

BOOKS AND BLANKETS CAMPAIGN SUCCESSFUL



MHA Resident Advisory encourages the importance of reading. Left to right: Patsy Griggs and Latoya Gordon

The Meridian Housing Authority joined forces with the Rotary Club of East Mississippi, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Imagination Library and the United Way to provide books and blankets for deserving families residing throughout MHA's nine affordable housing communities.

Each year the MHA staff is committed to spreading holiday cheer to its residents. The 2014 holiday committee for the "Books and Blankets" initiative was instrumental in collecting more than 200 books and 180 blankets for second and third grade students residing throughout various MHA neighborhoods. The committee adopted the book campaign to assist and ensure that 3rd grade students meet the requirements of the Literacy-Based Promotion Act of 2013. MHA would like to remind parents that all 3d grade students will take a test in



Pictured are members of the Rotary Club of East MS, and MHA Staff



Alpha Kappa Alpha present books to MHA. Left to right: Erica Turner (AKA), Angela Turner (AKA), Keondria Knox, (Chair) Ron Turner Sr. (Director) and Elinore Hersey (AKA)

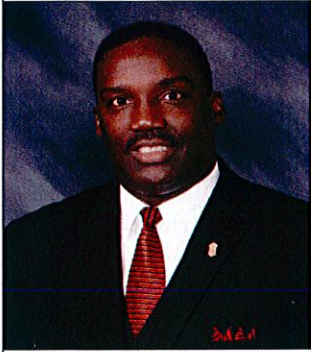
grade students will take a test in

April 2015 to determine whether the child will be promoted to the 4th grade. If the child is reading below grade level, the child will be retained in the 3rd grade. It is vitally important to read to your child each night.

We would like to thank the Resident Advisory Board for assisting in identifying needy families during this campaign. Special thanks to the 2014 Christmas Committee for doing an outstanding job with this year's charity event. The committee included: Keondria Knox, Kajsa Cole, Linda Peevyhouse, Elaine Maurissey, Kimmea Spears, Shelia Austin, Octavia White and Rillinda Windham. More information regarding this special initiative can be found by visiting our website at www.meridianhousing.net

"Committed

Executive Director's Message



Ronald J. Turner, Sr.

Approximately two years ago, the Meridian Housing Authority's new motto, "Committed to Excellence" was embraced by the MHA Board of Commissioners and staff at the agency.

During MHA's January 2014, quarterly mass meeting, over sixty-five employees were commended on their continued efforts to achieve the objectives of our motto.

As we embark upon the new year, our staff remains equally committed to performing all responsibilities with the highest degree of professionalism in order to provide quality service to our residents. We are committed to providing adequate, safe and clean facilities for all families participating in our affordable housing programs.

Revitalization efforts remain a top priority as MHA and its planning partners finalize the Queen City Apartments 9% Low Income Housing tax credit allocation project. Expectations of securing the necessary funding to reinvigorate the George Reese Court housing community remain high on the agenda. HUD awarded MHA with over \$1 million dollars in replacement housing factor funding which resulted in the construction of ten (10) new transitional houses for the agency's Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program.

We are looking forward with eager anticipation to forging new community partnerships which will ensure that MHA will remain "Committed to Excellence" in all of its future endeavors.

Have a prosperous and productive New Year.

Ronald J. Turner, Sr., PHM
Executive Director



MHA SUCCESS STORIES



Latoya Seals

Meridian Housing Authority offers a variety of programs to improve the quality of life for our residents. One of several programs offered at MHA is

the Family Self Sufficiency program. The Family Self Sufficiency program is a voluntary work-based program. The program is designed to promote education, job training, and ongoing support to aid each family in making positive changes in their lives. We would like to congratulate LaToya Seals for completing the Housing Choice Voucher Family Self Sufficiency Program. Ms. Seals received her Master's degree in Elementary Education on December 13, 2014 from the University of West Alabama.

Quardarius L. J. Dubose, resident of Magnolia



Quardarius DuBose

Courts, was awarded the 2010 MHA Endowment Trust Scholarship. Quardarius is the son of Amanda

Dubose. Quardarius received his Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry from Mississippi State University in May 2014.

For information regarding MHA's Family Self Sufficiency programs contact Sheila Austin at (601) 693-2800 ext. 228 or Elaine Mauriscey at (601) 693-2800 ext. 230.

