

# Neighborhood

# UPDATE



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023

## THE MUNICIPAL HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR THE CITY OF YONKERS

### A Letter from Wilson Kimball



I will be the first to admit that life can become overwhelming at times. Whether it's cooking Thanksgiving dinner, negotiating around family members' schedules for the holidays or

remembering to go food shopping while working and volunteering. Sometimes it all gets away from me. How do I stay grounded when I feel like everything is overwhelming? By remembering what I am grateful for, no matter what time of the year it is!

This month I am grateful for the message I received from a person we have been working with since June. They wrote in an e-mail:

*Ms. Kimball, and MHACY Family,*

*I got my keys for the one bedroom to start moving in.*

*Many Thank You's Ms. Kimball for your help along with the MHACY family!*

*I appreciate every (sic) help and everyone!*

Nothing feels better than settling someone in their new home.

Sometimes we can't settle people into our housing, but we can help them in other ways. This month I also received an e-mail

*(Continued on page 2)*



## Thanksgiving Brings Joy and Holiday Cheer to Yonkers Housing Authority

Yonkers Housing Authority had a lot to be grateful for this Thanksgiving. We would like to give a special thanks to Chef Peter Kelly of x20 Xaviar's on the Hudson for providing Thanksgiving meals to some of our residents and the generous donors who sponsored a turkey drive at Palisade Towers.

## A Letter from Wilson Kimball

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from a Ukrainian family that fled the war in Ukraine. The family ended up here in Yonkers and now needs to find permanent housing, help with English as a second language and help with finding work. This family did not qualify for our housing but because so many people in the affordable housing and non-profit world know each other I was able to introduce this family to an organization called Hearts and Homes, which could help them. I am thankful for the connections I have made outside of the “MHACY family” that can aid people in need.

I am also thankful for the connections I have made inside the MHACY family. Whether it’s a baby shower for a MHACY staff member, a discussion with a staff member about their elderly dog, working with property management staff to get City of Yonkers repairs made at Palisade Towers or raising money for Relay for Life through the staff Potluck, I am always amazed, humbled and gratified by the kindness, dedication and patience the MHACY staff exhibit towards each other, towards our tenants and towards the greater community.

Trying to help someone find housing can be hard, especially when you have thousands of people who are also calling or e-mailing and asking for your help. The housing need is great and the list of things to do is never ending. People call or write to me on weekends and even in the middle of the night. It’s whenever they can grab the time. For some reason, this month has been particularly busy in that regard. It could become overwhelming. But there are a million things to be thankful for that help me fight that feeling. It’s why we all get up and go into the office every day. It’s why the staff works nights, weekends, and overtime. Because you are part of the MHACY family, and we are so thankful you are here with us.

### Wilson Kimball

President & CEO

Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers

## Friendsgiving at Curran Court

Yonkers Housing Authority staff had a wonderful start to the holidays with a festive Friendsgiving luncheon at Curran Court on November 16 where they shared delicious food and created lasting memories.



## YHA Is Looking for Section 8 Landlords

Yonkers Housing Authority, in its efforts to recruit more landlords to the Section 8 program, had its own table at The Business Council of Westchester’s Business Showcase on November 20 where they shared information on how landlords can benefit from joining the Section 8 Program! Interested landlords should contact Sarah Sullo at [LandlordRelations@mhacy.org](mailto:LandlordRelations@mhacy.org) or (914) 793-8400 Ext. 127.

## Chef Peter Kelly Donates Thanksgiving Meals to YHA Residents

For the fourth year, Chef Peter Kelly of X20 Xaviar's on the Hudson donated 360 Thanksgiving meals to residents at Yonkers Housing Authority, giving back to the place where he grew up. Celebrity Chef Kelly got his humble start with his family of nine children at Building 7 at Palisade Towers (then Schlobohm Houses). He delivered a meal to Palisade Towers Tenant Council President Elizabeth Owens and her husband, in Building 8 the day before Thanksgiving.



