

## **SPOTLIGHT ON OUR SENIORS**

*CMHA partners in the city of Cleveland's 20<sup>th</sup> annual Senior Day*

On Thursday, May 21, 2009 an annual Senior Day Celebration was held by the City of Cleveland Department of Aging. More than 600 people gathered in the Cleveland Convention Center to be a part of the festivities. The event took place to honor outstanding seniors who continue to devote their time and talent to make a positive change in our neighborhoods.

With more than 30 booths represented by businesses throughout the Cleveland area, senior citizens mingled and collected giveaways from representatives that pertain to the elderly. Stations for health screens were also available by local hospitals to provide medical assistance to the seniors on the spot.

“This was a wonderful event for senior citizen day,” said Larry Thompkins, CMHA resident of Bohn Tower. “I was able to get screened and have my blood pressure and cholesterol checked all in one place.” Senior David England added, “This was a very nice thing to do for us senior citizens. And it does not go unnoticed. We certainly appreciate it!”

The day included breakfast and lunch for all in attendance, Dick Russ from WKYC-TV as the Master of Ceremonies, musical invocation by Y-Haven's Men Choir, America the Beautiful by Tony Dial, an employee of Cleveland Department of Aging, a warm welcome from Mayor Frank Jackson, and greetings from the President of Cleveland City Council Martin J. Sweeney.

“The month of May is Older Americans Month. The City of Cleveland is proud to join in this celebration. Our elders are one of our greatest resources. On this memorable day we are recognizing 21 special seniors who have made extraordinary contributions to our community,” said Mayor Frank G. Jackson.

Great performances followed by Cleveland Tops Swingband Classic Big Band, Swinging Seniors of the Zelma George Recreation Center, Horace Allen, Golden Idol Performance, Murtis H. Taylor Multi-Service Center line dancers, Jurlee Thomas, Golden Idol Performance, Gunning Adult Dancers, Theresa Nieves, Golden Idol Performance, and Forever Young John F. Kennedy Recreation Center.

“Senior Day is always great to attend. The dancers are the best. It's something I look forward to every year,” said CMHA Commissioner Doris V. Jones.