HELPING TO PROVIDE AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Summer Schedule & Internships
Focus on YMCA
Employees Recognized for Service
Building Projects Funded

Housing Authority of the City of Erie
SPRING 2019
The people and families served by the Housing Authority of the City of Erie are like the majority of Housing Authority’s across the country, a collage of the quilt called America. We are the housing of choice for seniors wanting to live their golden years in safe, quality, affordable housing that in many cases offers support services allowing them to live independently for longer. Twenty-five percent (25%) of HACE head of households are seniors many living on their own and utilizing services including medication monitoring, on-site caseworkers, Meals on Wheels and bingo and movies with Cherie, John and the Quebec officers.

HACE is home to one thousand, four hundred and ninety-seven (1,497) legal immigrants and refugees making up twenty-three percent (23%) of the households we serve. They come from over twelve countries, many speaking multiple languages. They are here for the “American Dream” that we all seek. They are thrilled with the homes they are provided with. Their children participate in our recreation programs, are part of our summer internship program, earn Tullio Scholarships and in ever-increasing numbers, these families move and purchase their first home. In other words, they participate in the “American Dream.”

Our housing is increasingly becoming the permanent home for adults and children with disabilities. Eight hundred and seventy-two (872) individuals who identify as disabled currently reside in HACE homes, making up seventeen percent (17%) of our total resident population and forty-one percent (41%) of our households. HACE has 108 fully handicap-accessible units. Lastly, our housing like it has been since 1938, provides safe, quality and affordable housing to parents and their children. Forty-two percent (42%) of our residents are children under the age of 18, comprising forty-seven percent (47%) of HACE households.

News articles from all areas of the country talk about the low-income housing crisis and the ever-shrinking number of affordable housing units as the number of individual and families needing safe, quality and affordable housing increases. The Erie community is blessed with several agencies, including HACE, who take seriously their mission to serve those in need and address this most important need of housing. Our city is a better community when every neighborhood is a place people, especially those in need, have somewhere they can call home.

Those wishing to apply for housing can do so by calling 452-4221, coming to our application office at 606 Holland Street or by visiting our website at hace.org.

“The Erie community is blessed with several agencies, including HACE, who take seriously their mission to serve those in need and address this most important need of housing.”
The Housing Authority of the City of Erie (HACE) held its spring employee meeting on April 4th at the Bayfront Convention Center. The highlights of the event were Housing Authority staff receiving HACE Pins for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years of service while new employees were recognized and given HACE pins. HACE Maintenance Superintendent Vince Palermo was recognized for 37 years of service to HACE. In addition, United Way CEO Bill Jackson recognized HACE staff for 24 years of campaign growth.

5 YEARS
Viktor Karnaukh
Petr Kolesnichenko
Sergey Popikov

10 YEARS
Elizabeth Twohig
Lisa Kasbee

15 YEARS
Roxane Stovall

20 YEARS
Michael Fraley
Stacie Sullivan
Nikolay Bovkun
Yaroslav Bugera

25 YEARS
Ioan Rad

30 YEARS
Kristen Ropelewski
Joseph Lassman
Christina Doupe

The Housing Authority of the City of Erie (HACE) recently awarded over two and one-half million dollars worth of capital building projects that will benefit HACE residents. Projects include replacement of windows and security screens at Bird Drive and Pineview. Also, new playground installations at Bird Drive and Eastbrook.

Additional work at multiple sites will include replacement of electrical panel boxes, repointing of chimneys and façade work. HACE will also contract out small and medium projects throughout 2019, bringing the total amount of construction work to over three million dollars.

The majority of the work is awarded to local contractors, a benefit to the economic vitality of the Erie community.

2.5 Million Awarded
Building Projects Funded

Gannon Students
Host Health Fair

Junior and senior nursing students from Gannon University held a Health Fair at the John E. Horan Garden Apartments on Thursday, April 12. The annual event was, as usual, a big success!
Summer Schedule

The Housing Authority of the City of Erie has developed a comprehensive Youth Development Program for the summer of 2019. It includes weekly sports and educational mini-camps including biddy basketball, mentor/youth golf, reading, art, photography, and Learn to Fish. The summer program will be offered June 10 to August 16 unless otherwise specified. For more information contact Cherie Kinem at 452-2425.

