

# NEWSletter

METROPOLITAN  
HOUSING  
COALITION  
LOUISVILLE KY  
SEPT 2005

## New Tradition: Community Leader Breakfast

**M**HC will start a new tradition this year! After the release of the *2005 State of Metropolitan Housing Report*, we will invite foundation and other community leaders to discuss the report and to talk about MHC's work over breakfast.

We think more leaders in the community should be aware of the great work MHC is doing to advocate for affordable housing in our community. The first breakfast topic will be the advantages of non-profit housing development in Louisville, focusing on an overview of MHC's program, the Non-profit Housing Alliance.

Sponsorship opportunities are available and needed for this event. This is a great chance to be public in your support of MHC. If your organization is interested, contact Nancy Reinhart at 584-6858. ☎

## NHA has a New Program Director

**D**oug Magee has accepted the position of Program Director for the **Non-profit Housing Alliance**. He will begin the week of September 12. Doug is retiring after 30 years at Legal Aid Society where he worked in the Community Development division and then created and directed the Volunteer Lawyers division. He has also been active in his neighborhood association — Phoenix Hill — for decades, serving in all capacities, including as board chair. His education includes a law degree from the University of Louisville. Doug fills the position after Cathy Hinko vacated it in June to become MHC's Executive Director. We are thrilled to welcome him to the staff and look forward to the skills and ideas he will bring to the NHA. ☎

## Metropolitan Housing Coalition

CONTACT US!

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## 356 Housing Rally Update

**A**s a follow-up to our incredible rally of over 700 people in May, MHC staff, along with other advocates and consumers, visited the offices of our federal legislators — Senators Bunning and McConnell and Representative Northup — in August. We carried forth the message from the rally — that we *oppose* any federal cuts to housing assistance, especially Section 8.

The timing of these visits was very important, as the legislators will return from recess after Labor Day to work again on the FY 2006 budget. Currently, the Senate and

*"Our combined advocacy efforts have made a positive impact, but the work is not over yet!"*

the House are both considering variations of the funding bill for the Section 8 program, both of which will lead to cuts in the number of vouchers available in Louisville Metro.

According to a report from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities as well as our own research, under the Senate version, fewer vouchers will be de-funded. Ultimately, neither version is adequate, as vouchers will be lost under both versions of the bill.

*Don't be discouraged* — these proposed cuts are far less dramatic than those proposed in the President's budget. Our combined advocacy efforts have made a positive impact, but the work is not over yet!

**Please contact your legislators in early September to tell them that you support the Senate version of the HUD appropriations bill.** ☎



# MHC MEMBER News

Here's what some of our member organizations are doing!

**House of Ruth** will sponsor the 13th Annual Louisville AIDS Walk on September 25, 3pm at the Belvedere, with the 2nd Annual Bridge of Hope 5K run beginning at 2pm. Registration for both the walk and run is at 1pm. Visit [www.louisvilleaidswalk.org](http://www.louisvilleaidswalk.org) to download a pledge sheet, or call 574-5947. 🏠

Mark it in your database — **River City Housing** has moved! Update your records to 610 S. Fourth Street, #701, Louisville KY 40202. The new email address for Becky Roehrig is [BeckyR@rivercityhousing.org](mailto:BeckyR@rivercityhousing.org). 🏠

Come and see *Close to Home*, a photo exhibit coordinated by the **Coalition for the Homeless**. It will feature the poignant faces and stories of Louisville homeless individuals. The public is invited to an opening reception on Sunday, October 2, 2-5pm at the Kentucky Center for the Arts lobby. Donations will support this year-long outreach project. 🏠



**Volunteers of America of Kentucky Inc.** President/CEO Joe Stevenson is retiring after 22 years with the organization. Joe has spent the last 16 years with Volunteers of America of Kentucky Inc. Joe has been a MHC supporter for many years. We thank you for your service and support, Joe! 🏠

