

NEWSletter

METROPOLITAN
HOUSING
COALITION
LOUISVILLE KY
MAY 2006

LAST CHANCE! Get your tickets for the May 9th Annual Meeting TODAY!



Tickets are going like crazy for MHC's 17th Annual Meeting on May 9th! Tickets are \$40 each — or for \$400, you can be listed

in the program as a sponsor of a table for eight. The event will be held at the Louisville Marriott downtown at 280 W. Jefferson.

Ordering your ticket or table is easy. All you need to do is email nancy@metropolitanhousing.org to reserve your space.

Dr. Gary Orfield from Harvard will be speaking about school desegregation and affordable housing. Arrive at 5pm on May 9th for a social hour of drinks and a networking bonanza! Parking is available in the Hyatt Regency and Marriott garages or find a spot on the street. See you there! 🏠



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TAKE A LOOK AT OUR WEBSITE!
www.metropolitanhousing.org

Open the Door campaign is victorious! Louisville Trust Fund campaign energized

A bill to fund the Kentucky Affordable Housing Trust Fund via a dedicated source of public funding will become law on July 12!

Thanks to your phone calls and steady efforts, state lawmakers passed House Bill 537 in the last days of this year's session. This bill establishes an estimated \$4.4 million or more in dedicated public revenue source for the Kentucky Affordable Housing Trust Fund. The legislation dedicates revenue to the Fund from a \$6 increase on the county fee to record various documents, including deeds and mortgages. Also, the final version of the budget specified that the Kentucky Housing Corporation will continue to contribute \$500,000 to the Fund annually.

Wow! This is a huge victory. \$2 million in additional funding will help address our state's affordable housing crisis in years to come, enabling more families to live in safe, decent and affordable homes.

And, check out these additional campaign successes:

✓ Identified and mobilized more than 2,000 citizens supporting the three principles of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund campaign.

✓ **Secured 85 local organizational endorsers, half of which are MHC members.** State supporters include the Home Builders Association of Kentucky, Manufactured Housing Institute of Kentucky, Mortgage Bankers Association of Kentucky, and Kentucky Mortgage Brokers Association.

✓ Achieved bipartisan, bicameral support for proposed legislation every step of the way.



✓ Generated hundreds of phone calls with consistent strong messages to legislators every week, from January through April 13.

✓ Facilitated effective, persuasive face-to-face meetings between 50 homeless individuals, and hundreds of poor people, advocates, businesspersons, and other concerned citizens with their lawmakers.

✓ Convened two rallies attended by 350 people.

✓ Received extensive press coverage: three strong editorials in *The Courier-Journal*, four news articles and two editorials in the *Lexington Herald-Leader*, as well as many letters to the editors in papers throughout Kentucky.

✓ Built and sustained the Housing Action Team for long-term grassroots mobilization around affordable housing and other related justice issues.

✓ Special thanks go to religious orders Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Maryknoll Missionaries, Sisters of Mercy, Loretto Community, and Franciscan Sisters. They made a huge impact on legislators at the press conference they sponsored on March 22.

You can get involved in the local campaign by contacting MHC or the Coalition for the Homeless.

Contributions for the article came from Rachel Hurst of the Coalition for the Homeless and Mary Brooks from the Center for Community Change. 🏠

MHC

Member

News

Take a look at what some of our member organizations are doing!

On Saturday May 27, CART (**Coalition for the Advancement of Regional Transportation**) will hold its Annual Meeting and Pitch-In Picnic at Tyler Park in the picnic shelter from noon to 5pm. Members and the general public are invited. Visit website www.cartky.org for more information about the event. 🏠

October 1 is the date for the **Dare to Care** Food Bank Festival on the Lawn presented by Krogers. This fun family event will be held at the Great Lawn at Waterfront Park. Mark the date now and look for more details soon. 🏠

