



Metropolitan Housing Coalition NEWSLETTER

January 2011

MHC to Release a Fair Housing Action Paper at the 15th Annual Race and Relations Conference

Two great events woven together! The Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission's 15th Annual Race and Relations Conference on January 25, 2011 will have Lilly Ledbetter as the keynote speaker **and** MHC will release *The State of Fair Housing in Louisville: Impediments and Improvements*, a new report and action paper about Louisville's remaining barriers to fair housing choice and how to address them.

The Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission has planned great speakers for the conference, beginning at 8:00 a.m., culminating in Lilly Ledbetter as the keynote luncheon speaker. Ms. Ledbetter is a fair pay activist and the namesake of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, signed into law in 2009. Ms. Ledbetter's case rose through the federal court system after a jury awarded her \$3.3 million for discrimination in pay based on gender. The case went to the U.S. Supreme Court, which determined that Ms. Ledbetter needed to know about the discrimination within six months of being hired; but Ms. Ledbetter only learned of the discrimination after decades, as salaries were kept confidential. Due to this Catch-22 created by the court, a law was passed to eliminate this quandary and was the first piece of legislation signed into law by President Obama.

The State of Fair Housing in Louisville: Impediments and Improvements uses information from the *2010 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice in Louisville, Kentucky*, as well as additional research. It distills a set of initial steps we can take to achieve fair housing choice. The 15th Annual Race and Relations Conference is a great venue for introducing MHC's new paper and getting support for action steps to eliminate barriers to fair housing choice.

The conference has a modest fee of \$30 for the whole morning and lunch or just \$25 for the lunch. Since there is a fee, MHC will do a presentation on the paper for free at a later date. The paper will also be posted on the MHC website on January 26. But the conference promises to be great and has an interesting venue as well: the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage, 1701 W. Muhammad Ali Boulevard, Louisville.

For more information about the conference and to register, go to www.louisvilleky.gov/humanrelations or call 574-3631.

Homeless - Not Helpless

Coordinating a Community Response to Homeless Children White Paper

As MHC's research has shown, children's homelessness is a growing crisis in Jefferson County. From 2008-9 to 2009-10, the number of students experiencing homelessness during the school year increased by 23% to 10,555 students. With such a significant rise in the number of students experiencing homelessness, three major systems – the Jefferson County Public Schools, the Kentucky Department of Community-Based Services and the Jefferson County Family Court- convened a cross-training on the effects of this exponential rise in the number and percentage of youth who are homeless and touched by these systems. The focus of the training, coordinated by these agencies in partnership with MHC, the Making Connections Network and the Coalition for the Homeless, was to learn about this growing problem and together approach solutions to serving these children.

Over 200 people from these systems, as well as other social service providers, met on September 17, 2010 for a day-long session. Conference attendees participated in small group breakout sessions to collaboratively brainstorm ideas that identify and address the gaps and barriers that exist within and between systems to meeting the best interests of children who are homeless.

MHC has written a "White Paper" based on the ideas from these small groups. The White Paper identified four recommended initial action steps to help our community and these systems better meet the needs of homeless children.

- Create an interagency homeless youth working group, with committees to work on the next steps.
- Create a comprehensive resource database to serve homeless children/families and those at-risk of becoming homeless.
- Start "Homeless Connect" events targeted to families with children.
- Advocate for stronger affordable housing policies on the local, state, and federal levels.

The White Paper will be posted on the MHC website once it has been distributed to conference attendees. We will send an e-mail alert when it is available online.

Nonprofit Housing Production and Repair Loan Program: 2010

In Since 1998, MHC has administered the Non-profit Housing Production and Repair (NHPR) loan program of the Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC) in Louisville. NHPR helps non-profit housing developers create affordable housing, rental and owner-occupied, throughout Kentucky. Activities can include minor and/or emergency repairs, down payment assistance, closing costs assistance, acquisition of housing units and major rehabilitation. Of the number of persons assisted by projects supported by the NHPR, 60 percent must be at or below 60 percent of the area median income (AMI). All persons served by the program must be at or below 100 percent of the AMI. KHC makes NHPR loans to 8 eligible non-profit housing associations statewide, including MHC, who then make loans to non-profit developers.

MHC has made over \$2.5 million in short-term loans to greater Louisville non-profits since 1998. Doug Magee, MHC's Non-profit Housing Alliance Program Director, administers the NHPR for MHC. He is assisted by a volunteer Gatekeepers Committee, which must review all NHPR loan applications from non-profits for approval.