**St. John's Center** annual fundraiser *Base Ball* will be held Saturday, October 15 beginning at 6pm at Louisville Slugger Field. Come for good food, live music, dancing, cash bar and a silent auction. Attire is casual, but be sure to wear your favorite team's baseball jersey or shirt. Tickets are \$125 each and a table for 10 is \$1,250. Sponsorships are also available. We had a blast last year! Call 568-6758 if you have any questions. 🏠

**Canaan Community Development Corporation (CCDC)** presents their 4th Annual Harambee Celebration, September 23-24. Activities include a Run/Walk for Education and a Career Fair. Call Relia at 776-6369. 🏠

The 15th Annual **Project Warm** Blitz will be the first three Saturdays in November. Teams of volunteers will install simple winterization measures to make homes more comfortable and lower utility bills an average of 20%. You can help by organizing a team of volunteers at your workplace, school, place of worship, etc. We are also taking referrals for people who need this free service. For more information, contact Project Warm at 636-WARM or visit [www.projectwarm.org](http://www.projectwarm.org). 🏠

**ElderServe** is hosting a series of free informational sessions and agency tours designed to increase awareness of aging issues and to let the community know how ElderServe's programs and services can help them. Upcoming events are September 1 at noon, September 6 at 8am, September 15 at 8am, and September 27 at noon. All sessions are held at the agency's Dosker Manor site, 411 E. Muhammad Ali Boulevard. Call Nancy Doctor at 736-3833 to register to attend. 🏠

**Housing Partnership Inc.** will host its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, October 11. Details are being arranged. Mark your calendar and plan to attend. 🏠

The **U of L School of Urban and Public Affairs**, in cooperation with MHC's Nonprofit Housing Alliance and the **Center for Neighborhoods** (formerly LCDC), will offer an eight-week training program for nonprofit housing developers starting in mid-October.

The program will cover *Management of Nonprofit Housing Organizations*, *Introduction to Real Estate Development*, and *How to Do Nonprofit Housing Development in Louisville*. The courses — free of charge — are open to staff and board members of nonprofit housing development organizations, if space permits.

For more information, contact Patty Sarley at U of L at 852-7914 or [plclea01@gwise.louisville.edu](mailto:plclea01@gwise.louisville.edu). 🏠

# Volunteer *Opportunities* with MHC

There are many ways to expand upon your membership with MHC. As a coalition, we facilitate and support a network of committees on various issues. We invite you to join the work of one or more of the following groups:

## **FORECLOSURE WORKING GROUP FOLLOW-UP: PHASE II**

MHC is entering Phase II of follow-up to the Foreclosure Working Group recommendation release. You probably just received those recommendations in the mail. The Foreclosure Working Group spent seven months creating first steps towards addressing the continued, drastic rise in Louisville foreclosure rates.

In Phase II, MHC will coordinate the implementation of the recommendations. You may volunteer to participate in one of three groups formed around each recommendation — **Neighborhood Study Group**, **Consumer Education Development Group**, or **Policy Recommendation Group**. Contact MHC Executive Director Cathy Hinko at 584-6858 to participate in this important process.

## **DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Help MHC do something of utmost importance — secure a solid financial foundation so that we can continue advocating for those who lack a voice well into the future! The Development Committee meets once a month and discusses fundraising strategies, as well as plans events. It is a fun and exciting group with which to be involved. Hooked? Contact Nancy Reinhart for information.

## **ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

MHC has been facilitating this committee as a joint venture with the Coalition for the Homeless for a few years. The group has tackled major policy and community issues, such as the development code, cuts to housing funding, and NIMBYism. You all witnessed the amazing work of this group in May at the 356 Housing Rally.

If housing issues are your passion and you like to act on those values, this is the group for you. Contact MHC or the Coalition for the Homeless for more information. Meetings are open to the public. The schedule is posted on our website at [www.metropolitanhousing.org](http://www.metropolitanhousing.org).

