



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS FROM AMSTERDAM TO VISIT AND TOUR CMHA**

**Cleveland, May 31, 2010** - Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) and the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) Police Department will welcome 13 international students and two professors from the Vrije University in Amsterdam, The Netherlands on Thursday, June 3, between 9 a.m. to noon.

This group is looking at innovative social service programs and especially selected CMHA to take new ideas back to Amsterdam. The group is interested about how the CMHA police, through an initiative called **Police Assisted Referral (PAR)**, help residents with problems and make referrals to social service agencies for assistance for a range of incidents that involve domestic violence, child abuse, and children exposed to violence.

**PAR** is a partnership with CMHA. Case Western Reserve University's Begun Center on Violence Prevention Research and Education at Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences; the Partnership for A Safer Cleveland; Mental Health Services, Inc.; Children Who Witness Violence; and the Institute for Study and Prevention of Violence at Kent State.

Members of the CMHA Police Department and Dr. Mark Singer, CWRU professor of Social Work, will talk about this new program that is showing success in linking people in crisis to appropriate social services. PAR hopes to expand to include mental health issues, drug/alcohol problems and more.

Founded in 1933, the CMHA is the oldest public housing authority in the country. The police department has obtained national recognition through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). It serves Cuyahoga County excluding Chagrin Falls Township primarily through two federally assisted housing programs: Low-Income Public Housing, which serves about 19,000 residents, and the Housing Choice Voucher Program, which provides rental assistance for 14,000 households.

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