

HELPING HANDS FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

CMHA's Garden Valley gives back to their residents

On Thursday, December 18, 2008, CMHA threw a holiday celebration in the community center at Garden Valley. The event was a wonderful collaboration between the Local Advisory Council (LAC) and the Southeast properties. More than 200 people gathered together to celebrate the holiday season with a lovely dinner prepared by the LAC residents of Garden Valley.

Residents were informed of beneficial programs and upcoming events taking place at Garden Valley. For example, Cleveland Reads, the Greater Cleveland Literacy Coalition, acts as a primary literacy resource and works to strengthen and enhance literacy efforts in Greater Cleveland. They attended and donated gift bags for the children, which included hats and a brand new pair of gloves for the winter months as well as books and puzzles. As an added bonus, the children who had completed the Prime Time Reading Club at the center also received an extra surprise goodie bag, compliments of their facilitators.

“The party was very successful. The children in the summer program were thrilled to receive the gifts from Cleveland Reads. Plus the fact that Santa Claus was there, made it even more special to them,” said Valerie James, Community Center Coordinator.

Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.), a summer program that provides youth with jobs, worked through the Cleveland Reads program for the Prime Time Reading Club as mentors to the young children in the program.

Y.O.U. students as well as mentors for the Prime Time program participated as Santa's little helpers for the event and even Santa himself made a surprise visit and took photos with families and kids of all ages.