## **FAIR HOUSING COALITION**

The next meeting of the Fair Housing Coalition will be on September 8 at 1pm at the Louisville Urban League and will feature the introduction of the new Director of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, Linda Murnane.

The Fair Housing Coalition addresses fair housing issues in this community. If you are interested in opposing housing discrimination and would like to work with this dedicated MHC committee, you can contact its chair, Suzy Post, at [suzypost@bellsouth.net](mailto:suzypost@bellsouth.net).

We want new volunteers for this group so that it may keep doing the amazing work it has been doing for 14 years!

## **ANNUAL MEETING COMMITTEE**

What a fun event to plan! And, the group which plans it is even more of a hoot than the event itself. This is an annual event that takes about six months to plan. Meetings are monthly, but volunteers also do a few tasks outside committee meetings. To volunteer, you must be creative and willing to have a great time while you are at it! Contact Nancy if you are interested.

## **ISSUE BASED COMMITTEES/ AD HOC COMMITTEES**

MHC often plays a supporting role in other organizations' campaigns or committees. If you would like to volunteer around a specific issue and represent MHC at the same time, we will help you do it. Let us know that you are already out there and involved with and we can arm you with more information about the affordable housing issues specific to that topic. The Living Wage Campaign is just one example of these types of committees.

## **September Meetings**

**9/8 — Fair Housing Coalition**  
1pm, Louisville Urban League  
15th & Broadway

**9/14 — Advocacy & Education Committee**  
3:30pm, New Directions, 1000 E. Liberty

**9/28 — MHC Board Meeting**  
12pm, JFVS, 3587 Dutchmans Lane



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**HIGHLIGHTS FOR SEPTEMBER ...** New Tradition: Community Leader Breakfast/NHA has a New Program Director/365 Housing Rally Update/MHC Member News/Welcome to our Newest Members/Volunteer Opportunities with MHC/September Meetings/Speak Up! We Need Your Voice and Energy!

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

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# *Speak up!* **We need your voice and energy!**

**Y**our work with MHC is important. There are many local initiatives about housing that are being discussed right now. It is critically important that MHC membership participate in this discussion. Be sure to read this month's article about how to get more involved if you want to help MHC advocate around affordable and fair housing issues.

The Louisville Metro Housing Authority recently published new Section 8, Public Housing and Moving to Work plans. The plans limit the number of Section 8 consumers allowed to live in complexes with over 100 units, even if those complexes are in affluent areas. Our city has publicly stated that it supports the de-concentration of poverty and these plans do not advance that concept. It also penalizes the elderly and disabled who may need units that are accessible or smaller to fit a Section

*by* Cathy Hinko

MHC Executive Director

8 budget, by placing a cap on complexes that may have those units. These policies unfairly eliminate housing choice for households protected by the Fair Housing Act.

Speak up! Tell LMHA that the new plan limits housing choice— comments are accepted by mail or e-mail; the public hearing is Sept. 6 at Dosker Manor, Building A, in the Nutrition Room.

A draft of the Mayor's housing strategy has just been released. MHC will continue work on the implementation of the local Affordable Housing Trust Fund, which is in the strategy. MHC will also work to revise the Alternative Development Incentives which encourages the development of affordable housing. We have a lot to do

and this is a great opportunity to further our mission.

MHC is initiating Phase II of the Response to Foreclosures initiative. We have begun the work to implement the recommendations published in the paper *Homeownership at Risk: Our Community Responds to Home Foreclosures*. MHC will convene committees around each of the three suggestions listed in the paper, which you should have just received in the mail.

One more thing to keep apprised of — the proposed sale of land in Council District 19 has generated a request to our local government to make affordable housing a part of the sale agreement. MHC advocates that this be a part of any future sale of city land, especially in areas where new construction of affordable housing is cost prohibitive.

All this means we have much work to do. We need your voice and energy! 📣