Saint Paul Public Housing Agency Hosted Its First Partner Recognition Event.

On February 24, 2015 the Saint Paul Public Housing Agency (PHA) hosted its first partner recognition event to celebrate the organizations that provide supportive services to public housing residents. Representatives from over forty organizations attended the event at the Prom Center.

Resident Initiatives Director Alicia Huckleby said “Although the PHA is not a service provider, part of its mission is to provide links to community services. We fully recognize that for many residents, having the opportunity to access services can make a great difference in the success and duration of their tenancy.”

The program began with remarks from PHA Executive Director Jon Gutzmann and the PHA Commissioners. Some of the featured programs at the partner event included: City Wide Resident Council and the Presidents Council of PHA Hi-Rises, St. Paul-Ramsey County Department of Public Health, Metropolitan State University’s Nursing Program, Hmong American Farmers Association, Wilder Foundation, Saint Paul Neighborhood Network, Cycles for Change and Minnesota Resource Center.

In addition to the many new and ongoing partnership programs that were recognized, one program that ended in 2014 was also celebrated. Sue Didier, the recently-retired president of Thompson Associates, summarized the accomplishments of the PHA’s HOME (Home Ownership Made Easy) program. During its 24 year run HOME helped 302 families buy their own homes and move out of public housing or Section 8-assisted units. The program began in 1990 as a collaboration between the PHA, the Family Housing Fund, the City of St. Paul’s Department of Planning and Economic Development, and Thompson Associates.

Click here to see the PHA’s Resident Initiatives Fact Sheet.