

Back 2 School Rally

Cleveland organizations partner to give back to the community

On Friday, August 19, 2011, a back to school rally was held for neighborhood students living in Central and/or attending the Central Promise Neighborhood Schools. The inaugural Back to School rally brings together parents, students, teachers, and community members to promote education and ensure students in the Central neighborhood are ready for school, prepared to access resources in their schools, and persist academically.

The rally was held from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at East Technical High School gym and parking lot at 2439 E. 55th Street in Cleveland. There was food, dancing, haircuts and braiding, school supplies including uniform vouchers, music, information booths, and more to get kids ready for school and off to a good start. Students attending George Washington Carver, Stokes Central Academy and Marion Sterling were encouraged to attend, as well as high school students who live in the Cleveland Central Promise Neighborhood that runs from Euclid to Woodland avenues and E. 22 to E. 55 streets.

“We are so happy to help support this back to school rally and to be working with the families and children in Central,” said Susanna H. Krey, president of the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland.

The foundation, along with partners and collaborators including the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority, are applying for a federal “Promise” grant from the Department of Education, that will, as President Obama said, “support a number of different services and educational reforms to help improve the lives of our young people from birth through childhood, from college through a career.”

A partnership between Cleveland Central Promise Neighborhood (CCPN), Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD), Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA), Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland, Lighthouse and Cleveland Z107.9 radio station made this event possible. Also at the event, families were sent with tips, tools and resources for school readiness, success, and persistence.

“This is a wonderful partnership that will have a deep impact on the community and the residents’ families,” said Jeffery K. Patterson, CMHA Acting CEO. “CMHA is proud to be a sponsor and part of such an important and uplifting effort.”

CMHA held additional events for back to school at Carver Park, Cedar, King Kennedy, and Outhwaite Estates, where they featured school uniform give-aways and provided school supplies. Silverman’s provided the uniforms that were donated.