

## **New “Digs” on Cecil B. Moore Avenue for the M.L. King Older Adult Center**

On an unbearably frigid Wednesday morning in January, there sat a beautiful white tent in the middle of the 2100 block of Cecil B. Moore Avenue. The temperature was so cold that heaters had to be placed inside the tent in an attempt to provide a warm atmosphere. The air, though cold, was filled with anticipation and curiosity. Inside were representatives from various television stations and rows of chairs for invited guests, dignitaries and the community. There were plenty of hot beverages to keep the spirit warm. On January 29, 2014 the purpose was to announce that Project Home was breaking ground on a brand new 30,000 square foot wellness center – the Stephen Klein Wellness Center. The center is named after its lead funder, who has been a champion of this project for years. It is expected that this center will provide a sorely needed health and wellness center for homeless men, women and children and residents in an area where many of the people live in poverty. It is supported in part by Jefferson University Hospitals, Philadelphia Freedom Valley YMCA, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the City of Philadelphia.

Those in attendance included Sister Mary Scullion, co-founder of Project Home, Governor Tom Corbett, Mayor Michael Nutter and Council President Darrell Clarke. A total of thirteen speeches were delivered, all stating why this was such a worthy endeavor. Also in attendance were members of the Martin Luther King Older Adult Center, located directly across the street at 2101 Cecil B. Moore Avenue. They were there to hear about the plans for a new Senior Center, which is scheduled to be built next to the Wellness Center. The members of the now-standing 40+ year old Martin Luther King Older Adult Center have been fighting for a new center for almost twenty years. With the support and assistance of Council President Darrell Clarke, this dream will finally become a reality.

Both structures are slated to be erected and completed sometime in 2015. The structures that were once standing have since been demolished, and the land is now in the process of being cleared and prepped for building. It will be interesting to see the transformation take place as these two new structures change the face of the 2100 block of Cecil B. Moore Avenue.