Fifth Third Bank is pleased to announce the availability of down payment assistance grants from the Homeownership Opportunities Program of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis. Effective March 1, 2006 and continuing until funds are depleted, income-eligible, first-time homebuyers may apply for grants up to \$5,000. For more information, call Karen Campbell at 449-3297. Si habla Espanol, para mas informacion, puede llamar a Terri Reyes (502) 412-9972. 🏠

The **Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky** Annual Conference will take place on Wednesday & Thursday, June 7 & 8, at the Sheraton Suites on Richmond Road in Lexington. The topic is *New Ideas and Creative Strategies for Kentucky*. The conference begins

Wednesday at 10am and concludes at noon on Thursday. It is sponsored by HHCK in conjunction with the Kentucky Interagency Council on Homelessness. For more information, please call (502) 223-1834. 🏠

Kentucky Jobs with Justice hosts a Wage Rally on Saturday, May 13, 5pm, at the Americana Community Center, 4801 Southside Drive. Ralliers will call on Louisville Metro Council to pass a budget appropriation that will provide at least 220 Metro Government workers with a living wage of \$11.48 per hour. Hear State Representative Joni Jenkins, Janet Tucker of the Lexington Living Wage Campaign, and Sheila Wade of AFSCME Local 2629 speak out.

Right after that, make plans to attend the Kentucky Jobs with Justice 2006 Solidarity Celebration from 6-7:30pm. The keynote speaker is Bill Fletcher, Jr., former CEO of the TransAfrica Forum. Refreshments and child care will be provided. Tickets are a suggested donation of \$10. Call 625-3724. 🏠

Prepare for the 2007 Senior Olympics to be held in Louisville. For now, plan to attend or participate in Louisville's Fifty and Over Games, sponsored by **KIPDA Area Agency on Aging**, May 8-21. To register or get information, call 456-8186 or check out www.metro-parks.org. 🏠

Neighborhood Development Corporation is now taking applications for The Norton Commons Legacy Senior Residences. Be part of the most exciting development in Louisville. Twenty-four apartment units available to seniors 55 and over with incomes up to 50 & 60% AMI. For information, please contact Stephanie Vest at 562-0016. 🏠

New Directions Housing Corporation is now accepting reservations from volunteer teams for its annual Repair Affair event. In place since 1993, the program's mission has been to mobilize community-wide resources and volunteers to support the housing repair needs of elderly and disabled homeowners of low income. Volunteer teams from local corporations, service and social organizations, congregations and individuals work to complete repairs. We stress safety, security, accessibility, maintenance and weatherization. Call 589-2272 ext. 3039. 🏠

➔ **Want to receive MHC's newsletter by email?**



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



Fair Housing Month Activities RECAP

Over 70 MHC members attended Dr. Ed Goetz's presentation on Thursday, April 13. The event was co-sponsored by **UL's School of Urban & Public Affairs**. Dr. Goetz argued that while federal focus on deconcentration of poverty is important because families should be able to have safe, decent and affordable housing choices in a variety of neighborhoods, these alone are not the answer. Dr. Goetz recommended continued rehabilitation of historically poor neighborhoods and the creation of policies that promote privately developed lower income housing choices in higher income areas.

On April 18, MHC presented *Opening the Door: 40 Years of Open Housing* as part of the first event commemorating the Open Housing Movement in Louisville. The paper, sponsored by **US Bank**, tracks the movement during 1966-67 in which demonstrations, marches, and advocacy culminated in an open housing law for Louisville, the first such law in a southern city. Dr. Tracey K'Meyer spoke about the history of the Open Housing movement, incorporating quotes from people piv-

otal to that movement. Valerie Salley spoke on racial housing patterns over the last 40 years, including information on Hispanic housing patterns that was not in the paper.

The paper finds that since 1960 there has been slow but steady progress towards housing integration, yet Louisville Metro remains highly segregated. In 2000, almost 60% of African Americans lived in census tracts that were over 50% African American, although African Americans comprise 19% of the population of Louisville Metro (as defined today). Unfortunately, the trend for the Hispanic population between 1980 and 2000 shows increasing segregation as the population grows.

