

NHF Scholarship Awards Ceremony Highlights



This year, the NHF is proud to announce we will give out \$229,000 to 55 remarkable scholarship students including 3 students who will be attending graduate school. The 2015 NHF Scholarship Recipients attend a number of colleges including American University, Fairfield University, Fordham University, Norwalk Community College and University of Connecticut. Scholarship recipients, family members and distinguished guests gathered for the NHF College Scholarship Awards Ceremony on July 8th at Stepping Stones Museum to honor the 2015 NHF Scholarship Recipients. Commissioner Evonne Klein from the CT Department of Housing served as the Keynote Speaker and delivered a poignant speech to all guests in attendance. Other dignitaries who participated in the event were Mayor Harry Rilling, State Sen. Bob Duff and State Rep. Bruce Morris. Two NHF Scholarship graduates also gave touching speeches at the event: Javier Ceja (who graduated from Pace University in 2010) and Rose Pierre (who graduated from Andrews University in 2015 and plans to attend graduate school at New York University in the fall). Rose ended her speech with wise words to the recipients: “Take each and every opportunity that comes your way and make something great out of it. See each obstacle as an opportunity of growth. Don’t be afraid to explore all of your passions. In addition, do not compare yourself with others. Just have faith in the skills and talents you’ve been blessed with.” The NHF College Scholarship Program began in 1998 with two scholarships. Since our inception, we have awarded over \$1 million to 189 scholarship recipients. The NHF provides the largest public housing authority college scholarship program in New England. *A list of recipients can be found on page 4.*



Commissioner Evonne Klein



Teen Iron Chefs Briana Green and Sanaiah Dickson prepared strawberry shortcake for the guests.



Rose Pierre offers word of encouragement to NHF recipients.



Financial Management Tip of the Month: FREE online resource:

Do you want to learn computer skills? Need to strengthen your math or English skills? Need help with your job search? Cooking, nutrition, or health? Goodwill Community Foundation's online free learning website, www.gcflearnfree.org is an excellent resource for essential skills on a multitude of subjects. It's truly **FREE**, and you can learn at your own pace. With over 125 online classes to choose from, www.gcflearnfree.org has something to offer for everyone. Check it out!

UCONN School of Business FREE \$2,846 IT Training Opportunity

Find out if you qualify! The Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board is accepting applications for IT scholarships. To learn more, you're invited to attend an information session at the UCONN Stamford Campus. Choose from two dates:

WHEN: August 6th or September 3rd

ELIGIBILITY: 18 years or older, currently unemployed and/or underemployed (part-time), contract workers, some college credits: **CONNECTICUT RESIDENTS ONLY!**

CONTACT: To reserve a seat, contact CITI at 203-251-9516, or go to www.citi.uconn.edu

UCONN
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Lots of Fun Activity At the Irving Freese Complex

Come enjoy a delightful summer dinner at 5:00pm in the Freese Community Center, Monday thru Friday. A \$2 donation is requested. Menu details at www.norwalkha.org.



Every Thursday after dinner at 5:30pm the ice cream truck comes by for an after dinner treat. 25¢ discount coupons available to residents who have dinner.

Then, evening rides are available to Calf Pasture Beach on Fridays (weather permitting) departing at 5:30pm and returning at 7:00pm! You must call Anabell (2) two days in advance for dinner or register with Monica at Freese Community Center. For ride reservations call Anabell at 203-838-8471 ext. 140.



Employment Tip of the Month: Check out Con- necticut's Employment Websites

Employment
Search
Tip Sheet

Looking for employment? Check out Connecticut's Department of Labor Employment exchange, www.ct.jobs. You can create your own account, search for jobs manually, or set up employment search criteria that will email you about opportunities that match. Another helpful website to add to your "Favorites" link is <http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/gendocs/JobSeekers.html>. This web page contains a link to [ct.jobs](http://www.ct.jobs), and it also includes career assessment tools and skills required for a multitude of occupations.

