



APRIL 2007

NEWSletter

Fair Housing Month

Program is April 11

Plan to join us on **April 11** from **noon to 2pm** at the Legal Aid Society, 416 W. Muhammad Ali, 3rd Floor, for *Opening the Door: 40 Years of Open Housing: How the Movement Created Leaders and Current Housing Trends.*

What better way to honor the work of those who lead the way than the 40th Year Commemoration of the Open Housing Movement featuring some of the people who participated in the movement and then went on to be come elected leaders! Senator Georgia Powers, Councilmember Cheri Bryant Hamilton, and State Representative Reginald Meeks will talk about their experiences and inspire us to carry on. The second half of the forum will feature Carolyn Miller Cooper assessing where we are in Open Housing and new trends and demographics. Dr. John Gilderbloom of the University of Louisville will speak about housing trends on a national and local level.

Light refreshments will be served so you can stay for the entire session. 

MHC's Annual Meeting on May 10

MHC's 18th Annual Meeting will be held on **Thursday, May 10** at the **Hyatt Louisville** downtown. This year MHC's Annual Meeting theme is **Yes! In My Back Yard (YIMBY)**.

We continue to coordinate over 20 individual and organizational partners in the introduction of a public education campaign on the benefits of affordable housing throughout the entire city through the YIMBY campaign. MHC is thrilled to have Andrea Levere of CFED discussing *Assets and Opportunities: Building a True Ownership Society*. What a great and timely topic as MHC is diligently working on the YIMBY campaign!

Since we are working so hard on getting the YIMBY message out, we thought it would be fun to celebrate — back yard style. What the heck does that mean? Well, MHC is offering centerpieces arranged around four

favorite back yard activities: Barbequing, Cocktail Hour, Gardening and, for the kids, Sand Boxing! The user-friendly centerpieces will be for sale to help raise money to continue our hard work on the YIMBY and other campaigns that need MHC! Additionally, we will be selling YIMBY aprons at the Annual Meeting for a mere \$10!

Come for music, food and lots of fun! Arrive at 5pm for drinks and socializing. Program and dinner begin at 6pm. Use the form on the back page to get your hot tickets now! We hope you come out and support MHC on this *very* special evening. Look in your invitation and on our website for more information about the centerpieces and the groovy aprons! 



See Annual Meeting reservation form on back page.

AHTF: BIG support from young activists!

The **Open the Door** campaign for an **Affordable Housing Trust Fund** garnered a big boost of awareness and support recently at the Church of the Epiphany.

On a bright Sunday in March, some two dozen members of the church's sixth grade class gave a stirring presentation of the need for a local Affordable Housing Trust Fund. To a packed congregation of over 600, two class members spoke movingly of numerous conditions that demon-

strate the lack of affordable housing in Jefferson County. Other sixth graders paraded creative and colorful posters the class had made to illustrate the speakers' points. The speakers and posters (see poster on page 3) followed with a clear explanation of an AHTF and advocated for its creation.

The class concluded their presentation with a call to action. They asked the congregation to sign postcards to

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Metropolitan Housing Coalition

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

MHC member news & events

► **April 13, 10am-4:30pm** — Women In Transition's (WIT) Dismantling Classism Conference. \$1-\$20 sliding scale (includes lunch and childcare, if needed). Email jjewell506@juno.com to register.

► **April 19, 12:30pm** — NHA Monthly Meeting. Louisville Metro Housing and Community Development Division presentation on the Mayor's Housing Strategy. NHA regular monthly meeting follows at 2pm.

► **April 23-24** — Fannie Mae Foundation will sponsor one of its first DataPlace.org seminars to teach neighborhood revitalizationists how to fully use this fantastic informational resource! There will be an introduction to DataPlace on April 23, and two hands-on sessions on April 24. All events take place at the Louisville Free Public Library. For info or to register call Gwen at New Directions Housing Corporation at 719-7138 or visit www.ndhc.org.

► **April 25, noon** — MHC Board Meeting. JFVS, 3587 Dutchman's Lane. Open to the public!

► **April 27, noon** — NHA's Housing Conversation Café, Jay's Restaurant, 1812 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd.

► **May 1, 1pm** — NHA Monthly Meeting. Louisville Metro Housing and Community Development Division will provide a presentation on vacant lots and vacant buildings (formerly known as Land Bank) in Louisville. NHA regular monthly meeting follows at 2pm.