For 2010, MHC applied for and was awarded an allocation of \$279,451 from KHC to our loan fund, which is now around \$1 million. With this allocation, we received notice that MHC, through our members, was to produce 166 affordable housing units in 2010. Of these units, 150 were to have costs exceeding \$25,000 and 16 were to have costs between \$10,001 and \$25,000. As part of the operational support program, MHC will receive \$153,876 after reporting on the 166 units.

In mid-2010, MHC reported 33 units with over \$25,000 spent per unit and 2 units with costs between \$10-25,000 per unit to KHC. Doug Magee is completing the paper work on the other required units. MHC wants to thank New Directions, the Housing Partnership, Inc, Louisville Metro Housing Authority, and River City Housing for their timely reports. A new loan was made to REBOUND, with reporting due in 2011.

New affordable housing units have been purchased, rehabilitated and built new throughout many neighborhoods in Louisville Metro. We are reporting units in Shawnee, Smoketown, Shelby Park, Limerick, California, Portland, Original Highlands, Russell, Phoenix Hill, Cane Run Road area, and Valley Station.

The Gatekeepers Committee of the NHPR loan fund will be considering two current requests for loans from REBOUND and Wellspring. MHC also wants to thanks the Gatekeepers, who currently are Dave White, Kelly Clements and Jim Watkins, for their hard work and guidance.

Poverty Simulations: Educating Youth About the Causes and Effects of Poverty

By Theresa Boyd, MHC

By volunteering in recent months with the Coalition for the Homeless, I have seen how education is being used to increase awareness of homelessness and poverty in Louisville. Education, advocacy and outreach help demonstrate the debilitating effects that poverty can have on people's lives and how it can lead to homelessness. For more than 20 years, the Coalition for the Homeless has worked closely with civic groups, local and state government, as well as concerned citizens. I have seen how their education and outreach work has impacted high school students. Students, often unaware of the incapacitating effects that poverty can have and how poverty is created, have a unique opportunity to "live" the life of a low-income family through workshops given by the Coalition for the Homeless called "Poverty Simulations."

These unique workshops are learning tools that give students the opportunity to understand the realities of poverty through the life of a low-income family. The poverty simulation examines poverty from a variety of perspectives. Participants may have families and perhaps children with mental or physical disabilities. Some utilize public assistance, some are employed and others may be elderly on a fixed income and live alone. These simulations, interactions with bill collectors, mortgage bankers, police, service agencies and grocers, give students the often daunting task of trying to figure out how they will provide basic needs for their families and find services on a limited budget.

While real poverty is anything but a simulation, these Poverty Simulations can be used as a tool to create awareness about the hardships and reality of poverty. If you, your organization or school are interested in participating in a Poverty Simulation, please contact Becki Winchel at the Coalition for the Homeless at 636-9950 or bwinchel@louhomeless.org.

Congratulations to Peter Wayne

MHC Board of Directors member Peter Wayne IV is chair of the Louisville Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section. The Bar Association is honoring the Young Lawyers Section as its 2010 Section of the Year at the 2011 Bench & Bar Dinner on January 20.

Schedule of Events

January 11 - Fair Housing Coalition Meeting. New Directions, 1000 E. Liberty, 2:00 -3:00 p.m

January 11- MHC Education & Advocacy Committee Meeting. New Directions, 1000 E. Liberty, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

January 18 - Louisville Vacant Properties Campaign Meeting. Presbyterian Community Center, 701 South Hancock, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

January 15 - Remembering Dr. King's Cry for Justice in Health Care. Dr. Claudia Fegan, an expert on health care systems, speaks with questions and discussion afterward. Sponsored by Physicians for a National Health Program-KY and Kentuckians for Single Payer Health Care. For more information, call 636-1551. Urban League, 1535 W. Broadway, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

January 15 - Jefferson County Community Farm Alliance Chapter Meeting. Features a pot-luck dinner and discussion about the food and farm related issues affecting Louisville. For more information or to RSVP, contact Tim at the CFA office at 223-3655 or timcfa@bellsouth.net, Fox Hollow Farm in Crestwood, 4:00-8:00 p.m.

January 15 - Celebrations of Interfaith and Intercultural Understanding. Sponsored by Interfaith Paths to Peace, Rainbow Spiritual Education Center, and Unity of Louisville. For more information, call 214-7322 or email interfaithterry@gmail.com. Celebration Services, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.; International Finger Foods, 12:30 p.m.; Interfaith Celebration, 1:30-3:00 p.m. Unity of Louisville, 757 South Brook.

