

NEWSletter

METROPOLITAN
HOUSING
COALITION
Louisville KY
MAY 2004



Whoopee! The Metropolitan Housing Coalition celebrates 15 years!

Don't miss our party on May 12, at the Brown & Williamson Room at Papa John's Stadium. You'll find your friends, our friends, good food and great music celebrating 15 years of effective advocacy in the metropolitan Louisville area.

The coalition was started in 1989 when a few housing providers, community ministries and homeless shelters who thought that the local environment for low income people with unmet housing needs was quickly depreciating started to meet at Highland Presbyterian Church. It applied for and received its 501(c) status from the Internal Revenue Service with the help of the Legal Aid Society, one of its founding member organizations.

After a year, the initiators realized that the coalition could not progress without permanent staff, so they applied for a million dollar Bingham Foundation grant. Thanks to Mary & Barry Bingham, and to the foundation's director, John Richards, the coalition received a \$100,000 grant to staff the coalition over the following three years. Suzy Post became MHC's first director with the encouragement of her good friend, Blanche Cooper, then the county's Community Development Department Director. Blanche on the county side, Mary Margaret Mulvihill on the city side, and former County Commissioner Dolores Delahanty were early MHC supporters.

The founding members to be honored at our 15th annual meeting are:

- **Joe Gliessner**, New Directions
- **David Bos**, formerly with St. Matthews Area Ministries
- **Dennis Bricking**, Legal Aid
- **Dolores Delahanty**, former Jefferson County Commissioner
- **Galen Martin**, former director, Kentucky Commission on Human Rights
- **Ella Roberts**, Shelby Park Neighborhood Association
- **Jenny Stoner**, formerly with United Way of Kentucky
- **Jack Trawick**, Louisville Community Design Center
- **Sue Speed**, former director, Coalition for the Homeless
- **Elwood Sturtevant**, Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church
- **Bill & Janet Dakan**, U of L & League of Women Voters, respectively

Reservations *cannot* be taken over the phone, so please send your check for \$35, along with the form on the back page, to MHC. Space is always at a premium so don't delay! For a table for co-workers, friends and family, please send a check to MHC for \$300 for a table of eight. Cash bar starts at 5:30pm, with dinner to follow at 6pm. There's plenty of parking available. Black tie is *not* necessary! ■

Upcoming Meetings

5/10 REGIONAL HOUSING

THINK TABLE Monday, May 10, noon,
New Directions Housing Corporation, 1000
East Liberty

5/12 ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 12, 5:30pm, Brown &
Williamson Room, Papa John's Stadium

5/20 FAIR HOUSING COALITION

Thursday, May 20, 1pm, Louisville Urban
League, 1535 W. Broadway

5/26 MHC BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, May 26, noon, New
Directions Housing Corporation

6/9 ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

COMMITTEE No Advocacy & Education
Committee meeting in May. Join us at
New Directions, Wednesday, June 9,
3:30pm

CONTACT US!
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PH (502) 584-6858
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www.metropolitanhousing.org





MHC MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

NEWS

Residents of the California, Phoenix Hill, Shelby Park and Smoketown neighborhoods are holding a **Making Connections Louisville Resident Hook-Up** on May 6 at 5:30pm, in the Community Room at **Metro United Way**. You are invited to attend and to plan events and activities to improve your neighborhood. ■

Habitat for Humanity will build its 200th house in Louisville starting with a *Raise the Roof* framing project on June 24, 25 & 26. If you would like to help out, please contact Diane Kirkpatrick, habitatdiane@insightbb.com. ■

The Kentucky Council on Homeless Policy with the **Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky**, the **Kentucky Housing Corporation** and the **Corporation for Supportive Housing** will host a program to examine the possibilities of creating supportive housing here. The program is May 11-12, at The Brown Hotel. The program begins at 9:30am on Tuesday and ends at noon on Wednesday (in plenty of time to attend MHC's Annual Dinner at 5:30pm!). For a reservation, call the hotel at 888-888-5252. ■

The New Albany-Floyd County CHDO is actively accepting applications from potential first-time homebuyers. The CHDO will have homes available for discounted purchase in New Albany this summer and later this year. Contact John Miller, CHDO Director, at 945-1866. ■

The Housing Partnership tells us that New Life Computers is offering affordable computer systems to nonprofits, community organizations and churches. Call 723-1833 if you have a computer for them to rebuild. They sell rebuilt computers for \$125. ■

TARC is testing the waters (or the roadway!) for new TARC riders. Multiple TARC questionnaires will survey customer satisfaction, the views of non-riders, employers and the disabled community and are being distributed in *Project Gobility*. The transit authority is also interested in your point of view. Visit TARC's website at www.ridetarc.org to offer your comments. ■

Bank One and **The Center for Women and Families** are partnering to provide customized financial literacy to audiences across the community. The bank is underwriting professional trainers at the Center who respond to nonprofit organizations' requests for training. The Economic Success Program provides financial literacy trainers to any nonprofit organization that serves low- and moderate-income clients. The trainers work with each nonprofit to design a need specific curriculum and then deliver the training to the organization's client group in either English or Spanish. Call Bunmi Adekunle at 581-7200. ■

Legacy Homes has begun construction of 42 units in Rowen Place Seniors Residences located in the Portland neighborhood across from the Western Middle School at 22nd and Rowan. At least one member of the household must be 55 or older. For info, call Mark Isaacs at 583-1500, ext. 5. ■

