



News Release

The Housing Authority of the City of Austin * P.O. Box 6159 * Austin, Texas 78762

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CELEBRATE OLDER AMERICANS MONTH 2011

WHAT: AUSTIN, Tex. – May 6, 2011 --May is Older Americans Month—a tradition dating back to 1963 to honor the legacies and ongoing contributions of older Americans and support them as they enter the next stage in life. The Housing Authority of the City of Austin is joining communities nationwide in celebrating this month with Senior Mayfest.

Older Americans make significant contributions to their communities through civic and volunteer opportunities. Mayfest is our opportunity to recognize the past and present contributions of older citizens. This year's Senior Mayfest theme is Have Fun! Stay Fit!, a statement to encourage activity and personal well-being of older adults. HACA is proud to partner with Family Eldercare on the Aging in Place Grant. Family Eldercare's mission is to provide essential services to elders, persons with disabilities and those who care for them. The organization's vision is that elders and adults with disabilities live in a supportive community with dignity and as much independence as possible. Joyce Hefner, Family Eldercare, says, "We work with HACA residents every day who have a strong interest in staying active and engaged in their community. The Mayfest recognizes and promotes the many opportunities available to senior residents to stay healthy and active and support their neighbors."

Keeping the growing population of older Americans healthy and active will increase the demand for senior services in the future. Angela Castilleja, HACA's Resident Wellness Coordinator, says, "Mayfest is an opportunity to provide residents who are older with valuable information to keep them healthy, active, and independent while living in HACA communities."

Mayfest also recognizes the diversity and vitality of today's older Americans who span three generations. They have lived through wars and hard times, as well as periods of unprecedented prosperity. These remarkable achievements demonstrate the strength and character of older Americans and underscore the debt of gratitude we owe to the generations that have given our society so much.

The Mayfest event will include entertainment, lunch, information booths and enormous fun. Various vendors and agencies will be on-site to provide a range of services such as blood pressure and vision screenings.

WHEN: Friday, May 13, 2011 at 10:00 am

WHERE: Parque Zaragoza Recreation Center, 2608 Gonzales St. Austin, TX 78702

ABOUT HACA: The Housing Authority of the City of Austin is a public agency whose business is to ensure that safe, quality affordable housing opportunities exist for families of low income; break the poverty cycle by serving as a catalyst for our residents to become economically self-sufficient; create meaningful partnerships to maximize available community resources for our residents; and efficiently and effectively meet federal, state and local mandates. For more information, please visit www.hacanet.org.

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