Using census data, the report ranks levels of segregation in the 100 largest U.S. cities (with a rank of 100 being the least integrated), finding that Louisville Metro ranks 75th. New Orleans ranked 80th, only slightly more segregated than Louisville Metro.

MHC's recommendations include active planning for Open Housing through the Mayor's Comprehensive Housing Strategy to improve choices for new groups and to further current efforts for true choice and a *Yes, In My Back Yard (YIMBY)* campaign to use information and education to combat the fear of change in Louisville Metro.

MHC staffer Nancy Reinhart says she learned a great deal from this project about the history of a movement in which she is currently enmeshed. She was pleased and surprised to learn that her parents — Pat and Phil Reinhart — were on the West End Community Council, the Portland neighborhood group that went door to door trying to promulgate integration.

MHC will host a year-long celebration of the Open Housing Movement. Please check out our website, www.metropolitanhousing.org, for information about upcoming events. 🏠

In memoriam

Losing a hero, maintaining his vision MHC salutes HENRY WALLACE

Long-time civil rights advocate and environmental supporter Henry Wallace died on April 19 at his home on Rose Island Road in Louisville. Wallace, a steadfast member and supporter of MHC, was 90.

His last demonstration was the most recent national mobilization against the Iraqi War, which he attended with his daughter, Fairness architect Carla Wallace.

His death is a serious loss to Louisville's civil rights community. He used to say he rarely met a demonstration he didn't like, but that was primarily because he attended so many counter demonstrations of groups he disliked such as the Ku Klux Klan. He will be sorely missed. 🏠

May Meetings

5/11 Fair Housing Committee
Thursday, May 11, 1pm
Louisville Urban League
1535 W. Broadway

5/24 MHC Board of Directors
Wednesday, May 24, 12pm
Jewish Family & Vocational Service, 3587 Dutchmans Lane

HIGHLIGHTS FOR MAY ... Last chance to buy tickets for May 9th Annual Meeting/ Open the Door campaign is victorious! Louisville Trust Fund campaign energized/ MHC member news/ Fair Housing Month activities recap/ Losing a hero, maintaining his vision—MHC salutes Henry Wallace/ MHC to welcome three Board members at Annual Meeting on May 9th

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Where Performance Counts

MHC to welcome three Board members at the May 9th Annual Meeting

☆ **Dr. Steve Bourassa, University of Louisville School of Urban and Public Affairs** — Steve is KHC Real Estate Research professor and Director of the School of Urban and Public Affairs at the University of Louisville. His research looks at urban housing and land policy. He was on the MHC Board of Directors between 1999 and 2004, and served as Vice President and President during that time. 🏠

☆ **Michael B. Davis, Southern Indiana Asset Building Coalition** — Mike directed and expanded the economic success program at The Center for Women and Families; created and led the Louisville Asset Building Coalition (LABC), an effort to connect low-income working individuals to tax benefits, free tax preparation and financial education; and created and led the Kentucky Asset Success Initiative, an effort focused on some of America's poorest communities in the Appalachian Mountains of Eastern Kentucky. He is currently leading the Southern Indiana Asset Building Coalition. Mike lives with his partner,

Heidi, and their two dogs on 35 acres in rural Southern Indiana. They just finished building their first home, a 1,000-square-foot chalet heated with a wood stove and powered by solar panels. 🏠

☆ **Morgan Ransdell, Kentucky Commission on Human Rights** — A native of Louisville, Morgan holds a Juris Doctorate degree from the Vanderbilt University School of Law. In 2005, he was selected as the Managing Attorney of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights. As an employee of the Commission, Morgan has litigated numerous civil rights cases and has represented the Commission in numerous personnel matters and in judicial actions in state and federal court. Before joining the Commission's staff in 1998, Morgan served as an Assistant Attorney General under Attorneys General Chris Gorman and Ben Chandler, and he also previously worked as an associate at Brown, Todd & Heyburn (now Frost Brown Todd LLC). 🏠

