

Leadership Cleveland Class of 2010 visits CMHA

CMHA Board Chairman Ronald V. Johnson, CEO George Phillips-Olivier, PAC President Lillian Davis and members of CMHA's Executive Team hosted several members of the 2010 Leadership Cleveland Class. Leadership Cleveland is designed to prepare and build leadership resources within the Greater Cleveland community. Participants in this dynamic, tuition-based, nine-month program represent a diverse group of recognized and established leaders from across a wide variety of organizations representing the private, nonprofit, and government sectors.

A major focus of the program is to engage class members in discussion of various topics that are critical to this region, such as Education, Economic Development, Social Services, Diversity, and Government. It is in this spirit that CMHA was selected as the site where the class could obtain a true understanding of the housing challenges and opportunities facing the low income residents of Cuyahoga County. In order to demonstrate how far public housing has come since its inception, the members of the class participated in a tour of CMHA properties in the Central Area which includes the Cedar Estates, Outhwaite Homes, Carver Park and King Kennedy's Phoenix, Renaissance and Delaney Villages.

Upon arriving at King Kennedy North High-rise, Chairman Johnson opened the presentation by outlining the purpose, mission, and passion of CMHA. This was followed by a brief history of Public Housing and CMHA from LCC 2005 alumnus, CEO Phillips-Olivier. The class then received an overview of the construction, development, sustainability, housing opportunities for persons with disabilities, social service activities, and the application process of the Low Income Housing Program from CMHA's Executive Team. After this overview, a discussion was led by the HCVP Director revolving around how the Housing Choice Voucher Program operates and functions throughout Cuyahoga County.

LCC 2010 member Kristin Warzocha stated that after the presentation, she had a better understanding of the magnitude of the agency and was very excited about some of the innovative programming in the area of sustainability. Finally, the group toured the CMHA Police Station, viewing the new technology that CMHA is using to help keep its residents safe. After the tour, LCC Damond Mace stated that he was impressed with the new and renovated housing that CMHA is developing in this area, the care with which the Authority is maintaining the properties, and the dedication of the leadership team.

The event ended with the Class returning to a debriefing session where they shared their experiences with other LCC 2010 classmates. CEO Phillips-Olivier was thrilled the 2010 Leadership Cleveland Class was able to visit CMHA and learn more about public housing. "The more people who understand the needs of our residents and the low-income community as a whole," he said, "the more allies we will have in our fight to continue providing services and support to the low-income residents of Cuyahoga County."