



# The Greenville Housing Authority

May 2016

## RESIDENT SERVICES



The Resident Services department is in the process of creating a Reading Center for children of all ages within the Housing Authority. The area rug, four bean bag chairs, and all of the books pictured were donated by the Women in Ford Credit of the Ford Motor Credit Company in Greenville. More than 400 books were donated. Only half are pictured here, as more shelving is currently being assembled. In June, Resident Services will be receiving another 100 books from the Library of Congress Book Surplus program. Another 50 books were donated by department staff, bringing the total number of books to more than 600. Children will be welcome to drop by at any time to sit and read. They will be able to

borrow one book at a time, and exchange it for another, upon their return. Book clubs for all ages will also be conducted, where staff and the children will all read the same book and gather a couple of times a month to discuss what they have read.

Based on current research, a child's reading ability is a greater indicator of his or her future success than is the parents' income. In low-income households and neighborhoods, there exists, on average, one book per 300 children, as opposed to higher income households, which possess an average of 17 books per child. Nationally, 1<sup>st</sup> graders from low-income families have 50% smaller vocabularies than their peers from higher income families. These are just a few of the disparities that the Resident Services Department will strive to make a positive difference in.



