Highland Homes Named Milwaukee’s First Super Reader Neighborhood

Five-year-old Chameiyah Viverette, a resident of the Housing Authority’s Highland Homes neighborhood, issued a challenge to Milwaukee: every neighborhood should be a Super Reader neighborhood because reading is fun and it helps kids succeed.

Viverette, joined by Library Director Paula Kiely and Education Specialist Darrell Finch of the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee, recognized Highland Homes as the city’s first Super Reader neighborhood for its commitment to encouraging summer reading by neighborhood youth. On Monday, June 25, they challenged all City neighborhoods to follow suit.

“Reading just 15 minutes most days of the summer can prevent the summer reading gap,” said Kiely. “Parents, I encourage you to spend time reading to your children and help them get access to things they like to read.”

The Library and the Housing Authority have partnered to encourage reading in public housing households. All members of the family are encouraged to read together and to increase their education levels. By partnering with the library, where books are free to read, this effort can reduce the negative impacts of poverty.

The effort in Highland Homes is supported by the Housing Authority’s Education Initiative, which works with over 125 public housing households to ensure that kids stay in school, increase their academic achievement, and graduate. Similar summer reading programs are being duplicated in other public housing neighborhoods such as Hillside, Parklawn and Westlawn.

(Pictured (top) Paula Kiely presents Viverette with her first library card; Viverette issues a challenge to Super Readers; Kiely and Viverette make the Super Reader promise; Browser the Library Lion salutes Super Readers.)
Staff Anniversaries
Milwaukee Public Library staff received recognition for years of service at the 4th Thursday event on June 28. New hires were also introduced. Receiving anniversary pins were:
5 Years: LaToya Payne, Julieann Hernandez, Irene Crivello, Panola Hall, Thomas Flynn, Karli Pederson, Kelly Wochinske, Melissa Shriver and Meredith Wittmann.
10 Years: Jeffrey York, Kari Steinbrenner, Kevin Cingature, Anthony Frausto, Lisa Spain, Zarina Mohd Shah, Theresa Schaewe, Michelle Gumowski, Paula Nameth, Thomas Rodriguez, Christine O’Rourke and Joseph Megna.
15 Years: Belinda Morris, Rebecca Moynahan, Margaret Wisniewski, Cathelyn Skarban, Jeffrey Gold, Opal Thompson and Kirsten Thompson.
Employees receiving anniversary pins and resolutions were:
20 Years: Irene Weist; 25 Years: Laurel Kerstein; 30 Years: Earnest Reed; 35 Years: Dan Thompson.

Kathleen M. Huston Scholarship
Attention MPL employees who are currently enrolled or have been accepted for enrollment in a Master’s Degree in Library & Information Science program. The Milwaukee Public Library Foundation is offering the Kathleen M. Huston Scholarship in the amount of $1,000 for the fall 2012 semester. Funds are to be applied to the cost of tuition and books.

Deadline for submission is Wednesday August 1st in the MPL Foundation office (Central Library) by 5 p.m.

Please contact the Foundation office at foundation@mpl.org or 286-8720 to request an application or if you have any questions.

Volunteer in Action
Mary Madigan (YCOS) is happy to have the assistance of volunteer Sue Schallerzak (right) at Washington Park Family Play Dates. Madigan found Sue through the library’s volunteer list maintained by Emily Kearney in Human Resources. Ready to Read consultant Amy Stark (pictured far right) works with Sue and Library Youth Educators to lead children at play dates such as the Camping! program pictured here. “Sue loves doing these - she has a real passion for children’s literacy,” said Madigan. “And Amy loves having Sue along!”

Staff News lists birth, marriage and death notices of employees and immediate family members. Send information to cmurph@milwaukee.gov

STAFF ACTIONS
(Continued)

Separation From Service
Katie Taylor, Library Circulation Aide, Forest Home - June 23
Tiffany Meridith, Library Circulation Aide, Mill Road - June 27
Danielle Perse, Library Circulation Aide, Circulation July 5

Commendation
Belinda Morris, Library Circulation Assistant I, Circulation for helping to provide a safe and secure environment for staff and patrons by recognizing a patron who Security had identified as a thief. Because of her quick action, the loss of future materials and disappointed patrons was prevented.

Anniversaries:
5 Years
Raphael Jones, Custodial Worker II-City Laborer, Facilities & Fleet - July 16