

Academic Success Leads to Special Recognition for CPHA Resident

For Immediate Release:

Johnneisha White is the daughter of Ms. Elisabeth Jenkins and Mr. Johnny White. When not away at school, Johnneisha lives in Church Point with her grandmother, Ms. Rose Espree. After Johnneisha completed the ninth grade at Church Point High School with straight A's, she was accepted to the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

For the fourth time since 2006, the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts has been named one of the nation's "Public Elite" high schools. The prestigious residential high school offers specialized education for gifted students. The school's highly qualified faculty and staff help students make good academic choices. Johnneisha is progressing in her studies extremely well. In August, she will be returning to school in Natchitoches for her junior year.

Summer break is a good time for students to stay active and an opportunity for them to continue learning. Johnneisha recently took part in a career exploration program through Cameron University's **Southwest Area Health Education Center**. Students in the AHEC program gain practical knowledge and a better understanding of the medical profession by observation and shadowing in hospitals and nursing homes, and by making assigned visits to optometry, physical therapy, pharmacy, dental, chiropractic and other participating medical health care provider offices and businesses.

Ms. Natalie Lyttle, Church Point High School Chemistry and Physics teacher, is the Certified Health Career Education Instructor for the AHEC program. Ms. Brenda Pourciau, Director of Health Information at the AHEC host site Acadia St. Landry Hospital, is the hospital coordinator of the AHEC program. Under their supervision and with the help of hospital staff, students learn firsthand about the helping, healing, and life-saving medical care and patient services provided at the Acadia St. Landry Hospital.

Johnneisha and seven students from Church Point High School participated in this year's AHEC summer program. Students receive credit towards their high school diploma for completing the program. Ninety percent of students who participate in the AHEC program go on to college and over fifty percent of those continue on a health career track.

Johnneisha's on the job learning continues this summer when she begins work at Church Point Primary Care Clinic. The clinic offers a wide range of medical care and services from routine health examinations to managing chronic conditions. Johnneisha will be assisting Ms. Kristy Domingeaux, Office Manager, with her busy front desk office duties. Mr. Gene Malbrough, Owner of Church Point Primary Care Clinic, is a staunch proponent and vocal advocate of investing in our youth.

To stimulate language and cognitive skills in young children, Johnneisha spends time each week reading to groups of young girls and boys at the Acadia Parish Library in Church Point. After all the learning, work, and volunteering Johnneisha will have been exposed to this summer, she will be well prepared to return to classes. The real world lessons Johnneisha learns today, will greatly benefit her and others tomorrow.

Johnneisha's parents have always provided her with an abundance of love and support. But it is her grandmother, Ms. Rose Espree, who helped raise and care for her in public housing: Ms. Rose is the one who awakened Johnneisha each morning for school; the one who brought her to the doctor when she was feeling ill; the one who drove her to all Church Point football games when she was in pep squad; the one who prepared her meals; the one who watched over and was always there for her; the one who encouraged, shed tears, and prayed for her. But most of all, Ms. Rose is the one who loves Johnneisha with all her heart, like no other.

Read more about Johnneisha's life away from home and her aspirations for the future in the next edition of the Church Point Housing Authority's, Award Winning, "Families First," Newsletter.

For more information please visit www.cphousing.org