## A Green Holiday Season at YHA

In keeping with the Yonkers Housing Authorities efforts to reduce flooding and heat islands that make temperatures swell in the summer months, YHA planted more trees this month with the help of the New York Power Authority (NYPA). Twenty-two trees were planted at five properties: Flynn Manor (6) Fiorelli Town Homes (6) Hall Homes (4) Doran Town Homes (6) and O'Rourke (3). YHA paid for 11 trees and NYPA paid for 11.



## Turkey Giveaway at Palisade Tower

Thanks to Yonkers City Council Majority Leader Tasha Diaz and Romano at Law 30 families at Palisade Towers were provided with turkeys for their holiday meals. And special thanks to Service Coordinator Kayla Urena for organizing.



## Yonkers Running Project at Yonkers Arts

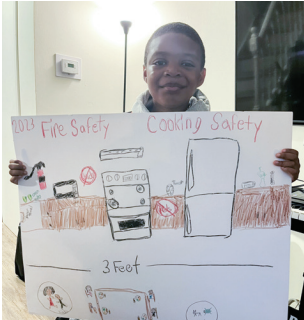
The Yonkers Running Project, which organizes free, weekly five-kilometer runs to promote healthy lifestyles, recently met at Yonkers Arts. Executive Director Ray Wilcox says he loves hosting the group composed of Yonkers residents of all ages, backgrounds, and experiences.



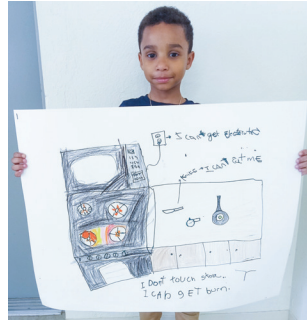
## Poster Contest Winners Rewarded for Their Talents

Congratulations to all the children at Yonkers Housing Authority on winning the HAI Insurance Group Fire Prevention Poster Contest and the Pumpkin Literary Contest, which challenged the literary and artistic skills of YHA children ages 6 to 18. Here are the lucky winners:

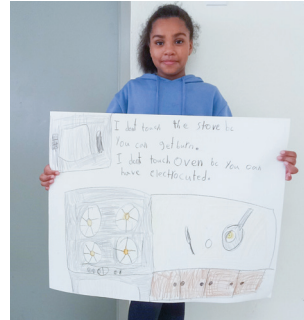
### HAI Insurance Group Fire Prevention Poster Contest Winners:



**Kory M.**  
1st Place Winner  
6–9-Year-Old Group



**Dionys A.**  
2nd Place Winner  
6–9-Year-Old Group

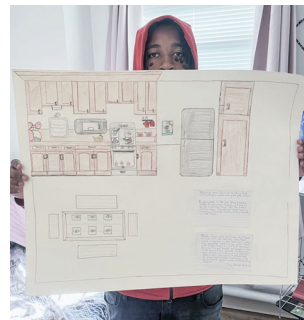


**Aleezah A.**  
3rd Place Winner  
6–9-Year-Old Group

*All winners received Amazon Gift Cards from the HAI Insurance Group and Target Gift Cards from MHACY.*



**Jazmine F.**  
1st Place Winner  
10–14-Year-Old Group



**Serene H.**  
1st Place Winner  
15–18-Year-Old Group



**Louanne F.**  
2nd Place Winner  
15–18-Year-Old Group

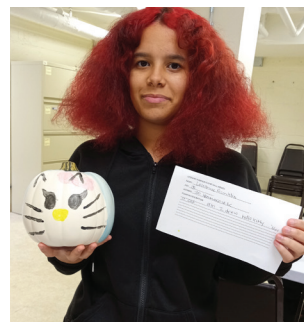
### Winners of the Literary Pumpkin Contest:



**Kory M.**  
1st Place Winner



**Jazmine F.**  
2nd Place Winner



**Louanne F.**  
3rd Place Winner

*All three winners received a gift card and a catered Thanksgiving dinner for their families from Stew Leonard's.*