

NEWSletter

METROPOLITAN
HOUSING
COALITION
LOUISVILLE KY
March '05

Upcoming MHC events you don't want to miss!

Out of Breath: Childhood Asthma, Poverty & Housing

Mark **March 7** on your calendar and join fellow MHC members for a general membership meeting. **We will host a forum to release MHC's first issue paper of 2005**, which examines the relationship of childhood asthma, poverty, and housing conditions. Dr. Adawale Troutman, Director of Louisville Metro Health Department, will speak about health care policy and housing policy. The forum will be held at the Louisville Urban League, 1535 W. Broadway.

Please bring a friend *and* a brown bag lunch to this important meeting at 12pm on March 7. ■

Foreclosure rates discussed at MHC membership luncheon on March 14

Anthony Pennington Cross will speak about Louisville Metro foreclosure rates and subprime lending in the region at a luncheon hosted by The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. Mr. Cross is a Senior Economist in the Research Division at the FRB St. Louis. His most recent research focuses on urban real estate issues, including the sub-prime mortgage market and hous-

ing price dynamics. The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis is located in National City Tower, 101 S. Fifth Street, Suite 1920.

Space is extremely limited. Please call Faith Weekly at (502) 568-9216 to reserve your spot by March 4. ■

MHC's 16th Annual Meeting to be held at Downtown Marriott on May 17

On May 17, 2005, Metropolitan Housing Coalition will host one of the largest networking opportunities of the year! The Marriott has panoramic windows that overlook the cityscape of Louisville and there is plenty of room for mingling and cocktails. Mr. James Carr from the Fannie Mae Foundation will speak.

Please make it a point to invite your friends — especially those folks unfamiliar with MHC — and join us for a networking bonanza on May 17, at 5pm. Call (502) 584-6858 for more information. ■

March meetings

3/7

MHC Paper Release

Monday, March 7, 12pm
Louisville Urban League, 1535 Broadway

3/9

Advocacy and Education Committee

Wednesday, March 9, 3:30pm
New Directions Housing Corporation
1000 E. Liberty Street

3/14

General Membership Luncheon

Monday, March 14, 11:30am
Federal Reserve Bank, National City Tower
101 S. Fifth Street, Suite 1920. RSVP
required by calling (502) 568-9216

3/17

Fair Housing Coalition

Thursday, March 17, 1pm
New Directions Housing Corporation

3/23

Board of Directors

Wednesday, March 23, 12pm
New Directions Housing Corporation



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MHC MEMBER News

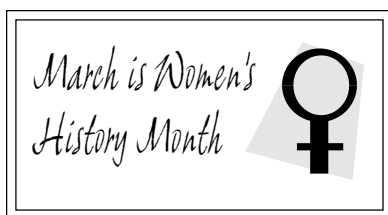
KENTUCKY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Statewide Conference will be held on March 4 and 5, in Bowling Green, Kentucky. There will be a special Habitat tribute to F. Lynn Lualen and seminars by the Kentucky League of Cities and New Cities Foundation. For more information, contact Mary Shearer at (502) 896-1299, or you can email her at habitatforum116@bellsouth.net. ■

METRO UNITED WAY and other community partners comprise the Louisville Asset Building Coalition (LABC). This is LABC's fourth year of providing free tax preparation for individuals and families eligible to receive the Earned Income Tax Credit. Please call (502) 581-7262 for eligibility requirements and to locate a tax site near you. Or to volunteer, call Tina White at (502) 583-8317. ■

The **COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS** will host a Shelter Tour on Wednesday, April 13, 5-7pm. This quarterly tour affords members of the community the opportunity to tour three facilities and gather for discussion as a way to learn more about the causes of and solutions to homelessness. Space is limited. Please register by April 6 by calling Marsha at (502) 589-0190. ■

The **KENTUCKY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS** seeks nominations for the Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame until Friday, March 18. Nominated individuals should be honored for making important contributions to civil rights in the commonwealth. Inductions will be held at a special celebration planned for July. For information, call 502.595.4024 or visit www.kchr.ky.gov. ■



LOUISVILLE CENTRAL COMMUNITY CENTERS INC.