Choice Neighborhoods



The Washington Village/ South Norwalk redevelopment process continues to progress despite some temporary permitting delays. Within the next few weeks a satellite office space will be established to support program staff. The office will be located on the second floor at 149 Water Street at the corner of Concord Street. The space will include offices for the Housing Opportunities Unlimited staff as well as the key Housing Authority personnel. The conference room will be used for training opportunities hosted by Career Resources and The Work Place as well as a new Capacity Building Program for construction related job certifications. The space will also have computer terminals available to Washington Village residents for seeking employment opportunities, researching training programs and updating resumes. There will also be room for larger gatherings such as informational and planning meetings. To provide written notices and updates to the Washington Village community an outdoor bulletin board has been installed at the walkway entrance on Day Street. Look here for postings on upcoming events, special meetings, training opportunities and other community news.

The Choice Neighborhood Initiative (CNI) will also be unveiling a new website to provide information on the planned activities, construction scheduling updates, program services and special events.

Where I'm from, beauty is not that important. We place a higher value on other things, like education. We focus more on that and moral values... and that's it. It's more important to be intelligent and educated.- Amilna Esteveao

20 West Students Cover NHA Events with Videography and Photography



The Video and Photography students had the pleasure to cover the Norwalk Housing Foundation College Scholarship Program 17th Annual Awards Ceremony on July 8th at Stepping Stones Museum. Students Fe-

djanaika Estime, Kimberly Castillo, and Penda M'Bengue put their skills to use as they captured the event with great professionalism. The Art team is hoping to cover additional events as the summer progresses to provide great pictures and awesome videos for Norwalk Housing Authority.

Ashanti Thorne Visits And Tells Her Story!

Former Meadow Garden's resident Ashanti Thorne came back to visit NHA with exciting news. Ashanti was one of the first students to participate in the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program and she was assigned to the main office of NHA. As an intern, she worked so well with NHA staff, Mr. Law permitted her to stay on and continue working throughout the school year. She stayed with NHA for 3 years. In 2006, Ashanti's family moved out of Meadow Gardens to a home in Knightsdale North Carolina with the assistance of the Family Self Sufficiency Program.

While in North Carolina, Ashanti graduated high school and attended Wake Technical Community College and graduated in 2011 with an Associate's degree in Art. In 2012, Ashanti enrolled at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill in order to study at Kanda University of International Languages in Japan that summer. After she returned from Japan, she went on to pursue her degree in International Studies with a concentration in East and Southeast Asia from North Carolina State University and graduated in 2014. Ashanti will be jetting off to Japan on August 1st to teach English to Japanese students through the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program. Ashanti's belief is that if it weren't for her experience and support she received from NHA, she would not have made it this far. She also took the time out of her busy schedule to speak with



20 West students are eager to ask Ashanti questions about her impending stay in Japan.

Summer Literacy Program

This summer 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders are attending the Summer Success Reading Program at Washington Village, Colonial Village, and Roodner Court. The program provides instruction in reading skills and strategies to help better prepare students for their next grade level. Summer Success reading features different type of reading (fiction, nonfiction, poetry) and topics. Some strategies will explore include making predictions, making connections, questioning, retelling and summarizing. The program also provides instruction in word building skills, which will help develop a better reader and writer of words and phrases.



The Summer Success Program is in full swing and students (from left to right) Isabella Soto, Sahtrice Salters, Francisco Segura, Karizma Reyes, and Maykayla Williams are working diligently on their summer reading assignments.

STEM Program Partners With Celebrate Urban Birds!

Founded in 2007, Celebrate Urban Birds is a year-round project developed and launched by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Its primary purpose is to reach diverse urban audiences who do not already participate in science or scientific investigation.

NHA students had the opportunity to help the Cornell scientists better understand the value of urban



Lewis Gabriel is on the look out for birds.

green areas for birds. The students gathered data on 16 local species of birds, recorded observations, and sent the data to the scientists. This is just one of many STEM focused initiatives at NHA Learning Centers; up next is NBA Math Hoops!

NHA's Irvin Clemons Went Above & Beyond!

On July 16, 2015, Irvin was a passenger on a MetroNorth train headed to New York when a young woman fainted, but was revived. At this point, another passenger and her friend were trying to aid the young woman, but she fainted again and was falling between the train and the platform. Then, Irvin took charge of the situation and lifted the young woman which prevented her from falling into the gap. He directed other passengers to call an ambulance and to call her mother. He then carried the young woman to safety and continued on to work. This story was reported to NHA via email from one of the people who witnessed Irvin's act of heroism. Norwalk Housing Authority would like to express how proud we are of Irvin's selfless act.