► **July 31-August 2** — Brown Hotel. Free HOME Program Certification Specialist Training. Visit www.icsconsulting.com to register.

Brownfields Institute looks for new ways to use land

(courtesy of U of L's Center for Environmental Policy and Management)

The EPA defines Brownfields as real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. In city planning, a brownfield is land previously used for industrial purposes or for certain commercial uses that be contaminated but has the potential to be reused once it is cleaned up.

EPA selected the City of Louisville for a Brownfields project. The Louisville Empowerment Zone Brownfields Working Group addressed Brownfields in Louisville's heavy industrial corridor. The corridor encompasses 5,401 acres that include the community's most distressed neighborhoods. At least one-quarter of the area stands vacant or severely under-used (converted to cheap warehouse space). Residents that are most affected by these Brownfields represent Kentucky's highest concentration of minority residents, and almost half live in poverty. Area neighborhoods suffer from a

“Residents that are most affected by these Brownfields represent the State's highest concentration of minority residents, and almost half live in poverty.”

30-year population drain, including a nearly 20% loss in population over the last decade. Brownfields sites cost Louisville approximately \$8.7 million annually in lost property tax revenues. Their presence is adversely affecting Louisville's nationally recognized success in developing affordable housing and revitalizing inner-city neighborhoods.

The Louisville Brownfields project sought to facilitate assessments and environmental cleanups which would not otherwise occur, and to measurably increase the rate and volume of older industrial land recycled to productive use through public and private investment.

Specifically, the project hoped to reduce barriers to investment in redevelopment that stem from environmental concerns.

In October of 2005, The Center for Environmental Policy and Management at the University of Louisville in partnership with Louisville Metro Government's Metro Development Authority and the Center for Neighborhoods, received a three-year grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This grant permits the three agencies to collaborate around the notion of fostering community participation in Brownfields redevelopment in the Park Hill Corridor of Louisville's West End. The three partners initiated the project by developing the “Brownfields Institute,” a series of workshops that serves to provide a forum for building knowledge in the broader community about brownfields cleanup, in general, and in the Park Hill Corridor specifically.

The goal of the grant is to open paths for community participation in the revitalization of this corridor in terms of addressing brownfields. This is being done by providing training and technical assistance to community stakeholders. Residents, developers, non-profits, social service providers, bankers, land owners, business owners, religious leaders, and environmental specialists are among those participating in the Institute.

The collaboration provides a forum for community stakeholders to develop a vision for the corridor that can then be used in a larger planning

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New ways to use land

Continued from page 2

effort. The workshops also serve to connect individuals and organizations for the purposes of developing specific community stakeholder driven projects within the corridor that will foster brownfields revitalization. The workshops will continue through 2008 and will build community and economic development by bringing people together around a common interest in revitalizing Louisville's once vibrant industrial corridor.

Products from the activities generated by this grant will serve as stepping stones to further grant applications and other larger efforts aimed at investment in the revitalization of the Park Hill Corridor.

To learn more about Re-Defining Brownfields and the Brownfield Institute, including information on upcoming meetings, visit www.redefiningbrownfields.org. 📄

Young activists

Continued from page 1

Metro council members urging support of the AHTF. Three tables for signing postcards were quickly crowded as the congregation left the sanctuary. The sixth graders gathered some 220 signed postcards.

The AHTF presentation was the culmination of several months of the students' study of lack of affordable housing in Louisville. Their broad concern is social justice and the AHTF was the most recent topic chosen. MHC Director Cathy Hinko had spent several Sundays helping the students understand the topic and to prepare for the big day. On all accounts, the day was a *huge* success!

Noteworthy for the occasion was the presence of Metro Council President Rick Blackwell who responded to an invitation to attend. He praised the effort of the students and pledges his support for the issue. 📄

MHC Member

Spotlight

Since 1992, **Kentucky Jobs with Justice** (KY JwJ) has been bringing together unions, community groups, religious organizations, and individual activists into a powerful coalition that fights for social and economic justice in our community. KY JwJ works to protect workers' rights in the workplace and in the community; create living wage jobs; support the right to organize here and throughout the world; demand corporate responsibility and accountability; link the struggles for Labor and Civil Rights.

