

CMHA CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

CMHA Residents Write, Dance, and Sing in Honor of Black Heritage

Throughout the month of February, residents of many CMHA properties celebrated Black History Month in various creative ways, unique to each property. Common to all were music, dance, and good times.

Outhwaite held a program on the history of “stepping,” a popular African American form of dance, while the Hough AMP took students on a tour of the Underground Railroad in Ohio, and adults enjoyed a night of film screenings, and lectures centered on Blues, Soul, R&B, and Gospel music. Riverview held its Annual Black History Program, and Riverside Park held a celebration that included traditional African music, dance, and soul food.

Severance Tower held an event called, “Memories in Black,” where over sixty senior residents played piano, sang, and shared their memories and stories with each other. One resident shared her stamp collection featuring African Americans and another told the story of how his family came to Cleveland after escaping from the South. After the program, traditional soul food was served, which was prepared by the LAC Board with the help of two residents.

Woodhill Homes also held a poster contest, in which any resident between the ages of five and seventeen could enter in their respective age group in order to win a cash prize. At least thirty youths entered the contest and the theme was “Doing Me...Making History,” which allowed the children to “see themselves as history makers,” according to BerRonica Steele of CMHA’s AMP Department. The posters showed how each child related to a black person in history, with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. being a favorite.

Lakeview Terrace hosted the *We Rise, We Fall, We Accomplish All Together Festival*, which included poetry and dance performances, as well as a production by the youth of Lakeview with the help of Cleveland Public Art’s Brick City Theatre. The play was entitled, “I Am Somebody,” and the students worked with professional performers to prepare for the play. While working with the professionals, the students did projects involving dance, creative writing, song, and theater. Lakeview Terrace Community Center Manager, Vallorie Peck said, “In partnership with Cleveland Public theatre and our Resident LAC we rose to the occasion to embody our Black History celebration theme.”