



*NHA Board of Commissioner's Cesar Ramirez and Beverly Kreiger accept the 2009 Award of Excellence at the Annual NAHRO Conference in Washington, DC in October.*

### Holiday Reminder



At this very special time of year the Norwalk Housing Authority family pauses to reflect on how we have served you during the past year, and what we can do to make things better for you the resident. As you know our relationship with you, our service to you and your satisfaction with your apartment is very important to us.

In our effort to help you avoid an unpleasant situation, please accept this gentle reminder that your rent payment is due as usual by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month.

As always, the staff of Norwalk Housing Authority wishes you and your entire family a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

### Easy Ways To Improve Your Child's Reading Ability

\*Ask your child to describe events in their lives. Talking about their experiences makes children think about them. Giving detailed descriptions and telling complete stories also helps children learn about how stories are written and what the stories they read mean.

\*Set up a reading area in your home. Keep books that interest your children in places where they can easily reach them.



\*Read and write with your children in their native language. Practicing their first language will actually help your children read and write English.

### Attention Sophomore Students!

#### Outward Bound Scholarship

A unique summer opportunity is available for your son/daughter to apply for a merit-based scholarship to one of Outward Bound's programs, Youth Leadership Corps. The scholarships provide 100% support to attend a 16 day wilderness expedition (June 26, 2010-July 11, 2010) providing intensive leadership skills training for each student. A representative from Outward Bound will be visiting the Norwalk City Hall on Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm in the Community Room to talk about this opportunity. Contact Jessica Fogg at 203-354-1559 with questions.

### U.S. CENSUS JOBS

Now accepting applications for multiple Census Jobs in SW CT!!! Full and Part time jobs pay \$14.25 to \$21.75 per hour. **APPLY AND TAKE THE TEST NOW!**

**WHERE:** Lerooy Downs Apts. Community Room  
26 Monroe St. Norwalk, CT 06854  
**(No Parking Available at this location)**

**WHEN/TIME:** 9:30 am-12:00 on 12/2, 12/12, 12/22  
12/15@ 6:00 pm- 9:00 pm

To reserve a seat call 203-838-8471 ext 135 or 180 or South Westwern CT US Census 203-993-8030.

### Dream Builder!

Congratulations to Raquel James, NHA's Housing Operations Secretary, who made the President's list at Monroe College for the Winter and Spring semesters of 2009! Raquel is a married mother of three pre-teen girls, works full time and is currently working towards a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration.

### N-Zone

N-Zone is a website made to keep the Youth of Norwalk updated on all that is happening in our great city. It's also easy for parents/guardians to navigate. Go to [N-zone.org](http://N-zone.org) for more details.

## Night of Fun and Learning

Join the NHA and Interactive Educational Theatre on December 02, 2009 at 6:00pm in the Leroy Downs Community Room as they present a night of fun and learning for parents and children. A group of actors will set up commonplace scenarios that the audience might encounter, such as bullying or peer pressure, and together they work toward possible solutions. Please contact Barry Dancer @ 203-852-1144 ext. 123 for more information.



Mom: Juanita Davis and children: Nina Green, Brianna Green, Brian Davis, Jr., Joshua Davis browse through books at the Colonial Village Learning Center.

## NORWALK HOUSING FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Norwalk Housing Foundation Scholarship application will be available December 7<sup>th</sup>. Contact Carla Conway NHF Scholarship Coordinator for a copy and further information at 838-8471, ext. 176. Remember: NHF Scholarships are only for public housing residents and their families whose names appear on the lease. **PHADA Scholarship**

The PHADA Scholarship will soon be available for public housing & section 8 residents. Look for flyers we will mail to you.

## NORWALK READS! BOOK DISTRIBUTION BREAKS RECORD!

Colonial Village had a record breaking Norwalk Reads! Book Distribution on Saturday, November 7. 98 people from all over the community came and received four free books. Almost 400 books were given away.

## Holiday Concert for NHA Seniors!



You're invited to West Rocks Middle School for a Senior holiday concert and reception on Tuesday, December 15, 2009 at 9:00am. Please RSVP at 899-2970. If you are in need of a ride, please call Evelyn Soberal at 852-1144 ext. 124.

## Two (2) Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) Homeownership Seminars

- A homeownership seminar will be held at Housing Development Fund at 100 Prospect St., Stamford, CT. Saturday, December 5, 2009 from 9:00am to 5:00pm for Spanish speaking residents.
- A homeownership seminar will be held at Norwalk Housing Authority at 26 Monroe Street, Norwalk CT. Saturday, December 12, 2009 From 9:00am to 5:00pm for English speaking residents.

For reservations and information please call Emily Hartwell 203-838-8471 ext 180 or Guillermo Bendana ext 135.

## Parent Leadership Training

The Parent Leadership Training Institute enables parents to become leading advocates for children. Parents' opinions are often unheard and they lack advocacy skills, but not the motivation and will to change their children's lives. The PLTI teaches parents, who wish to improve the lifelong health, safety and learning of children, how to become practiced change agents for the next generation.

A Parent Leadership Training will be held December 14, 2009 at 6:00pm in the Leroy Downs Community Room, 26 Monroe St., Norwalk, CT. Contact Josephine Fulcher Anderson at 203 216-2063.

## Renters Insurance

Renting an apartment or home is something that most of us do at least once during our lives. It is important that when choosing to reside in a rental unit, you understand the importance of maintaining adequate insurance coverage. Indeed, one of the biggest misconceptions among renters is that they and their belongings are covered by their landlord's insurance policy. While the landlord's policy does cover the structure, it does not cover the property of the residents. **Call an insurance agent today for more details.**

## Avoid the PAYDAY LENDING Trap

Payday loans may seem like an easy solution to a temporary cash shortage, but for many people, payday loans are the beginning of a vicious and very expensive cycle that they find difficult if not impossible to get out of. Typically, you request a payday loan for a short period of time. However, the annual interest rate on that loan is 360 percent. It may seem worth it if you're in a bind, but people often extend the loan month after month and end up paying grossly inflated annual interest rates and end up in worse shape than when they borrowed the money in the first place. For more information on avoiding Payday loans, go to [www.about.com](http://www.about.com).

**We're on the web!**  
**Norwalkha.org**