

JULY 2026

THE HACA VOICE

From the Housing Authority of the City of Asheville

Feature Story

Finding Stability: How HACA Helped One Asheville Mother Build a Foundation for the Future

For years, Jessie Mace moved her four children between apartments and single-wide trailers, searching for a safe, affordable place to call home. Through every move, she kept her children enrolled in the same Buncombe County schools, choosing early mornings and long commutes over disrupting their education and friendships.

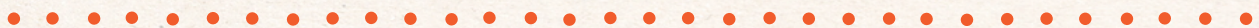
After receiving rental assistance through HACA's Housing Choice Voucher Program, Mace was able to strengthen her credit, reduce debt, and begin planning for homeownership.

She later enrolled in HACA's Homeownership Program, which allows qualified voucher holders to use their housing assistance toward homeownership expenses, and partnered with Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity to purchase an affordable home. She closed on her family's new four-bedroom home in Arden in April 2026.

For Mace, homeownership has provided more than a permanent address—it has given her the stability to focus on what's next for her family and herself.



Jessie Mace stands outside the home she purchased through HACA's Homeownership Program and Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity after years of searching for stable, affordable housing for her family.



Community News

Expanding Pathways to Homeownership

Expanding Pathways to Homeownership
HACA recently welcomed residents, community partners, and local leaders to Maple Crest for a Homeownership Working Session focused on expanding opportunities for Asheville families. Participants explored strategies to increase access to homeownership and build long-term financial stability. Attendees also heard from HUD's Ben Hobbs, who discussed efforts to expand housing opportunities and economic mobility.



Pictured from left: Ben Hobbs, Assistant Secretary of Public and Indian Housing; Ella Santos, CEO of HACA; Brittany Honer, HACA resident; Jasminu Moore, Pisgah View Site Manager; and Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer.

Save the Date— Transitional Career Day: Skills to Get a Job

Looking to enter the workforce, change careers, or return to work after time away? Join HACA and community partners for Transitional Career Day: Skills to Get a Job on Thursday, July 23, from 2-4 p.m. at the Arthur R. Edington Education & Career Center (133 Livingston St.).

Attendees will learn practical skills for today's job market, including resume writing, interview preparation, professional communication, and making a positive first impression. All residents are welcome to attend.

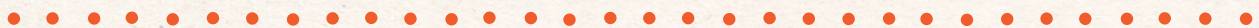
Resident Support

Did You Know? HACA Offers a Family Self-Sufficiency Program

HACA's Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program is a voluntary program that helps residents work toward long-term goals such as increasing income, completing a degree, improving credit, or purchasing a home. Participants receive personalized support, connections to resources, and access to a unique savings account that can help them build wealth as their earnings grow.



We believe families deserve more than housing—they deserve opportunities to build brighter futures.





Partnership Update

HACA and Asheville City Schools Partner to Support Student Success

Through a new partnership with Asheville City Schools, HACA will work alongside educators to help support students living in HACA communities. With parent permission, the organizations will be able to share information related to attendance, academic progress, and other indicators of student success. The goal is to provide coordinated support that helps students thrive.

How HACA Is Improving Housing Quality and Maintenance Response

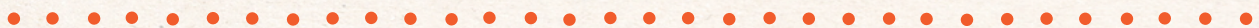
HACA is strengthening maintenance services through a new partnership with Premier Property Maintenance. Residents can expect a continued focus on preventative maintenance, faster responses to maintenance needs, and improved communication throughout the repair process. The partnership will also help prepare apartments for new residents more quickly, ensuring more families can access safe, quality affordable housing when units become available.

Staff Spotlight



Alex Ruiz
Operations Manager

Alex Ruiz first joined HACA in 2017, serving in Property Management, HCVP, Moving to Work, and now as Operations Manager. He was born in New Jersey, grew up in Florida, and spends his free time playing chess, weightlifting, and obsessing over music.



Community News

Rocky River Apartments Breaks Ground in Woodfin

HACA recently joined community partners to celebrate the groundbreaking of Rocky River Apartments, a new 120-unit affordable housing development in Woodfin. The community will provide housing for working families and lower-income households, with HACA supporting the project through 48 project-based vouchers. Construction is expected to be completed in early 2028.



Save the Date— Domestic Violence Panel

Join HACA for Safe at Home: Understanding Domestic Violence, Housing, and Hope on Thursday, July 30, from 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Maple Crest Community Room (20 Lee Garden Lane).

This community conversation will explore the connection between domestic violence, housing stability, and survivor support while highlighting local resources, pathways to healing, and ways community members can help create safer, stronger communities.

All HACA residents and members of the public are welcome to attend.

Community News

Community-Led Planning Effort Underway in Deaverview

The City of Asheville, HACA, and PEAK Academy are launching a community planning process to help shape the future of the Deaverview neighborhood. The effort will explore opportunities for new affordable housing, recreation spaces, educational facilities, and other community improvements across approximately 60 acres of land in and around Deaverview.

New Stairlift Improves Accessibility at Asheville Terrace

A new commercial stairlift is now in service at Asheville Terrace, providing residents with another way to safely access different levels of the building while repairs to the main elevator continue. HACA coordinated the installation, resident training, and signage to help make the transition as smooth as possible. The stairlift is one of several accommodations HACA has put in place to help senior residents maintain their independence and stay connected to their community.