2015 NHF Undergraduate Scholarship Recipients

Marcus Adgeron, Gateway Community College
 Melanie Armatis, University of Connecticut
 Rosalie Armatis, University of Connecticut - Stamford
 Sandy Armatis, Bridgeport Hospital School of Nursing
 Seckret Banks, Norwalk Community College
 Fernande Bien-Aime, Norwalk Community College
 Kenley Bien-Aime, Norwalk Community College
 Melissa Bolivar, Sacred Heart University
 Aniya Brown, Coppin State University
 Tiasia Brown, Norwalk Community College
 Marx Cadet, Post University
 Kevin Cardona, Fairfield University
 Kimberly Carvajal, Western Connecticut State University
 Valeria Carvajal, St. John's University
 Jonathan Ceja, University of Hartford
 Gary Cheatam, Gateway Community College
 Anchise Cherival, Norwalk Community College
 Lovely Cherival, Norwalk Community College
 Luz Cruz, Stony Brook University
 Franceska Dervil, Southern Connecticut State University
 Esther Elizer, La Sierra University
 Kevin Garcia, Southern Connecticut State University
 Chanel Grant, University of Connecticut - Stamford
 Brian Hernandez, Southern Connecticut State University
 Genesis Hernandez, Western Connecticut State University
 Edna Hilaire, Sacred Heart University
 Mejelly Jean Baptiste, Norwalk Community College
 Sharina Jimenez, University of Connecticut - Stamford
 Elizabeth Johnson, Norwalk Community College
 Billy Joseph, Southern New Hampshire University
 James Joseph, Andrews University
 Pauldine Joseph, Southern Connecticut State University
 Clara Labaze, University of Connecticut - Stamford
 Wilson Lauture, Pace University
 Sehvrine Lezeau, American University
 Steven Lopez, Norwalk Community College

Mireiya Mayorga, University of Bridgeport
 Jackslyne Myrtil, Sacred Heart University
 Annie Paul, Southern Connecticut State University
 Jean Paul, American International College
 Monique Paulk, Norwalk Community College
 Guimps Pierre, Anderson University
 Erick Rivera, Southern Connecticut State University
 D'Jammy Rodney, Norwalk Community College
 Christian Romero, Ohio Technical College
 Ezequiel Romero, Husson University
 Jonathan Sanchez, Norwich University
 Mariah Smalls, University of Connecticut
 Timeeshah Thomas, Southern Connecticut State University
 Charles Tinnen, Western Connecticut State University
 Ashley Walker, University of Connecticut - Stamford
 Javed Wright, Sacred Heart University

2015 NHF Graduate Scholarship Recipients

Rose Pierre, New York University
 Jasmine Prezzie, Fordham University
 Tiahna Spencer, University of Connecticut



Senator Bob Duff



Jerome Goosman plays an interlude for the ceremony.



Senator Bob Duff, Harry Carey, NHF Chairman, Commissioner Evonne Klein and Mayor Harry Rilling hold a check for \$10,000 for NHF Scholarship Fund.

Computers Available!



InterConnection, a nonprofit, offers high quality laptops and desktop computers at affordable prices to qualified individuals and families nationwide. InterConnection's computers ship for free, include Windows 7 and pre-installed Microsoft Office 2010 which includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint and more. All computers are covered by a 12 month warranty. How Do I Qualify? If you are part of or receive any of the following: free or reduced school meals, SNAP/EBT card, WIC voucher, MediCaid, SSDI, SSI, Section 8 housing, TANF, or LIHEAP. Go to www.interconnection.org/lowincome to register. **Questions?** Email computers@interconnection.org

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Children's School Summer Camp

Entering Kindergarteners Delani Johnson and Jessica Barrett had an amazing opportunity to participate in the Children's School Summer Camp in Stamford for two weeks this past June. They had a fantastic experience! Both Delani and Jessica enjoyed loving and thoughtful teachers and built special friendships with other children. Parents Elizabeth Johnson and Jessica Barrett are incredibly grateful that their children were able to enjoy this special program. Elizabeth Johnson, Delani's mom said, "My son is still waking up in the morning asking if he can continue going to the camp everyday. He enjoyed it so very much!"

Senior's Stay Cool

When the temperature is racing **HOT** and you need to **COOL** down; the community room/center is **OPEN** and **COOL**. So sit and rest yourself from the heat and enjoy the atmosphere.