

DEVELOPING YOUTH IS A MAJOR PART OF THE GAME

CMHA's Youth Baseball League celebrated the season with an end-of-the-year banquet

In a joint effort between Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) and the City of Cleveland Baseball Federation, a Youth Baseball League was revitalized to provide an excellent outlet to channel our young people's minds and energy while teaching responsibility and team building tools.

The teams are comprised of 85 boys and girls, ages 9-15 competing at King Kennedy, Wilson Family, Lakeview, Addison Townhouses, and Phyllis Wheatley Community Center.

"The program provided some positive, constructive competition for our residents. The kids really gained a sense of pride and belonging with their teams," said Shaun Reed, CMHA Housing Operations Administrator and volunteer coach. "Sports can teach self esteem, values and life lessons, which are important when growing up."

The resident league is a seven-week single elimination format, with play-offs and a championship at the end of the season. The two teams with the best records competed in the final championship.

This year King Kennedy ended with the championship prize and was recognized at the sit-down banquet, held on September 26, 2008 at the newly renovated Lakeview Community Center. More than 150 family members and players attended the event.

"After 16 years of working with youth and sports, I've never been more proud than I was witnessing the pride, commitment, dedication and determination these young people exhibited," said Tony Jeffries, who recruited, managed, and implemented the youth league. "They were true practitioners of the concept of teamwork and the virtue of unity."

CMHA provides equipment and transportation for the resident kids in the league. This program helps to build character and teach critical skills in life to disadvantaged youth residing in Cuyahoga County.

"We are proud to collaborate with CMHA on this partnership and are absolutely committed to enhancing the community by supporting kids who need this type of outlet to succeed in the future," said John Carter, Executive Director of the Cleveland Baseball Federation.