KY JwJ does this by mobilizing support for labor and community struggles at rallies and on picket lines, through letter-writing and phone-in campaigns, and at educational forums and public hearings. Solidarity is the core principle of Jobs with Justice and it is, once again, time to celebrate that! This year our Solidarity Celebration we will be joined by keynote speaker Fred Azcarate, AFL-CIO's Director of Voice @ Work. The event will take place on **Saturday, May 12** at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers union hall, 4315 Preston Hwy, 5-7pm.

The AFL-CIO's new Voice @ Work Director Fred Azcarate has more than 20 years experience as a social movement leader and organizer. For over 14 years he was the Executive Director of National Jobs with Justice. During his tenure, the Jobs with Justice network grew from a dozen coalitions to more than 40. Fred was elected President of

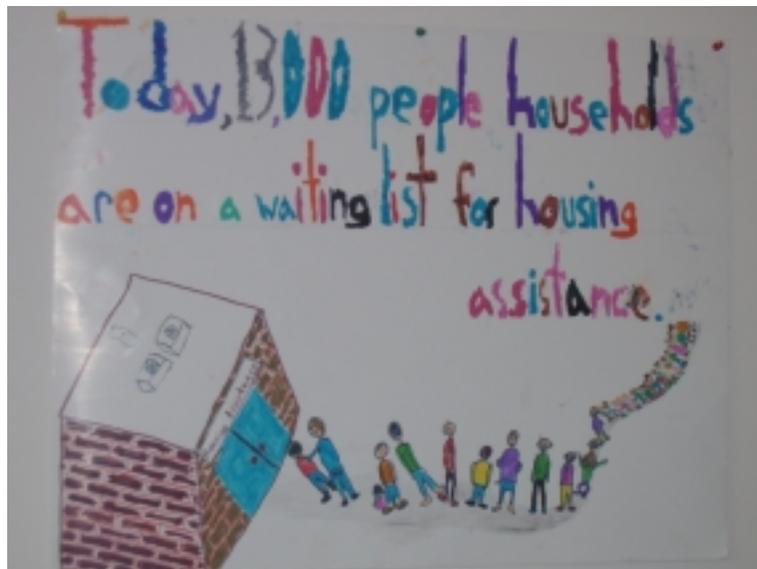
the United States Student Association in 1988, the first Asian-American to hold that position.

The Solidarity Celebration program will also include a silent auction, desserts and appetizers, musical performances, and will announce this year's outstanding social and economic justice leaders among Community, Faith, Labor, Student and Emerging Youth Leaders, as well as the winner of the *What is Solidarity to You?* creativity contest.

Tickets are available now for online purchase at www.kyjwj.org or by phone at 582-5454, for a suggested minimum \$15 donation. Special ticket packages are available for labor unions, community and faith organizations and student groups. Please call for more details on the ticket packages as well as the art contest.

Through JwJ, organizations and individuals take a pledge saying "I'll be there at least five times this year for someone else's fight, as well as my own. If enough of us are there, we'll all start winning."

Contact JwJ at 582.5454 or kyjwj@kyjwj.org or visit their website at www.kyjwj.org. 📄



Here's one of the many posters created by members of the sixth grade class at the Church of the Epiphany in support of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.



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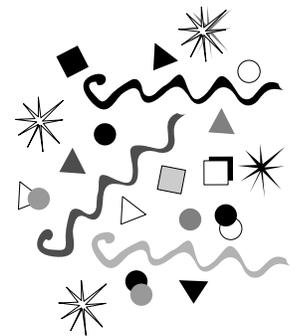
HIGHLIGHTS FOR APRIL ... Fair Housing Month Program is April 11/MHC's Annual Meeting is May 10/AHTF: Big Support from Young Activists/MHC Member News & Events/Brownfields Institute Looks for New Ways to Use Land/MHC Member Spotlight/Annual Meeting Ticket Order Form

MHC's monthly newsletter is underwritten by a grant from



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18th Annual Meeting ticket order form



Name _____

Address _____

City/state/zip _____

Phone # _____

Make your reservations today!

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS

_____ x \$50 = _____
individual ticket(s)
\$ _____ TOTAL

TABLE(S) OF 8

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table(s) of 8
\$ _____ TOTAL

**PLEASE MAKE CHECK OUT TO:
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