

# NEWSletter

METROPOLITAN  
HOUSING  
COALITION  
LOUISVILLE KY  
JANUARY 2006

## Thank you!

The Metropolitan Housing Coalition is grateful for the special support of the following foundations and corporations in 2005: **Judah Foundation, Gannett Foundation, Archdiocese of Louisville, Making Connections Louisville, Chase Bank, IN-KY Regional Council of Carpenters, PNC Bank, Fannie Mae, Louisville Community Development Bank, Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission, Kentucky Housing Corporation, Metro United Way's Building Strong Families Community Solutions Committee and Presbyterian Church USA.**

Thank you to **Louisville Metro Department of Housing and Community Development** for support of both MHC and NHA.

We also thank **Holt Printing** and **Commonwealth Bank** for in-kind support in 2005. 

## MHC's vision for 2006 by Cathy Hinko

"It takes a catastrophe like Katrina to strip away the old evasions, hypocrisies and not-so-benign neglect." Thus began Jonathan Alter's September 18 article in *Newsweek*.

America is again talking about race and poverty and MHC, along with partner organizations, will facilitate the discussion throughout 2006.

MHC has convened a partnership of several agencies involved with fair housing to commemorate the Louisville Open Housing movement of 1966-1967. These events will start in April 2006 and run through April 2007, when a closing event will be held at the newly opened African-American Heritage Museum.

On April 13, 2006, in celebration of Fair Housing month, Ed Goetz will speak on the issues of deconcentration of poverty, an event co-sponsored by the University of Louisville and MHC. Mr. Goetz's research focuses on issues of race and poverty and how they affect housing policy planning and development. Goetz is the author of *Clearing the Way: Deconcentrating the Poor in Urban America*.

On May 9, Dr. Gary Orfield will be the keynote speaker at the MHC Annual Meeting. Dr. Orfield has written extensively about racial segregation, particularly in education. Read more about him on the back page in our announcement about the Annual Meeting.

In one of this year's issue papers, MHC plans to explore the impact of gender segregation in housing and offer policy and program suggestions to counter the current trend. We may also conduct a study of how local regulations and land cost prohibit the production of affordable housing throughout our metro area.

MHC has worked for 17 years to facilitate a conversation about the inter-relationship of race, gender, poverty, and housing. We hope you will continue to offer your voice in these conversations to our coalition throughout this upcoming year. 

## January Meetings

### 1/5 – Fair Housing Coalition

Thursday, January 5, 1pm, Louisville Urban League

### 1/18 – Advocacy and Education Committee

Due to the Race and Relations Conference, the A&E Committee meeting will be postponed until January 18 at 3:30pm, New Directions Housing Corporation

### 1/25 – MHC Board of Directors

Wednesday, January 25, noon, Jewish Family and Vocational Services

## Metropolitan Housing Coalition

CONTACT US!

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# MHC *Member* News

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

**The Housing Partnership Inc.** will award this year's *Champions for Home Ownership* at a luncheon on June 21, 2006. This year's speaker is Henry Cisneros, former HUD Secretary. Ticket details will be announced later.

**Jewish Family & Vocational Services** will host a forum entitled *Ripped from the Headlines: Utilizing the Media to Affect Social Change*. The speaker will be Dr. Neal Baer, Executive Producer of *Law and Order, Special Victims Unit*. The luncheon will be held on February 28 at the Hyatt Regency Louisville. Tickets are \$40 per person and all proceeds benefit JFVS. Call 452-6341 for more information.

The **Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission** is having its 10th Annual Race and Relations Conference entitled *A Decade of Diversity* on Wednesday, January 11 at the Muhammad Ali Center from 9am to 2pm. The keynote luncheon speaker is Harvard Law professor, legal theorist, and author Charles Ogletree. Registration deadline is January 4. For more information on pricing and details, call 574-3631.

**Metro United Way** supports a program worth knowing about — our local asset building coalitions! Do you work with families earning less than \$37,263? The Louisville Asset Building Coalition and the Southern Indiana Asset Building Coalition offer free tax preparation assistance to help families claim the Earned Income Tax Credit and connect clients to financial skills-building workshops. For information call (502) 581-7262 in Louisville or (812) 206-7512 in Clark County.

The **U of L School of Urban and Public Affairs**, in cooperation with MHC's **Non-profit Housing Alliance** and the **Center for Neighborhoods**, will offer training programs from January to May 2006. The 8-week courses are free of charge as space permits. For registration information, please contact Patty Sarley at UofL at (502) 852-7914 or [plclea01@gwise.louisville.edu](mailto:plclea01@gwise.louisville.edu).

**TAKE A LOOK AT MHC'S WEBSITE!**  
[www.metropolitanhousing.org](http://www.metropolitanhousing.org)

## Update on the Affordable Housing Trust Fund

The Local Affordable Housing Trust Fund Campaign has secured 58 organizational endorsers over the last few months. We have the support of the Mayor's office and the Metro Louisville Department of Housing and Community Development.

**Trust fund legislation will be filed in Frankfort for introduction at the next legislative session in February!** If you signed a post card in support of the trust fund, you likely received an action alert email last month requesting that you call your state delegates. Your phone calls and letters are an integral part of the campaign's success. Be sure to keep up the hard work!