**YMCA Kids Clubs**

**John E. Horan Garden Apartments – 730 Tacoma Road**
Phone: 456-6558
Erie Heights/Pineview – 4020 Garden Ave.
Phone: 860-8499 | Begins June 10

Monday – Friday 1:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**John F. Kennedy Center Summer Recreation Program**

2021 East 20th St. Phone: 898-0400 Begins June 17
Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Registration required

**Rodger Young Pool**

Buffalo Road and Downing Avenue
June 12 – August 16
Monday – Saturday Noon - 5:00 p.m.

**Porta-Pools**

Monday – Friday 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. (Weather permitting)

John E. Horan Garden Apartments – 730 Tacoma Road
Erie Heights/Pineview – 4020 Garden Ave.
Agnes R. Priscaro Apartments – 1400 West 24th

**Summer Lunch Program**

Monday – Friday 11:30 am to 12:30 pm

John F. Kennedy Center, YMCA Kids Clubs, Bird Drive & Agnes Priscaro Apartments.

**Libraries and Art Clubs**

Monday – Friday 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

John E. Horan Garden Apartments – 2110C East 10th St.
Erie Heights/Pineview – 4026 Garden Ave.

**Meet Your Neighbor Day**

John Horan Garden Apartments June 14
Lake City Dwellings/Better Housing June 20

**National Night Out**

August 6 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Erie Heights and the John F. Kennedy Center

**Spoon’s Basketball League**

(ages 9-16 years-old)
Sign up at YMCA Kids Club and John F. Kennedy Center.

**Playground Programs**

June 10– August 16

**Mentor/Youth Junior Golf Clinic**

(Public Housing Residents Only)
Learn the basics of golf!
Open to youth 9 to 16 years old.
Lessons July 8 to July 12.
Mentor/Youth Golf Tournament July 13.
Clubs provided! Contact the YMCA Kids Clubs or JFK to sign up.

**22nd Annual Family Picnic**

Friday, July 19th
(Public Housing Residents Only)
Cost: $7.00 | Sign up at your management office by July 18.

**Mentor/Youth Learn to Fish Clinic**

July 23 through July 25
Youth ages 8 to 14. Learn hands on fishing skills from adult mentors! Sign up at the YMCA Kids Club and JFK Center. Participants receive free fishing gear!

**Summer Clinics**

The Housing Authority is partnering with the YMCA, the John F. Kennedy Center and the Erie County Library to offer residents ages 7 to 14 the opportunity to participate in several week-long mini-camps during the summer.

For more information or to sign up call the YMCA at 456-6558.

**Photography**

June 10 – June 13 JEHGA YMCA Art Club

**Art Lessons**

June 24 – June 27 JEHGA YMCA Art Club

**Biddy Ball**

June 24 – June 28 Rodger Young Park

**Nature Program**

July 15 – July 18 JFK and YMCA

**Bowling**

Aug. 12 – Aug. 16 Brotherhood of St. Joseph
The Ellen Curry Foundation has closed the application process as of Friday, April 26 at 4:30 p.m. Any child who lives in housing owned or subsidized by the Housing Authority, and is scheduled to enter Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, or 3rd grade in September 2019, was mailed an application to apply in March. The scholarship is need based, not to exceed $2,000 per child, at participating schools. The scholarship will be renewed annually through the 8th grade, provided the selected family remains a resident of public housing or Section 8 and the child remains in good standing with the school and follows the program rules.

The Ellen Curry Foundation is accepting scholarship applications for the Louis J. Tullio and John E. Horan scholarships. The Tullio Scholarship is open to any Public Housing or Section 8 resident who is enrolled in a four-year accredited college. Five $1,500 Tullio Scholarships will be awarded. The John E. Horan Scholarship is awarded to a Public Housing resident or Section 8 participant who is pursuing a graduate degree in an accredited college. One $5,000 Horan scholarship will be awarded. Scholarship applications are available online at hace.org, or at any Authority office.

Scholarship applications can be found under “Resources” at hace.org!

Summer Internships Available

The Housing Authority is again offering paid, full-time summer Internships. The internships are open to any enrolled full time college student between the ages of 17 and 24. They must be a resident of public housing or a Section 8 participant and cannot be the head of household. Interns will be assigned to HACE recreation programs, offices and maintenance departments.

For more information contact the Housing Authority at 452-2425 or pick up an application at the Housing Authority administration office located at 606 Holland Street.