MHA IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Maintenance Department 601 483-3328; Social Services 601 693-2800; Frank Berry Courts 601 482-1880; Eastern Gardens 601 482-3312; Mountain View Village 601 481-3424; Western Gardens 601 483-8612; Oakland Heights 601 481-3421; Highway Village, 8th & 9th Ave. 483-1816; George Reese Courts/Magnolia Courts 601 693-4586; Mount Barton/Sowashee Courts 601 483-0202; Carousel Place 601 482-0085; J.T. Davis 601 482-0077; MHA Police Liaison Cell (601)527-0407; Meridian Police Dispatch 601-601-484-6845



to Excellence"

New Internet Program



MHA residents are encouraged to take advantage of a new internet program being offered to individuals who meet the necessary

requirements. KHAN is a non-profit educational organization created in 2006 to provide a world-class education for anyone, anywhere. This program is currently being provided by Comcast at a rate of \$9.95 per month.

The requirements are:

- * Applicants must reside in a Comcast service area.
- * Applicants must have at least one or more children who participate in the free or reduced lunch program.
- * Applicants must not have subscribed to Comcast internet service within the last 90 days.
- * Applicants can not owe an outstanding balance with Comcast that is less than one year old. Any balances or accounts greater than a year old will be placed into the forbearance system.

For more information, contact MHA Community and Support Services at 601 693-2800. In order to subscribe to this program, please call 1-855-846-8376 and get started today.



Resident Advisory Board President's Message

I bring you greetings from the Resident Advisory Board. The New Year has arrived. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude and highest respect to our community partners who assisted in making the holiday season a joyous time for everyone. During the past year, MHA staff and residents united to work hard in fulfilling the agency goals. Looking ahead in 2015, we should see that there are both opportunities and challenges but we will move forward with confidence and courage. Finally, I ask that you stay informed by reading our "HOME LIFE" newsletters, attending your monthly resident meetings and participating in programs when they are offered through MHA to assist in becoming self-sufficient. Become an active member of your resident association.

Have a Happy New Year!!!

Brenda Griffin, Resident Advisory Board President



Brenda Griffin

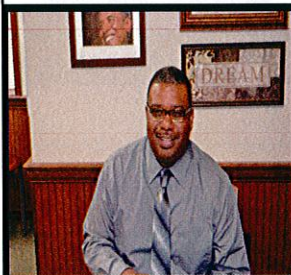
Message from the Asset Manager

In the coming months MHA properties will be undergoing Real Estate Assessment Center inspections. Therefore, the Housing Operations Department is requesting all residents report all maintenance deficiencies to your property manager immediately or the maintenance department at 601-483-3328.

Some of these items include but are not limited to: inoperable smoke detectors, any inoperable stove burners, inoperable range hoods, damaged toilet seats, cracked or missing outlet covers, inoperable GFCI, etc. These proactive measures will yield a positive inspection. Western Gardens' playgrounds will be temporarily closed due to health and safety concerns effective immediately. Sorry for any inconvenience. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact your property manager.

Lastly, may this year bring you joy and peace beyond measure, and as you embark upon new levels of acquisition, grab hold to a faith and courage that keeps pressing you forward.

Respectfully Submitted,
Housing Operations Department



Trevellé McGlothlin





Please visit the new MHA website: www.meridianhousing.net

**Meridian Housing Authority
Board of Commissioners**

Wilbert Jones Chairman
Donnie Smith Vice Chairman
Jeanelle Kidd Commissioner
Kathy Price Commissioner
Rob Arline Commissioner

Mail To:

January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



RESIDENT MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

1/08 Oakland Heights @ 10:00 a.m. Community Center
1/09 Western Garden @ 3:30 Community Center
1/12 Sowashee Court @ 3:30 Community Center
1/13 George Reese Courts @ 3:30 p.m. Community Center
1/14 Magnolia Courts @ 3:30 p.m. Community Center
1/15 Eastern Garden @ 3:30 Community Center
1/22 Mt. View Village @ 3:30 Community Center
1/26 Highway Village @ 2:00 Community Center

The MHA Home Life Newsletter For Residents

The MHA Home Life Newsletter For Residents is published monthly by the Resident Community & Supportive Services Department. We welcome submissions and we reserve the right to edit all materials used. Materials may be submitted to:

Meridian Housing Authority
Resident Services Department, Attn. Newsletter
2305 D. Street, Meridian, MS 39301

OR

E-mail to: saustin@meridianhousing.net
emaaurissey@meridianhousing.net