

News from POAH Preservation of Affordable Housing

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 11, 2010

Contact:
Maria Plati, Manager of Communications
Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH)
617.449-0880
mplati@poah.org

U.S. Rep. Emanuel Cleaver shares snow cones and supportive words with Hawthorne Place children

Visits Back to School Rally and Summer Science Fair at Boys & Girls Club

Independence, MO - Congressman Emanuel Cleaver II shared snow cones, popcorn and words of support with the children of the Hawthorne Place Apartments at a Back to School Rally held in conjunction with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City at its Annual Keystone Event and Summer Science Fair Aug. 5.

“I wish I had all of this when I was growing up in affordable housing!” said Cleaver about the elaborate science projects the children created as part of the Atomic Blast Summer Program, a math and science initiative. Cleaver grew up in affordable housing in Texas. The day also honored the nation’s military personnel and included free backpacks donated by Molina Health and the Fort Osage Church of the Nazarene plus free medical eye and dental screenings, refreshments, games and prizes.

Hawthorne Place is a 750-unit family housing development in the eastern Kansas City area owned by the Boston-based nonprofit Preservation of Affordable Housing and is home to more than 1,000 children. The property, which encompasses 102 buildings on 66 acres, is the single largest provider of Section 8 rental subsidies in the state of Missouri.

A satellite Kansas City Boys and Girls Club, food pantry, and computer lab are housed in the new 22,000 square-foot David Stanley Community Center at Hawthorne Place. Hawthorne’s Residents Services Department provides families with education and activities to build life skills necessary to make positive choices, decrease violence and increase community involvement,

“I saw smiles, laughter, and community bonding and building, said Tyrone Moore Area Director for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City. “This school year’s beginning looks very bright as we strive to cultivate the youth and families at Hawthorne Place.”

“The Back to School Rally has always been a success with a huge outpouring of support by both residents and others in the community and this year was no different, said Rochelle M. Beeks, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Preservation Housing Management, referring to the 30 plus community supporters of the event.

Contributors to the event included:

Community of Christ Fellowship
Priority Dental Clinic
Crown Pest Control
Arrow Cold Control
Sonic Americas Drive-In
BurgerKing
U.S. ARMY
Independence Police Departments
City of Independence Health Department
Kansas City Metro Jr. Golf Association
Good Samaritan Project
Blue Cross Blue Shield
Home Based Head Start
Fort Osage School District
Independence School District Adult Education
MO Alliance Eye Research Foundation
Community Service League
Missouri Career Center
Priority Dental Clinic
QuikTrip Corp.
Molina Health Care
Crown Pest Control
Epic Landscape
Arrow Cold Control
Papa Murphy’s Pizza
Los Compas Mexican Restaurant
Independence School of Cosmetology
Deffenbaugh Industries
WrenchTech

About POAH: nonprofit Preservation of Affordable Housing operates 6,602 affordable rental units for the elderly, the disabled and low-income working families in Connecticut.

District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Hampshire, Rhode Island.

POAH's purchase of Hawthorne Place broke new ground in preservation policy when Missouri Senator Christopher Bond helped modify the regulations around the Low Income Housing Preservation Act to allow nonprofits like POAH to purchase properties similar to Hawthorne Place. Bond also worked with HUD to allow additional non-HUD funds to be included in Hawthorne Place's financing package.