

COMMUNITY TIMES

Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara

Tools for School Success!

The Housing Authority and 2nd Story Associates held its 3rd Annual Tools for School event in August, handing out over 300 backpacks to children living in Public Housing and to families participating in the Family Self Sufficiency program. Besides lots of smiling faces, several local community agencies were present to provide information about their programs for families and children and Housing Authority staff volunteered their time to make sure the event was a success. Even the mayor of Santa Barbara, Helene Schneider, came to show her support and get in on the fun!



Water is life - help us save it!

We're in a historic drought; four years of the worst drought in California's history. NOW is the time to keep saving water, even as we move into fall and winter. Although we might be facing a strong El Nino, there are no guarantees that the state's drought will end this winter. The Housing Authority has been saving water in every way we can, including:

- turning off all fountains
- replacing toilets with low-flow models
- using drought-resistant plants when possible
- embracing gold as the new green!

How are you helping to save water? Check out the chart to the right for some great ideas or visit the City of Santa Barbara's website at www.santabarbara.gov.

	<p>1 Drinking water Cool it! Keep a jug of water in the fridge rather than waiting for the water to cool from the tap on a hot day.</p>		<p>2 Thawing frozen foods Thaw frozen foods in the fridge or microwave rather than placing them under running water.</p>
	<p>3 Washing vegetables Save water by washing vegetables and rinsing dishes in a plugged sink or basin - not under a running tap.</p>		<p>4 Cooking vegetables Microwave, steam or use a pressure cooker to cook your veggies. This helps keep the flavour & uses less water than boiling them.</p>
	<p>5 Washing Wait for a full load of washing before reaching for the detergent. Every load less saves 17 buckets of water!</p>		<p>6 Bathroom Put a plug in it! The sink that is. Use a plug rather than running water to rinse your razor.</p>
	<p>7 Shorter showers Take shorter showers. Every minute less in the shower saves one bucket of water.</p>		<p>8 Install a water saving showerhead Consider installing a AAA rated water saving showerhead and save on water and energy costs.</p>
	<p>9 Half flush toilet Use the half flush and save up to four buckets of water per day.</p>		<p>10 Repair leaking toilets Check for leaks in your toilet by adding food dye to the cistern. If colour appears in the bowl within half an hour it's time for some DIY or call a qualified plumber.</p>

RESIDENT COUNCIL

The Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara's Resident Council members are people just like you who live in our community. The Councils' purpose is to provide input on needed services for residents on an ongoing basis. Meetings are open to the public, every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 3pm. Call Resident Services at 805-897-1044

RESUME DEVELOPMENT

Do you need help with résumé writing and job searching? A well written resume or cover letter is an important factor to finding that new job. New Beginnings Counseling Center, in collaboration with the Housing Authority is here to help! To set up an appointment for a one-on-one consultation, contact Magdalena Rodriguez @ 897-1028.

FINANCIAL LITERACY

Learn how to make your money grow! The Financial Literacy Workshops will provide you with the information and tools you need to be a master of your finances. The workshops are provided by the Housing Authority and Transition House. Childcare & light refreshments provided! Space is limited - RSVP to Magdalena Rodriguez @ 897-1028.

WHO TO CONTACT

For residents of the Housing Authority, maintenance questions/issues: 897-1060 (during office hours); for after hours EMERGENCIES ONLY 897-1060 and follow prompts

For rent/income change questions: please contact your case manager; if you are unsure who that is, call the front desk at 965-1071

For general information/questions about the Housing Authority; visit our website at www.hacsb.org

Director of Housing Programs:
Veronica Loza, 897-1032 or vloza@hacsb.org

Programs for HACSB Teens!

- **Teen Night** - Imagine a group of active teens playing flag football at La Mesa Park on a warm September evening. As you might expect, you'd hear a lot of joking around and good natured teasing. You'd see HACSB interns coaching younger teens on strategic plays. And you might see older teens giving HACSB staff their first lesson in how to properly throw a football. On another evening, you might find those same teens engaged in a discussion about drug and alcohol abuse with youth leaders from the Community Action Commission. If you come around in December, you might find those teens heading over to Unity Shoppe for an evening of community service.

This is Teen Night, a Resident Services program for teens living in HACSB housing. Teen Night meets the first three Wednesdays of the month from 6:00-8:00 PM at the Family Opportunity Center. Teen Night serves an average of 20 teens weekly, with an emphasis on empowerment, healthy life choices, goal setting, life skills training, and academic success. Utilizing monthly themes, we cover issues such as drugs, alcohol and gang activity, relationships and sexual health, financial literacy, college readiness, and career exploration. We also share dinner, lively conversation, and lots of fun.

- **Choices** - Choices is a program for 13-17 year old girls. Choices meets weekly from 6:00-7:30 PM on Tuesdays at the Family Opportunity Center. Like Teen Night, we use monthly themes to explore issues relevant to adolescent girls' lives. Themes include: friendships and relationships, healthy bodies and body image, creativity, girl power, sexuality and sexual health, and diversity. We incorporate art, journal writing, poetry, and group process work to enable girls to explore their values, emotions, relationships and life goals. We begin each meeting with dinner -- table cloths, candles and all. Our goal is to provide girls with a safe, welcoming environment to delve deep into issues that impact their daily lives.

For more information about these and other youth programs the Housing Authority has to offer, please contact Charla Bregante, Resident Programs Coordinator at (805) 897-1045 cbregante@hacsb.org or Katie Howell, Resident Programs Coordinator at (805) 897-1056 khowell@hacsb.org.

Little Outdoor Libraries



In order to promote reading amongst all ages, the Housing Authority partnered with 2nd Story Associates, to place "Little Outdoor Libraries" at several of our Public Housing sites. The libraries are filled with books for readers of all ages and are accessible to everyone. It is designed for residents to take a book to enjoy, leave a book for someone else to enjoy, and hopefully, encourage the love of reading for all! ENJOY!