

NEWSletter

METROPOLITAN
HOUSING
COALITION
LOUISVILLE KY
October 2004

"2004 State of Metropolitan Housing Report" release date is Monday, Oct. 25

On Monday, Oct. 25, MHC will release its *2004 State of Metropolitan Housing Report* at our General Membership meeting at noon at the Louisville Urban League, 1535 W. Broadway. In this report, MHC will update nine measures of housing conditions in our metropolitan region. We will also focus on an alarming 400% increase in foreclosures in the Louisville MSA since 1996.

VALERIE SALLY, who authored the report on behalf of MHC, will present a brief overview of the data in the report. At that time, members will have an opportunity to hear from **SHARON DECKER**, Vice President and Director of Mortgage Lending at Fifth Third Bank; Jefferson Circuit Court Commissioner **STAN CHUAVIN, JR.**; and **CHRISTIE McCRAVEY** of the Housing Partnership Inc.

MHC will follow the release of this report by convening a six-month Foreclosure Working Group to examine this trend, determine what we do know and what we need to

know about foreclosure in order to begin to develop policy initiatives to stem the dramatic increase in families losing their homes. The Working Group will be composed of consumer advocates, members of the mortgage industry, representatives of the court system and other stakeholders. If you would like to be included in the list of those invited to participate, contact us at jane@metropolitanhousing.org.

Bring a brown bag lunch on Monday, October 25, and don't miss the release of our second *State of Metropolitan Housing Report*. ■

Welcome to our newest members!

MHC welcomes new organizational members **PECK, SHAFFER & WILLIAMS, LLC**, with organizational delegate **SUJYOT PATEL**; **ALLGEIER COMPANY**, with organizational delegate **M.A. ALLGEIER**; and individual members **VALERIE SALLEY & DAVID HARSHAW**, and **ROBERT WHITE**. ■

October Meetings

10/11 — Regional Housing Think Table, Monday, October 11, noon, New Directions Housing Corporation, 1000 E. Liberty

10/13 — Advocacy and Education Committee, Wednesday, October 13, 3:30pm, Coalition for the Homeless, 1115 S. Fourth St.

10/21 — Fair Housing Coalition, Thursday, October 21, 1pm, Louisville Urban League

10/25 — 2004 State of Metropolitan Housing Report Release/General Membership Meeting, Monday, October 25, noon, Louisville Urban League, 1535 W. Broadway

10/27 — MHC Board Meeting, Wednesday, October 27, 12pm, New Directions Housing Corporation



CONTACT US!
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Coalition

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Visit our *newly designed* website at www.metropolitanhousing.org

October '04

Affordable Housing Month

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

- The **Housing Partnership** is leading a tour of affordable housing sites in the Louisville area on Thursday, September 30 from 1–5pm. After that, as a fundraiser for the **Coalition for the Homeless**, there will be a tour of Cherokee Triangle homes from 6–11pm. Call 589-0190 for information.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1

- Two MHC member organizations, **River Fields** and the **Housing Partnership**, have been selected to make presentations during the upcoming National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference in Louisville. Heidi Saunders, AICP, River Field's Community Planning Manager and an MHC board member, will speak about affordable housing regulations and Metro Louisville's Alternative Development Incentives (ADI) experience, on Oct. 1, 8:30–10am. Educational sessions will be held at the Galt House. To register, go to www.nthpconference.org, 2,000 people are expected to attend this conference.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 4

- There will be a Continuum of Care Meeting 3:30pm. Call the **Coalition for the Homeless** at 589-0190.
- **KHC/Council on Homeless Policy** will meet from 5:30–7:30pm at Boy's Haven, Dempsey Cottage, 2301 Goldsmith Lane. The Kentucky Council on Homeless Policy has been tasked by Governor Fletcher with drafting Kentucky's plan to end chronic homelessness in 10 years. While the focus is on ending chronic homelessness, prevention efforts will be an important part of the plan. This community forum is designed to solicit public input. Participants will be encouraged to express their opinions verbally or in writing by completing a citizen's survey. Participants will be encouraged to focus on how current systems could be changed to be more effective.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7

- **Habitat for Humanity** is having a 200 House Gala to celebrate the completion of its 200th house. There will be a dinner party at the Triple Crown Ballroom of Churchill Downs in Louisville on Thursday, October 7, 6:30–9:30pm. Tickets are \$60 each. Call 583-6599 soon to order your tickets as seating is limited!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8

- **New Directions Housing Corporation** will host a 150th Repair Affair House Celebration by presenting **Bank One** Repair Affair Day, the final team event of 2004 on Friday, October 8. The Repair Affair Program links caring volunteers with older and disabled homeowners in need of home repair assistance. Generous sponsors enable each team to have the building materials they need to get the job done! Bank One, as a regional sponsor, will complete the year with its 20-banker team when they paint a home in Louisville's Parkland Neighborhood. This home is the last of 150 homes across Kentuckiana to receive help in 2004!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

- The Kentuckiana Interfaith Community will host the 26th Annual Hunger Walk at Waterfront Park. Call 587-6265 for more information.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12

- The **Coalition for the Homeless** will release *A Call to Action: Barriers to Mental Health Report*, at 9:30am. Call the Coalition for more information at 589-0190.
- The **Housing Partnership** Annual Meeting is from 5–7:00pm at the Frazier Historical Arms Museum, 829 W. Main. Don Ball, new KHC chair, is the keynote speaker. Mayor Abramson will also speak and we will recognize Lynn Luallen's service to HPI and the housing industry. There will be a light buffet and cash bar. Call 814-2703.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16

