



**THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF DEKALB COUNTY RECEIVES
RECOGNITION FROM U.S. HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
(HUD) FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE DISASTER HOUSING
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (DHAP)**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DeKalb County, GA. - U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan recently recognized the Housing Authority of DeKalb County (HADDC) and other HUD partners who worked together over the past two years to successfully complete the Katrina-Rita Disaster Housing Assistance Program (DHAP).

DHAP was developed in 2007 by FEMA and HUD to provide up to 18 months of rental assistance and case management to families who were not previously assisted by HUD and were displaced by the 2005 Gulf Coast hurricanes. The program helped 37,000 families find a permanent housing solution.

The program was scheduled to end in February 2009. When Mr. Donovan became HUD Secretary in January, he and Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano announced a six-month transition program to ensure families had an opportunity to move on to self-sufficiency or to obtain a rental assistance voucher that allowed them to rent housing from private landlords. The program ended October 31, 2009. Approximately 12,000 of those families obtained a HUD Housing Choice Voucher.

HADC Executive Director, Sterling Bethea and Bond Department Coordinator, Deidre Randle along with nearly 20 housing authorities' representatives, a Louisiana non-profit organization, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), HUD Headquarters and field office staff joined Secretary Donovan in Washington to celebrate the program's conclusion.

"In the coming days families will gather at home to celebrate the holiday season," said Donovan. "It was people in the room, and many others who are not, who helped make it possible for thousands of families, whose lives and homes were ravaged four years ago, to have the comfort of a home for this holiday season. For their untiring effort HUD and I say *thank you.*"

While housing agencies across the country played varying roles that contributed to the success of the program, HADC was invited to the celebration because of their integral role in DHAP's implementation and ultimate success.

Secretary Donovan presented a plaque to Mr. Bethea on behalf of the Housing Authority as a token of his appreciation for the Housing Authority of DeKalb County's contribution to the DHAP program.

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