



### **The Morehouse School of Medicine Prevention Research Center Hosts Another Dynamic Community Meet and Greet**

The Morehouse School of Medicine Prevention Research Center (MSM PRC) hosted its 2<sup>nd</sup> Community Meet and Greet event on Thursday, April 25, 2013, at the Villages at Carver YMCA, located in Southeast Atlanta. The goal of the Meet and Greet is to raise the visibility of the Center and its community coalition board (CCB) to foster partnership building, resource sharing and community connectivity. The event proved to be a moving experience for the Center, its Board, community residents, as well as, council representatives and other participants from local Neighborhood Planning Units V, X, Y and Z.

The Program featured institutional greetings from Dean Valerie Montgomery Rice, MD and Department of Community Health and Preventive Medicine Chair, Dr. Beverly Taylor, as well as messages from the Principal Investigator, Dr. Daniel Blumenthal, and Center Director, Dr. Tabia Henry Akintobi. Mr. LaShawn Hoffman, MSM PRC CCB Chair and CEO of the Pittsburgh Community Improvement Association, Inc., guided the participants through an evening that included spirited and vibrant interactive performances by the St. Paul AME Wings of Spirit Dance Ministry and the Beulah Boys. The program included community roundtables, which were facilitated discussions where residents could voice community needs and interests in research, community health programs and social programs. Participants were able to access community resources including the Atlanta Regional Commission and Atlanta Citizens Review Board. They also were able to learn more about the Center's affiliated research initiatives including, but not limited to, the Minority Men's Oral Health and Dental Access Program and National Institutes of Health-funded Center of Excellence on Health Disparities (Dr. Ronald Braithwaite, Principal Investigator).

Mr. Hoffman summed up his thoughts about the event and his words echo the sentiment of our PRC faculty and staff, *"...the participation of the community is vital to the success of our future work. The Meet and Greet fosters and renews partnerships formed between the community and MSM PRC on issues that residents have identified as important. Improving the quality of life for everyone is our ultimate goal."*

The MSM PRC team was excited to connect intimately with communities it serves once again and has already begun the planning process for next year!

For more information about this event or the PRC, visit our website: [www.msm.edu/prc](http://www.msm.edu/prc) or contact our office at 404.752.1022.

# Photo Gallery



