



HRA LAUNCHES NYC DADS

It is clear that single mothers have made great strides during the past ten years. Fewer are on cash assistance, more are working and their earnings and income have risen dramatically since 1994.

Unfortunately, young men who are often the fathers of the children in single parent households are not doing as well. And, studies show that the overwhelming majority of estranged low-income men want to be involved in their children's lives, but face obstacles to becoming responsible fathers such as unemployment and limited education.

In June, HRA is launching NYC DADS, a project to raise public awareness of the vital role that both parents – whether married, divorced or separated – play in their children's lives and future. NYC DADS will be a coordinated effort to support fathers in developing close relationships with their children and in successfully contributing to their financial support. HRA is partnering with other City agencies and community organizations who support programs and resources for low-income non-custodial parents, mostly fathers.

A new website is in development, designed by HRA's OPIC, to serve as an information clearinghouse for fathers seeking local resources. It serves specifically as a guide to New York City's government and community-based fatherhood programs. Another highlight is a calendar of fun events for fathers and their children.

HRA has also partnered with the Department of Youth and Community Development, the NYC Sports Commission and NYC & Company in hosting an exciting Father's Day picnic on June 17 at Keyspan Park to honor fathers who participate in father support programs through local community-based organizations. At the picnic, there will be lunch, games and prizes. Fathers and children will be able to interact with special guests, watch an official practice of the Brooklyn Cyclones and meet the players while spending a relaxing day together.



Unifying Those Who Would Help HRA

Many philanthropic individuals, corporations and foundations want to help families out of poverty, and many have ideas related to the work HRA is doing. Commissioner Doar has established the Office of Strategic Partnerships and Special Events to serve as a coordinated entry point for establishing long-term partnerships with HRA.

The Office of Strategic Partnerships will be part of the Office of Public Information and Communications. Director Sara Weinstein will outreach to corporations and foundations to establish partnerships that support HRA pro-

grams. "The Office of Strategic Partnerships will be the gateway for channeling private funding to our work and building partnerships through which outside expertise and services can contribute to our initiatives," Ms. Weinstein said.

As part of its charge, the Office will plan several special events each year that highlight our work. The first is the NYC DADS' First Annual Father's Day Picnic on June 17. News about an exciting event being planned for September is coming soon.

HRA Program Updates

OCSE Child Support Collection Achieves 5% Increase

Through the efforts of OCSE, New York City child support collection increased by 5% for 2006, reaching a total of \$589,834 million dollars. New York City was one of only four counties to achieve this percentage increase and received an award from the NY State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance during the annual NYS Districts Child Support Enforcement Conference.

USDA Honors 4 FIA Food Stamp Staff

In June, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will honor four staff from the Family Independence Administration's Office of Quality Assurance at its "Nor'Easter" Conference. Robert Berger, Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Quality Assurance, and Linda Feldherr, Linda Miller and Maria Pitner of Audit & Quality Control are being honored for their strong working relationship with the New York State Quality Control staff and for their contribution to the low City and Statewide Food Stamp Error Rate in federal Fiscal Year 2006.

Commissioner Doar Addresses Largest-Ever APS Caseworker Class

To address unprecedented growth in APS case-loads, 52 new caseworkers, the largest APS class ever hired, started its training on May 14, 2007. With NYC's elderly population growing rapidly, Commissioner Robert Doar urged trainees to make APS and its core clientele a "model for the rest of the country," reminding them that the "eyes of the city are on you." In her remarks, MICSA's Executive Deputy Commissioner Mary Harper spoke of the sobering challenges they are set to face and of the value of enabling APS clients to lead fuller and happier lives.

