

## **Harris County Housing Authority Closes The Year With Exemplary Record**

**March 28, 2006 (HOUSTON)** – The Harris County Housing Authority (HCHA) has closed the 2005 calendar year with an exemplary record as a public housing authority, including the following successes:

1. The HCHA housed 4,500 people each month – a very significant accomplishment for an agency with only 20 employees and a \$1-million administrative budget.
2. The HCHA was one of the highest rated housing authorities in America.
  - o Nan McKay and Associates (a 25 year leader in the Housing Authority field) rated the HCHA as one of the nation’s best public housing authorities.
  - o The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) rated the HCHA as a “High Performer.”
  - o The regional HUD office stated that the HCHA was one of the “best Housing Authorities in Texas.”
  - o Independent auditors gave the HCHA a clean audit.
3. The HCHA has developed five new affordable housing developments in 18 months – worth more than \$70-million – for seniors over 55 years of age.
4. The HCHA developed the first Section 8 homeownership plan in the Houston region, to move Section 8 clients off the public assistance system and into homeownership.
5. The HCHA developed and was awarded the first single-room-occupancy project in seven years in Harris County to house the homeless (this project will open in August 2006).
6. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the HCHA developed a Housing Choice Center that arranged housing solutions for thousands of evacuees during the largest natural disaster in American history.
7. To date, the HCHA has participated in a process that has placed more than 135,000 people into apartments and other residences. Officials in Washington are studying the process as a national model for all U.S. disasters.

“As you can see, 2005 was a year of significant achievements for the HCHA,” says Guy Rankin, CEO & Executive Director of the HCHA. “The Authority is very proud of its accomplishments and of the tireless determination of its professional staff – even when it meant working seven days a week, 18 hours a day, as it did during the Katrina crisis.”

**About The Harris County Housing Authority**

The Harris County Housing Authority operates housing-choice voucher programs and family self-sufficiency programs for more than 4,000 residents of Harris County. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has given the Authority its highest performance rating for three years in a row. For more information visit: [www.hchatexas.org](http://www.hchatexas.org).

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