

HONORING MARTIN LUTHER KING

CMHA pays tribute and celebrates the birthday of civil rights leader

This year MLK Day, which fell one day before Barack Obama's inauguration as the 44th president of the United States, invoked an unmistakable spirit that rushed throughout families across the country.

President Obama issued a statement declaring, "King's was a life lived in loving service to others. As we honor that legacy, it's not a day just to pause and reflect -- it's a day to act."

And that is exactly what CMHA is continuing to do. Act by enriching the lives of residents in the community. To commemorate the special day, CMHA held a MLK Celebration on Friday, January 23, 2009 at Lakeview Terrace.

"Clearly, it is important to recognize the importance of both Dr. Martin Luther King, and the Civil Rights Movement," said CMHA Chief Executive Officer. "This program was an excellent tribute to a man and movement that changed the course of history."

More than 200 people joined together in the Lakeview Community Center in remembrance of Martin Luther King. The program was comprised of remarks from Commissioner Doris Jones, Chief Executive Officer George Phillips, Chief of Staff Jeffery Patterson, Administrative Assistant Lillian Davis, and Program Coordinator Bobby McDowell. In addition, Christian jazz combo band Danny and Friends performed as well as CMHA's own 21st Century Program kids, a program where youth have access to high quality academic support in their neighborhoods.

"Just watching Mr. McDowell's influence and the culmination of his experience with the kids in our program, it has inspired me to continue to strive for my ultimate goal of bringing our youth and seniors together," said Jacci Griffin, event coordinator. "At one point, the children were singing the prayer he taught them. There is nothing more beautiful than the voices of children and to watch how affected and engaged the kids were, is more rewarding than you could know."