

NEWSletter

METROPOLITAN
HOUSING
COALITION
LOUISVILLE KY
JUNE 2004

*15th anniversary
celebration wrap-up*

A good time had by all!

The **15th Annual Meeting Anniversary Celebration** was a smash hit! The room was packed with the nearly 500 of you that attended. Everyone left with an inspired feeling of just how much we have done and still can do, working together as the Metropolitan Housing Coalition.

The evening began with a jam-packed social hour full of conversation and drinks, and accompanied by the smooth jazz played of Jerry Tolsen. The evening focused on the work of some of MHC's founding members. Suzy Post "whipped the crowd into a frenzy" with reflections on the progression of social change movements. Finally, the evening focused on the realization that the movement created by our founders is the work that hundreds of us do every day.

We send thanks to our Annual Meeting Sponsors:

- ★ Foundation Sponsor—**PNC Bank**
- ★ Cornerstone Sponsors—**National City Bank, Fifth Third Bank**
- ★ Keystone Sponsors—**Louisville Metro Housing Authority, Kentucky Housing Corporation, Republic Bank & Trust**
- ★ Groundbreaking Sponsors—**Catholic Charities, Commonwealth Bank & Trust, Louisville Community Design Center, The Housing Partnership, Inc., Presbyterian Church USA, Louisville Urban League**



Davis Bos, often called the visionary behind MHC, and his wife, Johanna



Suzy Post, Director Emeritus, preaching to the choir

Upcoming Meetings in June

6/9 Advocacy and Education Committee, Wednesday, June 9, 3:30pm, New Directions Housing Corporation

6/14 Regional Housing Think Table, June 14, noon, New Directions Housing Corporation, 1000 East Liberty Street

6/23 MHC Board Meeting, Wednesday, June 23, noon, New Directions Housing Corporation

TBA MHC Issue Paper Release, *Community Development*

Block Grant Funds: A Tool for Neighborhoods. Watch your email for more information



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Tribute corner

Thanks to our exiting board members

The over 140 members of MHC offer heartfelt thanks to three members of our board who have each dedicated hours and hours of time, intellect, talent and treasure to this organization.

In June, Board President **Steve Bourassa**, Director of the School of Urban and Public Planning at the University of Louisville, **Cathy Hinko**, Director of Strategic Planning with the Louisville Metro Housing Authority, and **Joe Stevenson**, President of Volunteers of America, will rotate off the board. We extend our heartfelt appreciation and look forward to our continued work together. ■

Welcome to our newest MHC members

MHC welcomes new organizational members **Louisville Metro Health Department** and **Bell, Fore, & Mitchell**.

We also welcome the following individual members: **Councilwoman Mary Wooldridge, Dan Hill, Denise Groves, Chrissy Rist, Amy Shir, Quincy Sweatt Sr., Darwin Scrubb, Maura Temes, and Pat & Leigh Walsh**



NEWS

MHC MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Repair Affair runners needed! **NEW DIRECTIONS** urgently needs runners to help with both the June 5 and June 12 events. Runners are the good folk who deliver lunches and field requests for extra materials to support up to five Repair Affair teams working on houses located within proximity to each other. Call Rob Clark, New Directions, 589-2272, ext. 3005 ASAP to volunteer! Or email Rob at robcl@ndhc.org. ■

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY is celebrating a major milestone in Louisville by framing its 200th house June 24, 25 and 26 on Dumsenil in the California neighborhood. Habitat will kick off the celebration with a block party Sunday, June 13, from 3 to 6pm at the Portland United Methodist Center, 1833 Baird Street. Call Habitat at 583-6599 if you'd like to attend the party or work on the house. ■

This year's **JOBS WITH JUSTICE** Solidarity Celebration promises to be an occasion you don't want to miss! Join hundreds of labor, community, and faith activists in celebrating this year's victories and ongoing struggles for workers' rights and economic justice. There will be music, awards, hors'doerves, union-made wine, and more! Contributions of \$15-\$50 will be accepted at the door. Please mark your calendar and plan to join Kentucky JWJ on Saturday, June 26 at 5pm. ■

The **CENTER FOR ACCESSIBLE LIVING** is on the hunt for household furnishings in excellent condition to assist clients who are leaving long-term residential care for

independent living. If you have beds, tables, chairs, TV's, couches and kitchen items, call Lee Ann Thomas at 589-6620. The Center will arrange a time to come pick up your donation and of course it can be a tax writeoff. ■

Desserts! Desserts! is hosted, annually by the Cathedral of the Assumption. This year's event will be held on Friday, June 4, from 11am until 3pm, at the Undercroft. All proceeds benefit **HOUSE OF RUTH** clients and families infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. ■