If you would like to be added to the Trust Fund Action list, contact Nick Braden at 584-6858. 

## 2005 State of Metropolitan Housing Report on the radio

On December 15, 2005, MHC Executive Director Cathy Hinko, report author Valerie Salley and MHC Board President Kevin Dunlap were featured on the hour-long WFPL program, *State of Affairs*. During the interview, they discussed the **2005 State of Metropolitan Housing Report** and importance of its findings for our community. Several callers commented on the affordable housing crisis faced by our most vulnerable populations.



MHC received coverage on several other radio programs about the report, including *Studio 619*. A link to the radio programs and the report can be found on our website, [www.metropolitanhousing.org](http://www.metropolitanhousing.org). 

### Welcome New Members

Celebrate the new year by welcoming the following new members:

Individuals — **Harriet Friedlander, Dr. Fred Hicks, Geoff Hobin & Jennifer Hubbard, and Lynn & Crit Luallen.**

Organizations — **St. Matthews Area Ministries** with delegate **Dan Lane**; **Kentucky Resources Council** with delegate **Tom Fitzgerald**; and **GMAC Mortgage Corporation** with delegate **David Pauley**.

# Out of Reach 2005

There is no town, city, or county in the United States where a full-time minimum wage earner can afford the Fair Market Rent for a one-bedroom apartment, according to a recent study by the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

Furthermore, the 2005 National Housing Wage (what a worker needs to earn per hour to make a two-bedroom apartment affordable) is \$15.87 — more than *three* times the federal minimum wage.

In the Louisville MSA, in order for a minimum-wage earner to have an affordable two-bedroom apartment affordable, he or she must work 84 hours per week. (The federal definition for affordability is that housing and utility costs cannot be more than 30% of total household income.) This reflects a five-hour decrease from last year's 89 hours.

Unfortunately, this decrease does **NOT** indicate an improvement in Louisville's affordability index. Instead, it results mostly from HUD decreasing the local "Fair Market Rent" estimate for the Louisville Metro Statistical Area from \$597 to \$563 for a two-bedroom apartment.

In Kentucky, a worker must earn \$10.33 in order to make renting a two-bedroom apartment affordable, and in Indiana, \$11.97. Conversely, the average Kentucky renter earns \$9.54, making the gap between what workers earn and what they can afford to pay just 79¢ per hour.

Yet, as the statistics prove, the affordable housing gap persists and continues to grow. One-third of total Kentucky and Indiana households rent and nearly half of these families live in unaffordable homes, paying more than 30% of their income towards rent.

To view the complete report, visit [www.nlihc.org/oor2005](http://www.nlihc.org/oor2005). 

## Here's the latest from ...

# Non-profit Housing Alliance

On November 10 at the Frazier Historical Arms Museum, MHC hosted a Community Leaders Breakfast, introducing the NHA to a crowd of fifty local leaders. Those in attendance heard about the NHA's goals and strategies and met NHA members. We invite attendees to partner with MHC to promote and/or fund the building of more affordable housing in coming years.

The four strategies of the Non-profit Housing Alliance are:

- 1. To build the capacity of the NHA.**
- 2. To improve and integrate intergovernmental and development systems for affordable housing.**
- 3. To build partnerships between non-profit housing community and training/technical assistance providers to build capacity in key competencies.**
- 4. To broaden the funding base for affordable housing development.**

The NHA has already started meeting these objectives. Partnering with the **Center for Neighborhoods** and the **University of Louisville School of Urban and Public Affairs**, the NHA recently sponsored a *Management of Non-*

*profit Housing Organizations* course, attended by 25 people. The second course, *Introduction to Real Estate Development*, will begin in January.

Members of the NHA have worked diligently on proposals to Louisville Metro for capacity building grants. One member commented on the process, saying at first it "seemed burdensome, but once we started, we found clarity in what we need to do to improve our abilities. It has been a helpful process."

For the next step in this process, members will submit business plans for review.

Finally, congratulations to two NHA members for honors received at the **Center for Non-Profit Excellence** Annual Conference: **River City Housing** was awarded the Art of Governance, and **Habitat for Humanity** was awarded the Art of Vision. Congratulations!

For more information about the NHA, contact Doug Magee at 584-6858. 



## 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](mailto:nancy@metropolitanhousing.org).



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**HIGHLIGHTS FOR JANUARY ...** Thank You/  
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Annual Meeting

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

**PNCBANK**  
*Where Performance Counts*



**Save May 9  
on your  
calendar for  
MHC's 17th  
Annual  
Meeting**

We have secured speaker Gary Orfield, co-author of *Dismantling Desegregation*, for MHC's Annual Meeting on May 9. He is a professor of education and social policy at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and Kennedy School of Government, and co-director of the Civil Rights Project at Harvard University.



Dr. Orfield writes and researches on civil rights, education policy, urban policy, and minority opportunities.

In addition to his scholarly work, Dr. Orfield has helped develop governmental policy and served as an expert witness in court cases related to his research. He received his PhD from the University of Chicago.

The Annual Meeting will be held at the Downtown Marriott. Keep your eyes peeled for more information next month. 