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## **NEWS RELEASE/MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**You are cordially invited to cover**

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**Thursday, December 16, 2010 ---- 5 to 8 pm,  
Lakeside Park Garden Center, Oakland**

**30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF OAKLAND HOUSING AUTHORITY'S "HOLIDAY SPLENDOR!"  
OHA EMPLOYEES CREATE, FUND AND STAFF PARTY FOR ITS SENIORS**

**JEAN QUAN, OAKLAND'S NEW MAYOR, IS GUEST OF HONOR**

**OHA Resident Seniors in their Holiday Finest - Annual Event includes Dinner, Senior Fashion Show, Live Band, Line Dancing, all Transportation for Seniors, and more**

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(Oakland, CA) -- Oakland Housing Authority Employees and officers of its police force and members of Oakland's Black Firefighters Association transform the holidays for seniors who live in Oakland's Housing Authority developments by hosting and staffing the 30<sup>th</sup> year of its annual extravaganza, *Holiday Splendor*.

This entertaining, non-denominational, multicultural holiday party is designed to create a social outing for over 120 OHA residents who may feel lonely or are isolated from families and friends during the holiday season.

Supported in part by the employees of the Oakland Housing Authority, the Oakland Housing Authority Foundation, the Oakland Police Department Foundation and others, *Holiday Splendor* is designed to get seniors, most on a fixed income, out of their apartments to enjoy a lovely catered dinner and a program designed specifically for them.

All residents can take advantage of free round trip transportation to the party in vans, cabs, paratransit and OHA vehicles with the help of OHA police service aides. Each resident is escorted into the decorated dining hall by a member of the OHA staff.

The evening features a catered dinner by Lady's Catering. "Kicking the Mule" jazz and blues band returns by popular demand to play holiday music for dining and Chicago-Style dancing. The musicians also play music for group line dances, one of the most popular segments of the evening. Another highlight is the senior fashion show where each guest can walk the red carpet and show off their holiday style with a VIP escort. Numerous door prizes, donated by local merchants, are awarded. Seniors are pampered with a slide show of previous years' events, a photo booth to take photos with friends, and at the end of the evening each senior receives a gift to take home.

“For thirty years, this continues to be an immensely popular and satisfying event for both the seniors and the staff and we all look forward to *Holiday Splendor* every year. It’s a chance for OHA staff, who take time out of their lives during the busy holiday season, to serve our residents in a very personal way. There is lots of laughter and enjoyment for all of us during this wonderful event honoring our senior residents,” said Eric Johnson, Executive Director of Oakland Housing Authority.

Long recognized as one of the leading housing authorities in the nation, the Oakland Housing Authority continues to be an innovator in the field of public housing. Currently, OHA provides housing for approximately 10 percent of Oakland’s families, operating 1,606 public housing units and it manages, on behalf of its nonprofit affiliate, 1,554 project based Section 8 scattered site units. Presently, 13,282 Oakland families, elderly and disabled may rent with Section 8 vouchers. The average annual income of OHA families is about \$15,000.

For further information visit the OHA website at [www.oha.org](http://www.oha.org) or call 510-874-1512.