



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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101-year-old among seniors to share secret to long life at celebration in their honor on Friday

Houston Housing Authority helping provide homes for elderly on fixed incomes as federal social security and Medicare funds near depletion

Houston Housing Authority commemorates Older Americans Month

With recent reports of Medicare and social security funds running out sooner than expected, thousands of Houston's elderly on a fixed income are stretching every dollar to be able to afford a home.

But at age 101, Nery Gonzalez is able to concentrate on her soap operas and games of dominoes and Parcheesi in her home made possible by the Houston Housing Authority. She will be among those to celebrate Older Americans Month and share the secrets of their long lives at the Houston Housing Authority's senior community on **Friday, May 22 at 1 p.m. at 6000 Telephone Rd., 77087.**

The Houston Housing Authority helps provide homes, activities, and services to seniors on a fixed income. **Friday's festivity will be held as part of the Houston Housing Authority's celebration of Older Americans Month** and will include information about services available for seniors through the agency and other community organizations.

Nery, a widow of 30 years who is known for breaking out in song to entertain her friends, will be among the partiers Friday afternoon. She has not lost her sense of humor and jokes about her many young boyfriends and crown as dominoes champion. Without taking a single medication, Nery is healthy and has had no need to see a doctor for even a check-up in two years.

"We're glad to be able to help seniors like Nery care for themselves, their friends, and their families instead of having them worry about if they'll be able to make their rent that month," said Ernie Etuk, Houston Housing Authority President and CEO.

Many over 65 spend nearly their entire income on housing, according to a report from the U.S. Administration on Aging. Of those elderly, senior renters spent a whopping average of 73 percent of their income on rent in 2007. The staggering statistics are expected to worsen as Medicare and social security funds run dry in the years ahead.



The Houston Housing Authority is a service-oriented business enterprise serving more than 60,000 people throughout Houston. The agency and its affiliates own and operate 25 housing communities encompassing more than 6,500 units, and the agency assists nearly 17,000 households pay rent to private landlords through rental vouchers.

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