Erie Free Taxes Helped Residents

The Housing Authority again partnered with the United Way of Erie and the Multicultural Community Resource Center (MCRC) to provide Erie Free Taxes services in the John E. Horan Garden Apartments. The results were an overwhelming success with 258 families/individuals participating and receiving $683,115 in tax refunds, for an average per family of $2,647.

In many cases, families use their refunds to pay their rent and unexpected bills, generating monies that go directly into the local economy. In 2018, the tenant portion of paid rent to the Housing Authority totaled over $6,500,000.

Celebrating Citizenship

Congratulations to Petro Mashika who celebrated his U.S. citizenship on Friday, May 3. Formerly from Ukraine, Petro works in the maintenance department at the John Horan Garden Apartments. He’s worked for the Housing Authority for eight years and is married with three children ages 9, 5 and 2.
The YMCA

Many kids consider the Y as “their second home.” That’s according to Stephanie Milhisler, program Director of the YMCA. Whether playing group games, enjoying a snack or trying to figure out a math problem, many of the children build a relationship with the staff and other children and sometimes spend an entire evening at the Y exploring, playing and learning.

The Erie YMCA and the Erie Housing Authority’s relationship goes back more than 25 years, impacting the lives of thousands of children through the Y’s Kids Club programs for children and teens ages 6 to 18. These programs aid in giving children new experiences as well as helping them to build social skills, stay active, be creative and learn valuable skills like teamwork and proper study habits.

Children typically arrive at the Y right after school, enjoy an after school snack, receive homework help and can even stay for dinner. Services for the children range from indoor activities like arts and crafts, fitness activities, outdoor recreation like gardening and the annual Kids Club golf outing, summer camps, field trips and the annual Kids Club theatrical production.

Erie YMCA CEO Gerry VanDemerwe has seen the incredible triumphs the children involved with the Kids Club have achieved. “I’ve seen a lot of what these kids can accomplish each year during the annual golf outing. It’s really neat to see the kids enjoy the day with their community leader, but also experience and learn the game of golf and all the values that come with it,” he noted. “The Housing Authority really supports the Erie community and we are happy to have this longstanding relationship with them and be able to spend time with these incredible kids and their families.”
Former HACE Resident Moves On from Kids Club, College, Now to Master’s Degree

Patreece graduated from Slippery Rock in 2012 with her bachelor’s degree in psychology, she had hoped to gain acceptance into a master’s program in a bigger city. When these plans were delayed, she decided she wasn’t going to wait for graduate school to determine her life. After seven years of saving money, she has been able to compile enough funds for her to not be stressed about her finances for the next four to five months while she looks for a job and applies to graduate schools.

“It wasn’t easy, but it was worth it,” notes Johnson. She missed out on friends’ and family weddings and parties, road trips, and other recreational activities all to obtain this goal. “My motto is ‘faith over fear.’ I believed I could do it, and I did.”

Johnson left for Louisville in mid-April and has been “learning the lay of the land” and enjoying the warmer Kentucky weather. Because of the skills she developed while working at the Authority, she’s confident in selling herself as the hard worker she is while searching for a job.

“Don’t look back at the struggles you’ve faced,” said Johnson.

“I’m a firm believer that if you set your mind to a goal and do what you need to do, you’ll come out on top.”

Patreece Johnson leaves behind several HACE Family Self-Sufficiency graduates who have purchased their first house and are in good jobs by teaching them her philosophy on life and success.
Team Housing Authority Helps March of Dimes

As part of its year long efforts, Team Housing Authority raised $10,055.49 for March of Dimes. Activities included candy bar sales, bingo nights, a photograph and jewelry auction, a grilled lunch event, 50-50 raffles and a cake auction. Special congratulations to the children from the YMCA Kids Clubs and the John F. Kennedy Center who raised over $800 to assist children in need. Lastly, special thanks to Team Leader Cherie Kinem and her special group of volunteers too numerous to name who made the 2019 Team Housing Authority Campaign successful.

Michael R. Fraley is pictured with 11-year-old HACE resident Avianna Hatcher who designed the Team Housing Authority T-shirt for the 2019 March of Dimes Campaign. For her design, she received a $25 gift card and $25 in art supplies to allow her to continue her artistic talents. March of Dimes also selected her t-shirt as their best design for 2019, earning her an additional gift card.