- The **Veterans Stand Down** will be held from 9–11am at Central High School. A cooperation with several local and federal organizations, this one-day community outreach project will offer homeless veterans and other homeless individuals and children medical screenings, benefit information, employment services, clothing and food. Last year over 169 veterans and a total of 324 individuals were helped. Directors expect 1000 families and children to attend this year. Call 894-6221 and speak to Judy or Mary Jane for more information.
- St. John's Center for the Homeless will hold its first "Base" Ball benefit dinner at Louisville Slugger Field at 6pm. There will be live music for dancing by Will Cary and the Nightcrawlers, a tasty dinner, and a silent auction. Tickets are \$125 per person, and \$1250 for a table of 10. Call 568-6758 for more information.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25

- The **Metropolitan Housing Coalition** will release its *2004 State of Metropolitan Housing Report* at noon at the Louisville Urban League, 1535 W. Broadway.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26

- **Project Women** will host its annual luncheon and silent auction from 11am – 1pm at the Galt House. Project Women assists single mothers who are experiencing homelessness to obtain baccalaureate degrees. The keynote speaker is Dianne Aprile, reporter, columnist and free-lance writer. The first recipient of the Lucy M. Freibert award honoring women who greatly value higher education will be Eugenia Powers who went to college after raising eight children. Call 584-8090.



Check out the complete calendar of events at www.metropolitanhousing.org.

Check out MHC's great new web site!

Thanks to a grant from the Judah Foundation, we hired designer **MARK FOREMAN** for our fabulous home for MHC online. After October 3, please visit www.metropolitanhousing.org and let us know what you think about the new site. It is packed with new information, including a housing policy and priorities corner for advocates' use, and is much more user-friendly than the previous one. We are excited about it — and we hope you will be too! ■

Ben Cook appointed CEO of Kentucky Housing Corporation

Former Director of the HUD Kentucky Field office, **BEN COOK** accepted a new position as CEO of the Kentucky Housing Corporation on August 27, 2004. Cook replaces **LYNN LUALLEN**, who served as CEO for nearly 20 years and retired on August 31.

Cook served as the field director for the HUD office since 2002, and, prior to that, was the director the Community Planning and Development Division in the HUD Kentucky Field Office for more than 10 years.

Cook hails from Campbellsville, Kentucky, and is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University. He also has a graduate degree in Urban Planning. He is looking forward to the opportunity to continue and expand Louisville's and KHC's relationship through affordable housing. Cook says he will utilize his federal and private sector experience to expand governmental provision of housing and services to low-income families. ■

Poverty rates rise in Kentucky

Poverty data released from the 2003 American Community Survey and the Census Bureau indicates that overall poverty rose in 41 states (including the District of Columbia) from 2000-03. Child poverty rose in 33 states, including Ken-

tucky, and declined in only 18 states.

Kentucky ranked 46th in terms of overall poverty — a figure which has risen 8.9% in the last three years. Additionally, Kentucky's child poverty rate has gone up by 12.8% during this time, making our children the third poorest in the nation.

In other words, the new data tells us that 56,727 individuals — including more than 15,000 children — have fallen into poverty in just three years.

Additionally in Kentucky, median family incomes have declined from \$42,852 in 2002, to nearly \$1,000 less in 2003, ranking us 46th in the nation. This income decline, combined with higher rental vacancy rates, and increasing housing costs for both renters and owners, feeds the persistent gap between what housing costs and what Kentucky's families can afford to pay.

Read both ACS and Census Bureau data sets online at: <http://www.chn.org/pdf/childpoor.PDF>, <http://www.chn.org/pdf/totalpoor.PDF>, and <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/Ranking/index.htm>. ■

THIS & THAT

Do your part this month to advocate for affordable housing by participating in one of the many great activities or fundraisers!



Here's what some of our members are doing ...

The **NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN** will host *Fashion Encore*, one of its major annual fundraising events, on Sunday, October 24, from 11am–5pm and on Monday, October 25, from 10am–5pm. This event will take place at their store, the Nearly New Shop, located on the lower level of the Mid City Mall. Donations are expected from 1,500 local businesses and individuals, so the selection will be fantastic! Proceeds will benefit a variety of community programs that NCJW sponsors throughout the year. ■

The **FANNIE MAE FOUNDATION** recently released a new report entitled *Homeownership in Urban America: Past and Future*. Trends indicate that homeownership is becoming a less affordable housing option for middle-income citizens. The report can be read online at content.knowledgeplex.org/kp2/cache/kp/22736.pdf. ■

The **ACLU OF KENTUCKY** and the McConnell Center for Political Leadership at the University of Louisville invite you to a series of three lectures, entitled *A Parchment Barrier: The History of the Bill of Rights*, presented by Carl Wedekind, attorney, historian, and author. They will be held in the Centennial Room of the Louisville Main Library, 4th and York, at 7pm on Tuesday, October 12; Tuesday, October 19; and Tuesday, October 26. Admission is free, but reservations are requested. Call 581-9746. ■



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OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

"2004 State of Metropolitan Housing Report"
release date is Monday, Oct. 25/Welcome to
our newest members/October meetings/
Affordable Housing Month calendar of events/
Check our MHC's new web site/Ben Cook
appointed CEO of Kentucky Housing
Corporation/Poverty rates rise in Kentucky/
What some of our members are doing/MHC
membership renewal form

*MHC's monthly newsletter is
underwritten by a grant from*



To keep your NEWSLETTER coming
— and the METROPOLITAN
HOUSING COALITION going —
send in a check for your
INDIVIDUAL or ORGANIZATIONAL
membership renewal today!
Questions? Call us at 502-
584-6858. Or visit our newly

designed website at www.metropolitanhousing.org and
view a complete calendar of events of interest to this
area's affordable housing advocates.



MHC Individual MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Send MHC a check for your INDIVIDUAL or
ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL!

Name _____

Address _____

City/state/zip _____

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Please make your check payable to:
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October is Affordable Housing Month!