January 18 - The State of Reproductive Justice in Kentucky: A Community Conversation. Featured panelists include representatives from the Kentucky Health Justice Network, WENCH, and the ACLU Reproductive Freedom Project. Free and open to the public. For more information, contact Amber Duke at 852-6142. Louisville Public Library Main Branch, Centennial Room, 301 York, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

January 23 - Legal Aid Society Foreclosure Conciliation Project- Volunteer Training. Legal Aid Society is performing outreach to those for whom foreclosures have recently been filed to let them know about free clinics available that can help them with housing counseling and legal advice. For more information and to enroll in the training, please contact Sade Jackson at SJackson@laslou.org or 614-3182. Legal Aid Society, 416 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd., 12:00 p.m. Volunteer Trainings will also be held on **February 19, March 19, & April 9.**

January 25 - Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission 15th Annual Race and Relations Conference For more information or to register, call 574-3631 or go to <http://www.louisvilleky.gov/HumanRelations>. Kentucky Center for African American Heritage, 1701 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd., 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

January 26 - Street Count 2011. Every year, the Coalition for the Homeless conducts a "street count" to compile a census of people who are living on the street. Volunteers are needed to: help on the streets; be inside to distribute clothing and sleeping bags; and "direct traffic" inside the shelter. To sign up or for more information, email sbinford@sevencounties.org. Jefferson Street Baptist Center, 733 E. Jefferson Street, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

January 31 - Kentucky Sustainable Energy Alliance Clean Energy Summit. A day-long conference to explore effective clean energy policies and their benefits for Kentuckians. To register or for more information, call (859) 986-1277 or go to <http://www.kysea.org/2011-conference>. Crowne Plaza Campbell House, 1375 S. Broadway, Lexington, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

February 14 - KFTC I Love Mountains Day. A rally to demand that legislators recognize the harm done to people and communities by mountaintop removal mining. For more information, contact Lisa Abbott of Kentuckians for the Commonwealth at (606) 878-2161 or lisa@kftc.org. State Capitol Building, Frankfort, 11:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m.

February 16 - Bank on Louisville Big Table Meeting. This meeting will review 2nd quarter data for BoL a comprehensive program to serve the "unbanked" and "under-banked," those who live without access to mainstream financial institutions. For more information, email BankOnLouisville@louisvilleky.gov. Register online at www.surveymonkey.com/s/CZ9FZF9. Location to be determined. 9:30-11:30 a.m.

February 24 – ACLU of KY Voting Rights Day. Work to support of HB 70, which would restore felons' voting rights once an individual has completed his or her full sentence (excluding some felonies). The day will include a training in the morning, meetings in the afternoon, and a rally at the end of the day. For more information, contact Kate Miller at kate@aclu-ky.org or 581-1181. State Capitol Building, Frankfort.

February 26 – St. John Center for Homeless Men 5th Annual Raisin' the Rent Party. A fundraiser featuring: music; dancing; games of chance; and live and silent auctions. For tickets or to get more information, go to www.stjohncenter.org or call 568-6758. The Olmsted, 3701 Frankfort Ave., 7:00-11:00 p.m.

Feb 28 – NDHC Neighborhood Roundtable Meeting. Property Report addresses and descriptions are due. To RSVP or for more information, contact Lydia Comer at 719-7169 or lydiac@ndhc.org. New Directions, 1000 E. Liberty, 5:30 p.m.

March 13 – Old Louisville Chamber of Commerce “Dining at the Mansions. A progressive dinner, featuring gourmet dining in private residences. For more information, call 637-2922 or go to www.olchamber.com or Benefits the Visitors' Center in Historic Old Louisville. Hors d'oeuvres, 5:00-6:15 p.m.; dinner at private homes, 6:30-8:00 p.m.; dessert and silent auction at the Franklin, Grey, & White Law Firm, 218 West Oak Street, 8:15- 9:00 p.m.

Help Make 2011 a Strong Year for the United Voice for Fair and Affordable Housing- Join MHC or Renew Your Membership Today!



As an MHC Member you:

- **Support** the creation of long-term solutions to our community's affordable housing crisis.
- **Join** the diverse coalition of over 170 individual and 200 organizational members which make up our far-reaching base.
- **Receive** our monthly newsletter and published reports on timely housing issues that touch the Metro Louisville region and beyond.
- **Advertise** your events in our printed and electronic newsletters and link your website to ours.
- **Most important of all**, you will have your voice heard at this historic and critical time!

For membership questions, please call the office at (502) 584-6858 and speak with Curtis Stauffer.
To make an online donation, visit us on the web at www.metropolitanhousing.org.



Metropolitan
Housing
Coalition

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