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Orange Seniors Remember Selma

Orange Housing Authority Takes Seniors to See ‘Selma’ to Mark Black History Month

ORANGE, NJ – February, 4 2014 – The Orange Housing Authority (OHA) hosted a “Senior Day at the Movies” on Wednesday, February 4 to watch a reenactment of the 1965 Selma to Montgomery voting rights march.

The movie chronicles Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other civil rights leaders make history during the civil rights era when blacks could not vote. Today, Dr. King is widely credited with the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

As a tribute to Dr. King’s leadership in human rights, the Orange Housing Authority invited seniors living in their communities to see the movie free of charge. The City of Orange provided transportation at no cost to a theater in Newark.

“For our seniors, this movie meant reliving the civil rights era in a new and inspiring way, as they reminiscence about past struggles that reshaped America,” said OHA Executive Director Walter McNeil, Jr.. The movie clearly shows what one man can accomplish when there is willpower.”

Last month, OHA hosted a special event for their seniors to commemorate Dr. King. Executive Director McNeil, Jr., OHA Commissioner Ernest Williams and resident Donna Jackson-Banks read passages from inspiring speeches Dr. King had delivered.

At that event, senior tenants shared their personal recollections of what happened during that tumultuous time. After seeing how engaged the residents were, the OHA coordinated the trip to the movie theater.

For one resident, the movie filled her with a mixture of inexplicable emotions. “To be honest, I don’t understand how people could hate so much,” said Janice Stuart. “There was a lot of biblical truth behind it. All in all, it was a great movie.”

The OHA has planned a month-long list of events to commemorate Black History Month. For more information, please visit www.haconj.org or call Public Relations Coordinator Phyllis Greer at 973-677-4557.

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