



Friends of Hashoo Foundation USA,

As we begin the New Year, I am excited to use this space to express heartfelt gratitude, both personally and on behalf of the Hashoo Foundation team, to our partners: Houston Independent School District (HISD), Mayor Bill White, City of Houston Digital Inclusion WeCan Program for their incredible support of the Expectation Graduation Room Pilot Project.

The objective of the enclosed Newsletter is to bring you up to date on the status of the Expectation Graduation Room Pilot Project, and share some of our incredible findings. Out of the 50 students selected, 33 of them completed their commitment and graduated in 2009. 15 students relocated and 2 did not graduate. Of those 33 award recipients, 21 of them are attending a 4-year university; 8 are attending a community college; and 3 have applied to the Houston Community College for Spring 2010. Of the 33 students, 12 are attending college on scholarships, and 5 applied for a micro-credit loan offered by the University of St. Thomas MicroCredit Program. During our visits, we encountered a fascinating cultural diversity from 10 countries: USA, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, Guinea and Congo. Seven different languages are spoken among this group of students. The project has direct positive impact on 144 people, including the students and their family members: 37 under 18 years old and 107 over 18 years old. Now, with the help of the graduation package, the students are able to create a positive study environment at their homes or college dorm rooms. Today, all of the participating students have access to the internet in their homes or dorms to do school work, search for employment, research, and further their education.

The Expectation Graduation Room Pilot Project was announced during a [press conference hosted by HISD at Sterling High School on September 8, 2009](#). On Tuesday, October 6, the Hashoo Foundation USA and the HISD Furniture Services team loaded two HISD trucks with the Expectation Graduation Room packages which included refurbished computers, desk, desk lamps and chairs; twin size beds; boxes and bags with pillows, sets of sheets, blankets, mattress pads, dust ruffles and comforters; night stands and chest of drawers; Good Bears of the World (GBW), Tsunamikas Dolls and T-shirts. The following day, Wednesday, October 7th, we began our journey through various communities across the City of Houston. Our destination was the home of thirty three (33) accomplished new graduates. Upon arrival, we met with the proud families and with some of the students. Some of the students were interviewed via telephone from their university or college. The last Expectation Graduation Room package delivery and family interview was made on December 3, 2009.

We are very proud to announce that Hashoo Foundation's Expectation Graduation Room Pilot Project has been chosen as a finalist for 2010 Texas Association of Partners in Education awards.

This project was made possible thanks to the passion and generous contribution of our corporate partners and volunteers working together to recognize students' success, provide encouragement, support the family's involvement in the students' education, and reinforce the students' commitment to growing academically and socially.

Congratulations to the students, their families and HISD on this major accomplishment.

Sincerely,

Cristal Montañez Baylor
Executive Director
Hashoo Foundation USA

For more information visit

http://expectationgraduationroom.hashoofoundationusa.org/EGR_PilotProgram.pptx