



July/Aug '06

NEWSletter

Louisville needs a living wage now!

According to a Kentucky Youth Advocates study in 2000, a single mother with two children in Louisville needs to earn between \$11.92 and \$15.48 an hour, just to cover the most basic needs of housing, taxes, food, child care and transportation.

We all know people who work and yet still earn too little to cover even their basic household costs. In the last two decades, working peoples' real wages have dropped by \$1.75 an hour. One-third of all workers in Kentucky work full-time, year-round, yet still fall below the Federal poverty level.

Support a living wage

Though the federal minimum wage has been raised 20 times since its induction in the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, it is at its lowest point in 50 years. Congress has not raised the minimum wage in a decade. As of December 2006, this will be the longest time Congress has ever gone without raising the minimum wage. What does this mean for you? Our limited public dollars are being used to subsidize poverty-wage work. When subsidized employers are allowed to pay their workers less than a living wage, taxpayers end up footing a double bill: the initial subsidy *plus* food stamps, emergency medical, housing and other social services low wage workers may require to support themselves and their families, even minimally. 

Update on the Affordable Housing Trust Fund

The Local Affordable Housing Trust Fund campaign continues with great progress, but we are not done yet! *Thank you* to Mayor Abramson for convening a task force on the local AHTF and *thank you* to the people who are serving on that task force, including Council Member Tina Ward-Pugh. We also say *thank you* to President Kramer and Council Member Mary Woolridge for the Council's consideration of this issue through the sub-committee of Health and Human Services. Members of the sub-committee include Council Members Hamilton, Peden, Stuckel, Ward-Pugh and Watkins.

Yet, there is a lot of education that needs to happen. Council Member Ward-Pugh commented that she hoped that the Council would bring equal focus and funding to the local Affordable Housing Trust Fund (a paraphrase of her remarks). As advocates, we continue to speak with council members individually to help educate and answer any ques-

tions or concerns about the local AHTF. The questions raised by members of the task force have been great at making sure advocates are honed in on their information and reasoning. New eyes are viewing the local AHTF.

Our three principles remain:

- that the local AHTF should serve the lowest income people (those at 50% of median income with a special set-aside for those at 30% of median income);
- that the local AHTF should have a dedicated, renewable source of public funding; and
- that the local AHTF should be governed by a decision-making board with a representational constituency, including those who are eligible for AHTF housing, appointed by the Mayor and Council.

Keep your eyes peeled for action alerts. We will be asking you to show your support. 



Metropolitan Housing Coalition

P.O. Box 4533 • Louisville, KY 40204-4533 • PHONE (502) 584-6858 • FAX (502) 452-6718 • www.metropolitanhousing.org

Here's a message from
Cathy Hinko
MHC Executive Director

Joanne Smith served on the board of the Housing Authority of Jefferson County beginning in 1988. I know because we both joined HAJC the same year. Joanne was the former president of the Communications Workers of America Local 3310 and her work there is well documented, as well as her commitment to her church. Less is known of her dedication to affordable housing.

Joanne went from board member to leading the HAJC board for almost a decade. We worked together to assist low-income families and people achieve stable, safe and affordable housing. Joanne never let me forget that our core competency was the daily service to clients and that excellence was only a beginning point. She knew that it was dedicated staff who wrought this achievement and valued their contribution. Joanne supported innovation and was willing to take calculated risks to create cutting edge partnerships with other service agencies. Joanne went on to the merged Louisville Metro Housing Authority board and served there until her illness. Ms. Smith died on July 28, 2006. Her smile, intelligence and kindnesses will be sorely missed. 🏠

MHC MEMBER News

Here is what some of MHC's member organizations are doing

Jewish Family & Vocational Services

announces a Job Seekers Resource Group. Come for a free meeting every Thursday from 11:30am til 1pm at Jewish Family & Vocational Services, 3587 Dutchmans Lane. Network with other job seekers and learn job search skills from an experienced career advisor. Topics will vary each week. For more information, contact Leslie Sanders at 452-6341, ext. 334 or email lesliesanders@jfv.com. 🏠

The Louisville Aids Walk will take place on September 24. Several MHC member organizations have committed to organize and/or support the 14th annual Louisville Aids Walk. They are: **Family and Children First, Louisville Metro Housing, Louisville Metro Health Department, Volunteers of America and House of Ruth**. Please visit

louisvilleaidswalk.kintera.org for more details on the day's events and to sign up to walk! 🏠

Cathedral Commons will hold its public dedication ceremony on October 3 at 1:30pm. Be sure you mark your calendar and take a look at MHC's September newsletter for more details! 🏠

Center for Nonprofit Excellence will be holding their Annual Conference entitled *Leading for Change: Toward the Greater Good*, October 11 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel from 8am until 3:30pm. This event will bring nonprofit executives, board members, grant makers and others together to explore major trends, challenges and recognized best practices among our public purpose organizations. For more information or to register, please visit www.cnpe.org. 🏠

The **Coalition for the Homeless** would like you to mark your calendars for the Annual Tour of Homes in the Cherokee Triangle Benefit on Sunday, October 15. This event is sure to be fabulous and they hope to see you all there! 🏠

Legacy Homes is pleased to announce that the first residents have moved into the Norton Commons Legacy Senior Residences, a 24-unit building located in the town center of Norton Commons. Additional one- and two-bedroom units are available. For more information, please contact Stephanie Vest at 562-0016. 🏠

New members

We extend a warm welcome to new individual members **Erica Licourt & Cary Peter, Mark McKinley, Morgan Ransdell, Nicholas Lutz and Bill Friedlander**. Also, welcome to new organizational members **Cathedral Commons, LLC** with delegate **Tom Hunter, St. Williams Church** with delegate **Sharon Benton, and AFSCME Local 2629** with delegate **Sheila Wade**.