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Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Robert Doar, Administrator/Commissioner

Office of Public Information & Communications
Barbara Brancaccio, Exec. Deputy Commissioner
Connie A. Ress, Media Director
Melinda Mousouris, Writer/Editor
Patrice Moller, New Media Producer
Mailen Nunez, Public Relations Coordinator
Ivan Celin, Graphics

Lifetime Achievement at HRA

Event Calendar

JUNE PAI LUNCH AND LEARN WORKSHOP

Friday, June 22, 2007, HRA headquarters, 180 Water Street, 12th floor conference room, 12 PM. Get help putting your income on course to work for you. Amelia Prounis, Vice President, Senior Financial Advisor at Merrill Lynch will speak. Her subject: "All About Financial Planning."

HRA BLOOD DRIVES

Working together, the City's donor program broke its own record by making more than 30,000 blood donations in 2006. Please keep your vital donations coming.

DONATE BLOOD AT THESE HRA LOCATIONS IN JUNE:

Friday, June 22, 2007, IREA Bureau of Eligibility Verification (BEV), 253 Schermerhorn Street, 7th Floor Conference Room, Brooklyn, from 11:00 AM to 4:30 PM. To make an appointment, call Crystal Griffin-Scott at (718) 923-7939.

Friday, June 29, 2007, Grand Concourse Center, 1790 Grand Concourse, Reception Area, Bronx, from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM. To make an appointment, call Sandra Canady at (718) 716-2687.

AIDS WALK 2007



Thank you to all who made **AIDS WALK 2007** a success. NYC's and HRA's total fundraising for the Walk will be published in the next *Perspective*.

SUMMERTIME JUMP ON LEARNING

Summer and fall class schedules are included in the Citywide Training Center's 2007 Fall Catalog, available online on the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) website under Citywide Training Center.
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcas/html/home/home.shtml>

WELCOME SUMMER INTERNS

This month, 168 summer interns have joined the HRA community. Coming through their respective colleges, the students will be assisting in programs throughout the agency. We look forward to working with you!

The mood was festive as HRA held its annual Employee Recognition Ceremony for staff celebrating service longevity anniversaries on May 4 at District Council 37 headquarters. Staff celebrating their 25th, 30th, 35th, 45th and even 50th career anniversaries with HRA gathered for the buffet breakfast and award ceremony organized by the HRA Quality of Life Program, a joint effort between HRA and its affiliated labor unions.



A highlight of the morning was the presentation by Commissioner Doar of a proclamation from Mayor Bloomberg to Wilhemina Lee honoring her fifty years of service. "We recognize your tremendous contribution to accomplishing the work of HRA through years of challenge and growth," he said to all the honorees. "And I'd like to announce that you will have the rest of the day off as one more way of saying 'thank you'."

Top: Commissioner Doar speaks with attendees; **Middle:** Karen Lanzillo of OLA receives her award for 25 years of service; **Bottom:** Wilhemina Lee is honored for 50 years of service with HRA, pictured with Commissioner Doar.



James Hanley, Deputy Director of the Office of Labor Relations, who welcomed the awardees, and Alfred Dukes, OLR's former Deputy Director, who acted as master of ceremonies, and staff's union officials congratulated their members.



HASA's 3rd Annual PAI Ceremony

Nearly 450 HASA staff gathered at Fordham University's Pope Auditorium. Fifty-one individuals were honored with HASA's PAI trophies. Deputy Directors of Field Operations David Piersante and Samuel Salnave were recognized by special achievement awards, presented by HASA Deputy Commissioner Elsie del Campo. The awards represented the enormous amount of work accomplished by staff to redesign HASA's programs to better meet the needs of clients living with AIDS today. Commissioner del Campo thanked staff for commitment and



HASA's PAI Awards



HASA Deputy Commissioner del Campo and MICSA Executive Deputy Commissioner Harper.

support that enabled HASA to turn its image into a very positive one with clients and the community. MICSA's Executive Deputy Commissioner Mary Harper expressed HRA's commitment to continue providing HASA programs with the support needed to move forward. HASA's Special Events Coordinator Colette Pellino planned the beautiful celebration; Housing Director John Ruscillo was the emcee.