Since 2005, the HACM Education Initiative has sought to improve school attendance and educational achievement among youth at Highland Homes and Scattered Sites. The Education Specialist, Darrell Finch, works with the children to ensure they attend school every day, links them to community learning centers and tutoring programs, and helps reduce barriers to their success in school. He also works one-on-one with parents to develop an educational achievement plan for each child.

**EDUCATION INITIATIVE SNAPSHOT**

- Number of children ages 0 to 18: 386
- Number of participating families: 122

**Early Childhood Involvement**

The Education Specialist works with parents to address needs of their young children, including enrollment in Home Instruction for Parents of Pre-School Youngsters (HIPPY), Head Start and daycare services.

**School-Age Involvement**

- Number of school-age participating youth: 256
- Number of school-age participating families: 90

100% of youth were enrolled in school from 2006-2009 (no dropouts).

55% of 2009 high school graduates are enrolled in college.

18 youth had a 4.00 grade point average compared to 3 students in 2008.

In addition to one-on-one case management, the following programs are offered:

- After school homework and reading help
- Summer Reading Program – Over 100 hours of reading time logged in Summer, 2009
- “Road to Success” - Social and professional etiquette classes
- Mentoring/Tutoring Program – Youth are paired with a college or professional tutor
- “College for Kids/Teens” – Youth attended 20 hours of classes at UW-Milwaukee
- HACM College Bound Program – Assists 12th graders with college applications and financing
- Campus tours are offered to familiarize youth with college environments
- HACM Spelling Bee is held annually to highlight educational excellence
- Student Recognition Awards are held annually in June

**IMPACT ON PARENTS**

The Education Specialist, along with HACM Case Workers and Employment Specialists, work with adults in the households to encourage them to be more involved in their children’s education and to pursue further education for themselves. In 2009, 34 parents/guardians were working toward high school diplomas, GED’s, or college undergraduate degrees. Four adults graduated with Bachelor Degrees in May, 2009.

Darrell Finch, Education Specialist - 414.225.9498

*Data as of June, 2009*