MHC welcomes two new staff members!



Erica Licourt

**MHC
Administrative
Assistant**

Kendell Nash

**MHC
Development
Director
&
Advocacy
Project
Coordinator**



Erica Licourt is MHC's new Administrative Assistant. Erica received her Bachelors Degree in English from Spalding University before heading to London where she was the Communications and Fundraising Associate for Kentuckians For The Commonwealth. Erica and her partner Cary have returned to Louisville where Erica is currently pursuing a MFA in Creative Writing. Though Erica is busy with her studies, she has quickly become an invaluable member of MHC's staff. She is the proud parent of two canine children, Phoebe and Goose.

Kendell Nash is MHC's new Development Director and Advocacy Project Coordinator. Kendell comes to us from Lexington, Kentucky fresh off an AmeriCorps stint with a local non-profit environmental agency. Kendell received a Masters Degree in Public Administration in 2005 from the University of Kentucky's prestigious Martin School. Kendell is very excited to be working and fundraising for MHC. She and her family are transitioning to Louisville and love getting to know the Derby City. She and her husband, Scott, are the proud and busy parents of a 2 1/2 year old son, Owen.

The next time you are visiting MHC please stop by and say *hello* to these two fine women! 🏡

fyi

Items of interest to all affordable housing advocates

Get Educated and Motivated! Kentucky Jobs With Justice, Women In Transition and Metropolitan Housing Coalition are joining forces to put the living wage crisis in the spotlight. Come out on August 29 at 6pm to the Home of the Innocents for a free viewing of the documentary film *Waging a Living: Opportunities for Action*, profiling three individuals who are members of America's low-income workforce. The documentary is designed to stimulate discussion and motivate audiences to develop strategies and policies that will help low-income working families in their communities climb the economic ladder. If you cannot make it on August 29, please visit www.pbs.org/pov for other viewing dates. 🏡

MHC Seeks Affordable Housing Trust Fund Campaign Coordinator for 15 Hours Per Week. This temporary position is funded for a minimum of seven months, with the possibility for longer employment. The Coordinator would plan, coordinate and facilitate Working Group meetings, coordinate and track legislative movement, coordinate with and participate in the Housing Action Team, mobilize Community Supporters, and educate the community on the need for a local Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Send all resumes to MHC, P.O. Box 4533, Louisville, KY 40204. 🏡

Congratulations Adam Ruiz, MHC Board Member! Adam Ruiz has been named one of Louisville's 25 Most Influential Latinos! Mr. Ruiz was honored for his commitment to improving the city on August 10 at a Louisville Leadership reception for the 25 honorees. Mr. Ruiz is the Director of Community Development for Citizen's Union Bank and helped launch the Greater Louisville Hispanic Latino Business Council. 🏡

In memoriam

Jane LaPin, longtime MHC member dies in July

Jane LaPin, a member of MHC since its inception in 1990 died at Treyton Oaks after a long illness. LaPin was a passionate member of the League of Women Voters, a constant presence at Board of Aldermen meetings for years, and a former member of the Louisville Housing Authority and the Louisville and Jefferson County Human Relations Commission.

Founding MHC Director Suzy Post recalls that LaPin singlehandedly raised the funds to bring David Rusk, former Mayor of Albuquerque and author of the book *Cities Without Suburbs*, to Louisville to discuss land use issues that would minimize racial segregation in housing.

In its earlier years, Jane worked on MHC's subcommittee of Cornerstone 2020 to draft a land use code that would minimize sprawl. She rarely missed an MHC Annual Meeting and was present at her last one two years ago.

There will be a Memorial Service for La Pin on August 26 in the Oak Room at the Treyton Oaks Tower in downtown Louisville at a time to be announced. Contributions in her memory may be made to the League of Women Voters. 🏡

HIGHLIGHTS FOR JULY/AUGUST...

Louisville Needs a Living Wage Now! /Update on the Affordable Housing Trust Fund/Message from Cathy Hinko, MHC Executive Director/MHC Member News/New Members/MHC Welcomes Two New Staff Members/Items of Interest to All Affordable Housing Advocates/In Memoriam/Upcoming Meetings

MHC's monthly newsletter is underwritten by a grant from



Upcoming Meetings

8/29 — Come for a free viewing of “Waging a Living”, a joint venture with Kentucky Jobs With Justice, Women In Transition and MHC
Home of the Innocents, 1100 East Market Street
Tuesday, August 29, 6pm

9/7 — Fair Housing Coalition, “Visitability in Design”
Louisville Urban League, 1535 West Broadway
Thursday, September 7, 1pm

9/27 — MHC Board of Directors
Jewish Family & Vocational Service, 3587 Dutchman’s Lane
Wednesday, September 27, 12pm

10/10 — “The Open Housing Movement of 1966-67: The Role of Faith Organizations”, MHC forum with Rev. Charles Elliott, Rev. Tom Moffat, Suzy Post and Dr. Tracy K’Meyer of U of L
First Unitarian Church, 809 South Fourth Street
Tuesday, October 10, 12pm



Louisville needs a living wage increase now!

The chart below illustrates the need for an increase in minimum wage in Louisville. All data was taken from www.livingwage.geog.psu.edu and is in 2004 dollars.

	Living Wage (per hour)	Minimum Wage (per hour)	Poverty Wage (per hour)
ONE ADULT →	\$6.72	\$5.15	\$4.73
ONE ADULT & ONE CHILD →	\$12.36	\$5.15	\$6.38
TWO ADULTS →	\$9.84	\$5.15	\$6.03
TWO ADULTS & ONE CHILD →	\$14.29	\$5.15	\$7.43
TWO ADULTS & TWO CHILDREN →	\$17.92	\$5.15	\$9.39