**

**305-375-3677**

**HOPE VI CSS Office**

**786-469-4121**

**Crime Reduction Hotline**

**305-638-6308**

**Florida Public Service Commission**

**1-800-342-3552**

**Resident Services Unit**

**786-469-4107**

**South Florida Workforce**

**305-594-7615**