

DEVELOPING RISING LEADERS

CMHA hosted a community networking event for Cleveland's Bridge Builders

Cleveland Bridge Builders, an organization that cultivates rising leaders for our community's future, visited CMHA's Lakeview Terrace Estates on Thursday, February 19, 2009. CMHA hosted the event in their community center, giving tours of the facility and presenting on the company's best practices.

"CMHA was excited about the opportunity to host this event and share some things about our organization and the residents that we serve," said Jeffery K. Patterson, Chief of Staff and Operations.

CMHA Presenters Donovan Duncan, Real Estate and Development Administrator, Mark Novak, Director of Energy Conservation, and Lisa Enoch, Community and Social Services Manager, divided the 65 business professionals into three groups where they presented targeted, informational lectures on development, sustainability and resident services.

"The Social Services presentation was very informative. I thought they made an interesting point that when you are pulling together organizations to work together for a common cause, you need to create that sense of trust," said Christine Mittin from Cuyahoga Community College – West Campus. "I can identify with that being in programming. You need a hook to pull people in and that is something I can take with me."

Chad Kunkle from Cleveland Clinic commented on the energy conservation lecture, "The idea of being green from rooftop to light bulb is amazing. It's the most proactive approach to sustainability I've seen."

The training through these types of meetings, serve as a leadership resource for the community, embracing inclusive and connective leadership, and encouraging communication between emerging leaders and established leaders in Cleveland.

Program participants also benefit from working with groups that feature a diversity of race, ethnicity, religion, profession, and socio-economic background. And, most importantly, it builds a bridge between rising and current leaders of the community, creating true intergenerational relationships among leaders.

"It was great to see CMHA and Bridge Builders partner together today. It made for an inspiring luncheon," said Ben Miladin, Manager at Recovery Resources. "It's nice to walk away from an uplifting presentation like that with real-life business tips that I can put to use as well as a list of networking contacts to follow up with."