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HANO Kicks Off 2015 Summer Youth Initiatives

*Agency expands access to educational, recreational and
employment opportunities for youth*

New Orleans, LA (May 29, 2015) – In June, the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) will kick-off summer enrichment activities engaging youth and young adults ages 4 to 21 in educational, recreational and employment opportunities during the summer months.

“The Housing Authority is proud to partner with community supportive service providers to reinstitute the focus of youth initiatives that will keep them engaged, active and healthy,” said Executive Director Gregg Fortner. “Providing additional youth opportunities is essential in supporting growth and development, and these activities will cultivate learning and important job readiness skills to ensure a successful future.”

HANO will kick-off the Summer Employment Program next week that will provide 120 students ages 14 to 21 with opportunities to work in the professional field of their choice. The eight-week employment program offers hands-on experience in the work environment, and an opportunity to develop vital job skills in the medical, legal and insurance fields. Participants will attend life skills seminars, and ACT Prep classes hosted by Job1 Business and Career Solutions.

Students from local colleges and universities can also gain on-the-job experience at HANO through the agency’s Student Internship Program. Launching this summer, the eight-week unpaid internship will provide students with insight on the day-to-day operations of the agency and its departments. Student interns will be managed by designated agency supervisors, and are required to work 20 to 25 hours per week. All participating interns must be full-time college students with at least 24 hours of related coursework completed.

Beginning Monday, June 1, HANO communities will host four summer camps across the city for youth ages 4 to 15. Participating camp sites including The Estates, Marrero Commons, Faubourg Lafitte and the Fischer communities will offer a wide range of activities focused on visual arts, music, dance, computer literacy and sports. Culminating

the summer camp session, the agency will honor students that received a 3.0 or higher grade point average during the 2014-15 school year.

On Tuesday, June 2, HANO will join city officials, community leaders and residents to kick-off the *Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry Campaign*. Hosted in The Estates community, more than 150 local children will enjoy a fun-filled day of recreational activities sponsored by Volunteers of America Greater New Orleans' Fresh Food Factor Program. Since 2011, the No Kid Hungry campaign offered to children ages 18 and under, strives to combat hunger in the United States by ensuring access to daily healthy and nutritious meals. Visit <http://neworleans.nokidhungry.org/> for more information and to find summer meal sites in your area.

HANO also encourages residents to participate in additional recreational activities hosted throughout summer. Tennis clinics and free movie nights are scheduled to occur at the Sojourner Truth Community Center, located at 2200 Lafitte Avenue in the Faubourg Lafitte community. On June 8th, The Estates will partner with the First Tee Golf program to teach the fundamentals of golf to participants, and provide hands-on training based on the curriculum. Basic and advanced level lessons will be offered to camp participants every Monday and Wednesday afternoon. Evening sessions are also available.

In August, the Department of Client Services will sponsor a six-day, aviation-themed experience for 20 selected students. Youth interested in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and enrolled in grades 7 through 12, can register by June 5th to qualify for the program. For more information contact Carol Griffin at 504.670.3300.

Thirty high-school students were afforded the opportunity to visit regional colleges and universities as a part of the HANO College Tour. The three-day tour included visits to Southern University in Baton Rouge, University of Louisiana at Monroe, Jackson State University and many more.

For more information on summer youth initiatives visit www.hano.org.

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