



## NEWS

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **COMMUNITY PARTNERS WORK TO BOOST LITERACY WITH SUMMER READING PROGRAM**

“Closing the achievement gap is key to moving our communities forward.”

(WASHINGTON, DC) – The **National Housing Trust-Enterprise Preservation Corporation** and **TD Bank, America’s Most Convenient Bank®**, will co-host a children’s summer reading carnival on Thursday, August 11, 2011 at 2 pm at Galen Terrace Apartments. At the carnival, NHT/Enterprise and TD Bank employees will read with Galen Terrace youth to promote literacy and distribute back to school supplies.

The carnival represents another effort on behalf of NHT/Enterprise to reduce summer learning loss among children living in its residential communities. Michael Bodaken, President of NHT/Enterprise, observed that the event serves as another example of how partners can work creatively to support community development goals around literacy. “Closing the achievement gap is key to moving our communities forward. We know from a recent [Washington Post report](#) that youth in Ward 8 trail their peers in other parts of the city by almost 15 points in reading and math on the DC Comprehensive Assessment standardized test. With TD Bank, we’ve created a partnership to help advance learning for youth at Galen Terrace. We are pleased to have them as a partner and it’s great to know that they equally value education as an important tool in community development.”

Brian Monday, Regional President for TD Bank, noted “Studies show that children who read several books during the summer maintain or surpass reading levels achieved during the previous school year. TD Bank is proud to partner with NHT/Enterprise to help advance students’ education and literacy in Ward 8.”

Over 30 youth in grades 1-8 participate in the tutoring program at Galen Terrace Apartments in Ward 8. The tutoring program offers an opportunity to enhance reading and math skills for up to 20 hours per week during the school year. The reading carnival caps a summer full of learning and fun activities. Other invited guests for the event include parents, Somerset Development and the East of the River Clergy Coalition. The carnival will be held at Galen Terrace's community center.

The partnership with TD Bank provides Galen Terrace youth with an added incentive for reading books this summer. TD Bank's Summer Reading Program rewards children who read 10 books during the summer with a \$10 deposit for a TD Bank Young Saver account. In 2010, 31,823 children participated in the program and read 318,230 books, earning \$318,230 for their Young Saver accounts. More information can be found by visiting any TD Bank store or [www.tdbank.com/summerreading](http://www.tdbank.com/summerreading).

**Event information:**

Thursday, August 11, 2011  
Galen Terrace Apartments  
Community Center  
1649 W. Street, SE, B1  
Washington, DC 20020  
2PM – 3PM EST

**About The National Housing Trust – Enterprise Preservation Corporation (NHT/Enterprise)**

NHT/Enterprise is a joint 501 (c) 3 venture between the National Housing Trust and Enterprise Community Partners. NHT/Enterprise works with community groups, banks, and financial institutions to protect multi-family housing at risk due to deterioration, landlord neglect, or conversion to prevailing, market rate rents. Based in Washington, DC, NHT/Enterprise has preserved more than 5,000 affordable homes in nine states and the District of Columbia. Because of NHT/Enterprise's work, families living in our communities pay \$400-\$600 below current market rates for rent. NHT/Enterprise's ability to offer working families such affordable rents help provides the very foundation for economic stability.

NHT/Enterprise's community development programs build upon this foundation by working to move families along the economic continuum. Specific programs offer tutoring through science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) instruction to under-performing youth. Community development programs offer over 700 hours of tutoring per year to over 130 youth in Virginia and Washington, DC Adult programs combine job training with efforts to connect families to mainstream banking services or free tax preparation to maximize the earned income tax credit (EITC). Other programs focus on ways in which to develop youth leadership, encourage greater parental participation and offer opportunities for all residents to give back through community service.

**About Galen Terrace:**

NHT/Enterprise, in partnership with the Somerset Development Company and the Galen Terrace Tenants Association, rescued and restored 84 affordable homes in the Anacostia neighborhood of Washington, DC. Galen Terrace was in a downward spiral from poor management, increasing criminal activity and physical deterioration. NHT/Enterprise helped the tenants association purchase the property while making substantial renovations. Improvements include significant security enhancements and the integration of energy efficient appliances. These renovations, coupled with new management and community development programs, have turned Galen Terrace from a challenging property into a model for neighborhood stabilization.

**About TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank®:**

TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank, is one of the 10 largest banks in the U.S., providing more than 7.4 million customers with a full range of retail, small business and commercial banking products and services at more than 1,250 convenient locations throughout the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Metro D.C., the Carolinas and Florida. In addition, TD Bank and its subsidiaries offer customized wealth management services through TD Wealth, and insurance products and services through TD Insurance, Inc. TD Bank is headquartered in Cherry Hill, N.J., and Portland, Maine. To learn more, follow TD Bank on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/TDBank\\_US](http://www.twitter.com/TDBank_US) or visit [www.tdbank.com](http://www.tdbank.com).

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**About Washington Post report:**

Turque, Bill. "Huge achievement gaps persist in DC schools." [The Washington Post online](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/huge-achievement-gaps-persist-in-dc-schools/2011/08/05/gIQAB7b2yI_story.html) . 6 August 2011. 8 August 2011.  
<[http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/huge-achievement-gaps-persist-in-dc-schools/2011/08/05/gIQAB7b2yI\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/huge-achievement-gaps-persist-in-dc-schools/2011/08/05/gIQAB7b2yI_story.html)>