will hold its annual meeting fund-raiser and present the Lyman T. Johnson Distinguished Leadership awards on Wednesday, March 9 from 11am-1:30pm at Actors Theater of Louisville. A reception will follow with music and light refreshments. The event is free and open to the public. Call (502) 583-8821 for information. ■

Gordon Brown, President and CEO of **HOME OF THE INNOCENTS**, received the 2005 Distinguished Service Award from the Louisville Metro Office of Youth Development. Congratulations to you, Gordon! ■

The **WELLSPRING** Derby Preview Party will be held Thursday, April 28 from 6:30 to 9pm at the Kentucky Derby Museum, 704 Central Ave. Participants can mingle with racing folks, bid on 2005 Kentucky Derby tickets, and support Wellspring's work to provide housing and rehabilitation services for persons with severe mental illness. Ken and Sarah Ramsey, winners of the prestigious Eclipse Awards, will host. Tickets are \$100-\$75 per person. Please call (502) 637-4361, ext. 12. ■

The **NURSES PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION** invites you to *The Single Payer Solution to Our Health Care Crisis*, by Johnathon Ross, M.D., M.P.H. Dr. Ross is the past president of Physicians for a National Health Program. This free event is set for 7:30pm on Thursday, March 10 at the Community Health Building, 101 W. Chestnut Street. ■

ELDERSERVE, INC. will host a WAVE 3 Troubleshooter Community Forum on the topic of fraud at the Oak & Acorn Center, Tuesday, February 22, 4:30-6:30pm. The Oak & Acorn Center is located at 631 S. 28th Street. A chili supper is available to all who register by calling (502) 587-8673, ext. 254. ■

Leadership changes strengthen local organizations

In January, **LYNN LUALLEN** joined the Housing Partnership, Inc. as its new Director — replacing our good friend **MARIA GERWING HAMPTON** who now leads the Louisville Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. No stranger to MHC, Lynn is the former CEO of the Kentucky Housing Corporation for nearly 20 years. ■

On January 26, **KRISTA MILLS** was appointed Field Office Director of the U.S. Housing and Urban Development, Kentucky State Office, replacing **BEN COOK**, who left to lead Kentucky Housing Corporation. Krista came to the Kentucky Field Office as a Community Builder in the 1998, after working as the director of a nonprofit that served homeless women and children in Virginia, where she formed the statewide Coalition for the Homeless. ■

The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights welcomed its new Director, **LINDA MURNANE**, on Martin Luther King Day — January 17. She is a retired colonel and military judge for the U.S. Air Force, with a long history of advocating for international human rights. ■

The Legal Aid Society has a new Executive Director — **JEFF BEEN** — who has been an attorney and associate director at LAS in a career that has spanned 13 years. Jeff founded the HIV/AIDS Legal Project in Kentucky and has a history of advocating for the rights of Kentucky's poor. ■

Federal FY2006 budget proposal inadequate to address housing needs

The Administration released a FY 2006 budget proposal on February 7th that included an overall 11.5% cut to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's budget.

Because the existing resources to meet housing needs in our community are already painfully inadequate (evidence is the qualified 14,000 families on the Section 8 Waiting List), we are alarmed by this proposed loss of funding.

In the FY2006 budget proposal, housing for people with disabilities (Section 811) is cut in half, housing for people with AIDS (HOPWA) is cut by 37%, funding for Fair Housing activities is cut, lead safety program funding is cut, Rural Housing and Economic Development is eliminated, and public & assisted housing is effectively cut.

Perhaps most alarming, the Administration proposes eliminating funding for 18 federal community development programs currently funded by seven federal agencies — including the Community Development Block Grant Program — and combining these into the *Strengthening America's Community Initiative*. This initiative would be administered by the Commerce Department as an economic development block grant serving very low income communities.

The consolidation yields a 35% cut in total community development spending at the federal level.

The implications of this budget for low and moderate income people in our community are severe. The budget inhibits Metro Louisville's ability to achieve its goals of building stronger neighborhoods and communities.

