

[DATE]

[NAME]

[ADDRESS]

[STATE, ZIP CODE]

RE: NAHRO IS HELPING YOUTH ACHIEVE HIGHER EDUCATION!

Dear [NAME],

NAHRO may have a solution to help children in poverty gain a path to higher education, and you can help! The value of a college degree for someone living in poverty cannot be underestimated. A Pew Research Center study has found that, among millennials ages 25 to 32, the median annual earnings for full-time working college-degree holders are \$17,500 greater than for those with high school diplomas only. That earnings gap has steadily widened for each successive generation in the latter half of the 20th century.

NAHRO and its members believe that education is the key to eradicating poverty. In order to bolster educational opportunities for residents of assisted housing, NAHRO has created the NAHRO National Merit Scholarship Program, a permanent endowment fund targeted towards public housing residents and Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) families of member agencies. Each year, the program will award a scholarship to eight assisted housing residents, one from each of the eight NAHRO Regional Councils. Of these eight residents, two recipients will be awarded additional amounts. In order to be eligible for the NAHRO Merit College Scholarship, a resident must graduate from high school or earn a GED. Additionally, he or she must also be admitted to and enroll in an accredited college or university.

Please consider donating what you can to support our efforts to provide our residents with educational opportunities that will help them better their lives as well as reduce or even eliminate their reliance on public assistance. NAHRO is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Note that organizations are not allowed to use federal funds for scholarships.

Please send your donation to:

NAHRO Merit Scholarship Fund
630 Eye Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

If you have any questions about the scholarship program or would like more information, please contact NAHRO's Housing America Task Force Chair Clifton C. Martin at (410) 222-6208 or ccmartin@hcaac.org. Thank you for supporting the NAHRO Merit Scholarship Program and helping to provide our residents with opportunities for a better, brighter future.

Sincerely,

Stephen W. Merritt, PHM
NAHRO President

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