

1. [Home](#)
2. Entity Print

[Print Page](#)

Resident Spotlight: Thomasina Hawkins

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CHA Resident Thomasina Hawkins didn't realize when she walked into the CHA's Construction Training and Apprenticeship Expo that she'd realize a lifelong dream.

"Usually, you only find online courses, but to actually fly a drone – I hadn't been able to reach that point until now," said Hawkins, a college student and mom who attended the expo June 26. "I've been wanting to do it for years and finally got the opportunity through CHA."

Drone flying was one of seven certifications that were offered at the event. Others included CPR and forklift operation. Hawkins was one of about 12 attendees who received their drone operation certification.

Hawkins hopes to use this experience to further her drone-flying education. She says drone flying could lead to a career with an insurance company or the police department.

Her adrenaline and emotions were pumping minutes after flying the drone. "I did not believe that this would happen to me," she said. "I feel excited and happy. That was a great experience. Adrenaline would be the word."