Far from strengthening this commu-

THIS THAT

nity, the federal budget proposal undermines on-going community-building efforts and programs. In coordination with the Coalition for the Homeless, **MHC will be responding forcefully to the budget proposals. We will ask for your help.**

Be on the lookout for more details via email and by visiting our website at www.metropolitanhousing.org. If you would like information sent to you by mail, call us at (502) 584-6858. ■

A call to advocacy for the Kentucky Affordable Housing Trust Fund

Statewide affordable housing advocates are asking state legislators to commit to \$4 million to the Kentucky Affordable Housing Trust Fund this session for the FY2006 budget. The AHTF has infused \$3,554,484 into Jefferson County and Louisville since 1994. This funding has been leveraged into more than \$24 million in jobs, goods and services pumped into our local economy.

Since last July, we have been operating under Governor Fletcher's spending plan. In that, the Affordable Housing Trust Fund is funded at \$2.5 million.

Since \$1.5 million of AHTF dollars will likely be used for "Recovery Kentucky" — an initiative to construct housing recovery centers throughout the state. Advocates seek to ensure that the Recovery

Kentucky money is added to the current \$2.5 million per year funding level for FY2006, as the statewide need for housing is so great each year.

The Kentucky AHTF addresses the pressing need for decent, affordable housing for low-income families and provides strong economic stimulus and job creation through housing production. Most importantly, it is the only state generated funding for housing the very poor in our Commonwealth. As federal funds are being drastically cut, we need a local increase in support for affordable housing.

Contact your legislator today and request that they stand behind 4 million for the Kentucky Affordable Housing Trust Fund!

For sample letters, please visit www.metropolitanhousing.org. ■

Yoga anyone?

March proceeds at Yoga Studio Louisville will benefit the Metropolitan Housing Coalition!

Yoga Studio Louisville will offer four *free* classes and collect donations afterwards to benefit MHC each Saturday in March from 11am until 12:15pm. YSL is located at 3415 Bardstown Road in Suite 202. The next session of yoga classes begins the week of Feb 28; eight weeks costs \$65. Members and volunteers of the Metropolitan Housing Coalition receive a 10% discount for classes. Find a class schedule and learn about yoga at www.yogastudioulouisville.com, or call 502-445-3664. Thanks Yoga Studio Louisville! ■



Want to receive MHC's newsletter by email? If you would like to receive MHC's newsletter by email only, contact Nancy at (502) 584-6858 or email her at nancy@metropolitanhousing.org.



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HIGHLIGHTS FOR MARCH ... Out of breath:
Childhood asthma, poverty & housing/Foreclosure rates
discussed at MHC membership luncheon on March 14/
MHC's 16th Annual Meeting to be held at downtown
Marriott on May 17/March meetings/MHC member news/
Leadership changes strengthen local organizations/Federal
FY2006 budget proposal inadequate to address housing
needs/A call to advocacy for the Kentucky Affordable
Housing Trust Fund/Yoga anyone?/Nick Braden joins
MHC's staff/Welcome to these MHC members

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

PNC BANK
Where Performance Counts

*We
welcome
Nick
Braden
to
the MHC
staff*

In February, **NICK BRADEN** joined MHC's staff as our Administrative Assistant. Originally from Denver, Nick moved to Louisville in 1999, and he *loves* it here! He has a Bachelor's degree in Special Studies from Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa, and a Bachelor's degree in Computer Information Systems from University of Louisville. Nick was a cofounder of the U of L Citizens Standing Against War (C-SAW). He helped develop and implement Jan Arnow's Stand and Be Counted (SABC) "get out the vote" program. Nick currently serves on the Fairness Legislative Committee and is an active member of the Metropolitan Democratic Club.

In addition to his job with MHC, he is a freelance web and database developer and has developed websites for several local organizations, such as the ACLU of Kentucky. We are lucky to have found him and are thrilled to welcome him to MHC! ■

Welcome to these MHC members

New organizational members are: **KIPDA**

Area Agency on Aging with delegate **Marilyn**

Minnick; Jefferson County Public Schools with

delegate **Ralph Stephen; Next Step to**

Independence with delegate **Greg Stebbins;**

Crane CDC with delegate **Rev. Stephen Smith;**

Greater Louisville Central Labor Union with

delegate **Charles Clephas; and Fitzio, Inc.**

with delegate **Elise Fazio.** ■