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**CABRINI RESOURCE FAIR OPENS DOORS OF POSSIBILITY
FOR MORE THAN 350 CHA RESIDENTS**
Faith-based community takes active role in effort to assist families

Almost 400 Chicago Housing Authority residents attended a resource fair at the Cabrini Green housing development to learn about everything from job openings to training to community resources that can help families make progress in their journey toward self-sufficiency.

Employment & Employer Services (E&ES), a Chicago Department of Human Services provider, sponsored the fair, providing everything from volunteers to refreshments. Representatives from more than 35 organizations participated, offering residents a “one-stop shop” to gather information, and providing answers to a variety of questions. Jack Fitzpatrick, CEO of E&ES said the enthusiasm from residents and providers was exceptional.

“Our whole mission is to help individuals improve their lives. I personally was very moved by the quality of the interaction between the residents and the providers who were there,” Fitzpatrick said. “It was an opportunity for residents to be helped, not just that day but to establish ways we can continue to work with them.” He went on to say that E&ES will be in contact with all of the providers who participated to make sure that there is follow-through on the range of matters discussed with residents.

Cabrini Local Advisory Council president Kelvin Cannon, a member of the Cabrini community his entire life, said it took time and energy to put the resource fair together, and that he is glad to be part of anything designed to help residents.

“My door is always open to the community,” Cannon said. “Many people came and asked if this fair was on the up and up – and I told them yes.” He said the residents who attended were very glad they did, as many got appointments for job interviews.

Having the fair at the Lower North Center/Living Faith Community Church, located at the Cabrini Green development, meant that residents did not have to travel far to receive information about job opportunities in many fields, including retail, banking and construction. Residents found out about summer youth programs, classes through the City Colleges of Chicago, contact numbers for health care providers and much more. And the involvement of Living Faith Community Church was very important as it is an already-existing community anchor, and is proof of the power inherent in partnerships with the faith-based community.

The fair was part of the much larger Plan for Transformation, a 10-year, \$1.6 billion effort to turn dilapidated public housing communities into healthy, viable neighborhoods that families can feel proud to call home. But the Plan is about more than just bricks. It is about providing families with every chance to succeed.

“Some residents are seeking employment, some want to attend school while others need job training skills or reliable, affordable day care,” said Andrew Teitelman, CHA Deputy Managing Director of Resident Services. “The goal is self sufficiency. Giving residents access to several different avenues allowed them to begin to meet their needs on a number of levels.”

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