The **Neighborhood Development Corporation**, one of Louisville's oldest and most reliable nonprofit housing organizations, has moved its operation to 1516 Hepburn Avenue, Louisville, KY 40204. Their phone number is (502) 568-3776; you can send them an email at ndc02@bellsouth.net. ■

Mayor Jerry Abramson, **The Housing Partnership**, the **Louisville Urban League** and Freddie Mac have announced a program designed to eradicate predatory lending in the metro area. *Don't Borrow Trouble* is a two-pronged program that will combine an extensive public education campaign with comprehensive counseling services to help families avoid scams and resolve financial difficulties in an informed manner. For additional information on this program, be sure to check out the website at www.dontborrowtrouble.com. ■

We welcome MHC's new Membership Coordinator

MHC is thrilled to welcome **Nancy Reinhart** to our small, but effective staff. Most of you will meet Nancy in short order, as she begins her duties as our Membership Coordinator. (One good way to be sure to meet Nancy sooner rather than later is to attend our Annual Meeting on May 12!) Nancy is a Louisville native, recently back from a three-year Peace Corps stint in Armenia where she enjoyed the hospitality of Armenians while engaging in health education and community development work. Nancy will be managing MHC's office, as well as working to nurture and build our wonderful, essential membership base. We're lucky to have her!

Homeownership made too easy

The April 10th *New York Times* had a lengthy news article outlining what can happen when homeownership is too easy and ends up being the American nightmare instead of the American dream.

The newspaper outlined what happened to three New York City families who were willing to commute as long as three hours *each way* to and from the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania in order to buy their own home. Sadly, none of the three families discussed could afford a home in the end.

The high cost of housing in New York City — and an emphasis by both the Clinton and the Bush administrations on homeownership — combined to encourage homeownership in the Pocono's for the families profiled in the article. The rate of homeownership climbed from 64.1% in 1992 to 68% now.

In human terms, these four points mean there are 8 million new homeowners, including 2.5 million lower-income buyers — 1.2 million more for both blacks and Hispanics.

Over a period of three years, each of the families portrayed ultimately lost their homes because they were unable to maintain mortgage payments. "Increasing foreclosures are not unique to the Pocono's," the author writes. "As public and private incentives for home buying have pushed up the homeownership rate, foreclosures have also soared."

As attractive as homeownership is, the need for subsidized rental housing continues to be a steady and, for some, an urgent need. Safe and affordable rental housing must be measured with equal urgency to homeownership in U.S. housing policies. The need to enact the



Items of interest to Affordable Housing Advocates

National Housing Trust Fund that would allocate money for rental housing has never been as acute as it is now. When talking to your member of Congress, let him or her know that this is a priority for you — and for your community. ■

MHC & Coalition for the Homeless tackle proposed Section 8 changes

The combined Advocacy Committees of MHC and the Coalition for the Homeless met for most of the day on April 15 with Phyllis Gilberti of the National Alliance to End Homelessness

to discuss proposed changes to the Housing Choice Voucher Program — or Section 8.

Today in Louisville Metro, just over 8,000 seniors, disabled persons, and families receive a Section 8 voucher, which ensures that they pay only 30% of their limited incomes on rent. At the same time, nearly 13,000 qualified households are on an interminably long Section 8 waiting list.

This means they need a voucher and that their circumstances are dire enough to qualify them for one. However, we don't have the resources from HUD to provide these households a voucher. Advocates, service providers, apartment owners, and a host of other community groups are increasingly alarmed at the growing and unmet need in our community.

The proposed FY 2005 federal budget seeks to address an estimated 23% increase in Housing Choice Voucher Program costs by instituting the Flexible Voucher program, which will block grant annual funding to local Public Housing Authorities.

MHC and the Coalition for the Homeless believe that these program changes will drastically under-fund our local needs. In fact, the Center for Budget Policy and Priorities estimates that Metro Louisville will lose \$14.6 million locally by the year 2009 under the current proposal. We cannot afford a loss of this magnitude and neither can the thousands of families who depend upon this funding.

To learn more about this, go to www.cpbb.org or www.nlihc.org. Or please join us at our next Advocacy Committee meeting on Wednesday, June 9, at 3:30pm at New Directions Housing Corporation. We need your support! ■



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MAY HIGHLIGHTS ... Metropolitan

Housing Coalition celebrates 15 years at gala Annual Meeting on May 12/Upcoming committee meetings you should know about/News from our member organizations/Meet Nancy Reinhart/Homeownership made too easy/MHC & Coalition for the Homeless tackle proposed Section 8 changes/Annual Meeting ticket order form

MHC's monthly newsletter is underwritten by a grant from



Gala 15th Annual Meeting ticket order form



Name

Address

City/state/zip

Phone #



*Y'all come!
Please make your
reservations
today!*

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS
_____ x \$35 = _____
individual ticket(s)
\$ _____ TOTAL

TABLE(S) OF 8
_____ x \$300 = _____
table(s) of 8
\$ _____ TOTAL

**PLEASE MAKE CHECK OUT TO:
METROPOLITAN HOUSING COALITION**

**Enclose your check for the appropriate
amount & mail this form to:
Metropolitan Housing Coalition
P.O. Box 4533
Louisville, KY 40204-4533**

*Make your
reservations today
for the 15th
Annual Meeting
of the
Metropolitan
Housing
Coalition. Tickets
are going fast!
Call us today at
(502) 584-6858.*