The **ACLU OF KENTUCKY** Amicus Club invites you to its next forum, *Affirmative Action: Is It Key to Unlocking Diversity?* featuring Professors Cedric Powell and Russ Weaver from the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law. Thursday, June 17, noon-2pm, at The Inn at Jewish Hospital, 100 East Jefferson St. CLE credits available. \$15 for lunch & program only. \$50 for lunch & program with CLE credits. Reservations required. Call 581-9746 by Monday, June 14. ■

The **COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS** offers you an opportunity to tour three shelter facilities, learn more about the good work area shelters are doing every day, and understand more about the challenges homeless individuals face with personal, structural and systemic barriers to self-sufficiency. Join the next tour on Tuesday, August 10, 9:30-11:30am, departing from the Coalition office. Call 589-0190 to reserve your space by August 3. ■

THIS THAT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT MONEY: A TOOL FOR NEIGHBORHOODS

MHC will release its second *Issue Paper of 2004* in June. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about one precious local resource for strengthening neighborhoods — the Community Development Block Grant, or CDBG.

For 30 years, CDBG funds have existed to provide housing and community development support to low-income neighborhoods. Every five years, Metro Government engages in a public planning process to outline community needs and goals, and to direct the allocation of CDBG funds. The planning process begins this summer — which means now is a great time to learn how these funds work and how to get involved on a neighborhood level. Look for your copy in the mail.

MHC thanks **Making Connections Louisville** for its support of the publication of this paper, and for spreading the word about this vital community resource. ■

PROPOSED SECTION 8 CHANGES

The Housing Choice Voucher Program, referred to as Section 8 by most of us, faces two very serious challenges. Across the country, this program currently helps 2 million low income families fill the financial gap between 30% of their incomes and the cost of modest rent. In Metro Louisville, 24,574 people rely on a Section 8

voucher to afford decent, stable housing. Of these, nearly 60% are children. Despite a long history of effectiveness and bipartisan support, the Section 8 voucher program is facing cuts in both 2004 and 2005. On April 22, the Bush Administration announced it will retroactively change the way housing vouchers are funded. This

OUCH!

change only serves to radically under fund many housing authorities. Housing authorities across the country are planning terminations and rent increases, and several development deals that depend on Section 8 have fallen through or are at risk of falling through. We do not yet know how the Louisville Metro Housing Authority will respond — but we do know that as of May of 2004 over 12,000 qualified households are on a waiting list for a voucher. This funding cut will ensure that none of these 120,000 people will obtain a

voucher any time soon.

In its 2005 budget, the Bush Administration proposes to cut the program's funding and to restructure the program in a way that would both remove important resident protections and, eventually, deconstruct it completely. Essentially, the proposal involves decreasing funding and then block-granting the remaining funds directly to public housing authorities. The Center for Budget and Policy Priorities estimates that this new "Flexible Voucher Program" will cut Metro Louisville's current Section 8 funding by \$5.4 million in 2005 — and

"In Metro Louisville, 24,574 people rely on a Section 8 voucher to afford decent, stable housing. Of these, nearly 60% are children."

\$14.6 million by 2009.

The Advocacy Committee of the Metropolitan Housing Coalition and the Coalition for the Homeless are working to respond to these very dire predictions. We could use your time, your perspective and your help. Please join us on June 9, at 3:30pm at New Directions Housing Corporation, 1000 E. Liberty for our next planning meeting. For more information call 584-6858.

To learn more about the facts, go to www.nlihc.com. ■



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JUNE HIGHLIGHTS ...MHC 15th Annual Meeting Celebration Wrapup/Upcoming Meetings in June/Thanks to Exiting Board Members/Welcome to Newest Members of MHC/News from MHC Member Organizations/Community Development Block Grant Money/Proposed Section 8 Changes/National Rally is September 4 in DC/More Annual Meeting Pix

MHC's monthly newsletter is underwritten by a grant from



"No Room for Poverty" national rally September 4! Sign up today!

The National Low-Income Housing Coalition and many others have joined the National Community Action Partnership to sponsor a rally in front of the White House on Saturday, **September 4**. The purpose of the rally is to focus on the needs of the poor in such areas as jobs, housing, health care and education. All over the country Community Action Partnerships are recruiting eager rally participants and sponsors. They will join thousands of Americans on the Ellipse to tell the nation that there is no room for poverty in this country and that we must work together to eradicate the factors that cause poverty. Please consider supporting this effort. To find out more call the **Louisville Metro Community Action Partnership** at 574-1157 or visit the website www.povertyrally.org. ■

ANNUAL MEETING PIX



Mayor Jerry Abramson, a constant supporter of MHC



Founding President Joe Gleissner and his wife, Van