



FEBRUARY 2007

NEWSletter

MHC urges public to stay connected to the Open the Door movement!

Visitors to the Open the Door website — openthedoorlouisville.org — will soon have *two* ways to stay informed and be involved in the campaign:

- The Newsletter link on the homepage will provide recipients with general news and updates through periodic emails.
- The Action Alert homepage link is designed to be more action specific and geared towards those who live in Jefferson County. Recipients on this list will receive emails detailing specific “what you can do” alerts, such as attend a rally. Your participation on this list will be especially valuable with legislation expected to develop soon in both the Metro Council and Kentucky General Assembly.

We urge you to visit the website to stay connected and thank you for your support. 🏠

Generous, enthusiastic volunteers make Open The Door campaign a huge success!

On behalf of Citizens of Louisville Organized & United Together (CLOUT) and the entire Open the Door Campaign, we send a big, big thank you to **Creative Alliance, Color Place, and Phoenix Business Systems!**

Led by Christina Knopf, the staff of Creative Alliance worked long and hard on this project, not only doing the creative work, but also negotiating some *pro bono* work by area printers (Color Place and Phoenix Business



We thank Creative Alliance for donating 30+ hours of staff time to develop ads, slogans, and other creative materials for the campaign. Creative Alliance is a corporate investor in CLOUT, and last year company President Rick Duffy offered to CLOUT 30 hours of *pro bono* work by his staff, which CLOUT decided to dedicate to the Open the Door Campaign. Results were fantastic, as you can see.

Systems) to produce the first batch of bumper stickers, posters, and yard signs. This is yet another great example of the synergy emerging from the Open the Door Campaign!

You can get an Open the Door bumper sticker (seen above) or yard sign by contacting Metropolitan Housing Coalition at 584-6858, the Coalition for the Homeless at 589-0190, or CLOUT at 583-1267. 🏠

Metropolitan Housing Coalition

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

GALEN MARTIN

In memoriam

Housing community loses dedicated leader

Galen Martin, the founding Director of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights died in late December. He was 79. Martin was pure passion in his effort to end race discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations. Later, his agency expanded its mandate to cover religious, sex, disability, age and national origin to its list of "protected classes."

The old deeds of houses that restricted selling of a house to "anyone of the Negro race or Hebrew persuasion" were relatively common in some sections of Kentucky cities when the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights began to examine discrimination in housing.

Martin became particularly committed to ending discrimination against people seeking housing.

The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights was one of the first members of the Metropolitan Housing Coalition, founded in 1990. When MHC created a Fair Housing Committee, Martin's newly created Fair Housing Council was an active participant.

In addition to his commitment to housing equity, Martin was especially committed to the Kentucky NAACP, and worked with it and most of its leaders over the years. He was a beekeeper and a skier, and a friend to many of civil rights and fair housing leaders. He will be dearly missed.

Galen Martin led the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights from the time of its formation in 1960, until 1989. He was one of the leaders in the fight for the passage of The Kentucky Civil Rights Act in 1966. He continued to work for civil rights in many capacities until the end of his life. 🏠

MHC

Member News

MHC hosts a brown bag forum on February 8

MHC is the host of a brown bag forum — *Single Payer: The Best Medicine for a Sick Health Care System* — on February 8, at noon at the Louisville Urban League, 1535 W. Broadway. The effect of health care costs on affordable housing is staggering. We must find a solution that many advocates and Louisville Metro Council endorses. 🏠

Leading child & adult psychiatrist to speak at special education forum on February 11

Dr. Edward "Ned" Hallowell, leading child and adult psychiatrist will speak at the **Jewish Family & Vocational Service** Education Forum on February 11 at Keneseth Israel Synagogue from 1 until 5pm, with registration beginning at 12pm. Dr. Hallowell's topics are *Attention Deficit Disorder* and *Worry & Stress*. Contact Beverly Bromley at 452-6341, ext. 223 for additional information or to register or visit www.jfvs.com. 🏠

Low income seniors housing units available

Legacy Homes and **NDC** are in the process of leasing the remaining low income seniors housing units at The Norton Commons Legacy Senior Residences. Please refer your qualified applicants now before all the units are occupied. Contact Stephanie Vest at 562-0016. 🏠

This tax season you can have more **CASH** in your pocket

The Free and Fast Tax Service, through a partnership between the Louisville Asset Building Coalition and the IRS, offers free tax help to filers with household income of \$40,000 or less. There are 12 locations in Metro Louisville with convenient hours Monday through Saturday. For details on locations, eligibility and what to bring, call 2-1-1 or go to www.LouisvilleABC.org to find the Free and Fast tax preparation site near you.

Visit our Free and Fast Tax Service to have your taxes prepared for *free* by certified volunteers who can help you with special credits, such as Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Child Tax Credit, and Credit for the Elderly for which you may qualify.

In addition to free tax return preparation assistance, all sites also offer free electronic filing (e-filing). Individuals taking advantage of the e-file program will receive their refunds in half the time compared to returns filed on paper — even faster if you have your refund deposited directly into your bank account. 🏠

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The Housing Partnership, Inc. (HPI)

NHA Member Focus

The Housing Partnership, Inc. (HPI), a charter member of the Non-profit Housing Alliance, has finished about 150 multifamily and single-family projects, including 3000 rental units, since its beginning in 1989.

Lynn Luallen has been the president of the partnership since February 2005, having previously worked at HPI from 1988 until 1992. In October 2005 HPI became a charter member of NeighborWorks America which has increased HPI's national connections and training opportunities.

Among its many projects, HPI currently is developing in stages Fawn Lakes, a 226-unit subdivision behind Valley Village and the Watson Lane Elementary School. The streets and walking path are in and at least 34 houses are finished. They have sold 75% in Phase I. Another development, begun in the fall, is Brenda Drive, off Rangeland Road where three builders are purchasing all of the lots. HPI also is developing 34 units of senior housing with Zion Baptist Church at 22nd and Muhammad Ali Blvd.

In fiscal year 2006, HPI assisted 386 families in becoming homeowners. It also completed 69 single-family homes in 17 Louisville neighborhoods as replacement housing for those displaced by the downtown Liberty Green development.

Over the years, HPI has partnered with many other non-profit developers and community groups, as well as with private developers and lending institutions in fulfilling its mission "to create housing opportunities that are affordable for low- and moderate-income people." This snapshot only hints at the overall success of HPI. To find out more about HPI, visit its website at www.housingpartnershipinc.org.

Facts, humanity not enough

by Cathy Hinko
MHC Executive Director

In 1967, Louisville became the first southern city to enact an Open Housing Law. The Open Housing movement built intensity in a year of marches, prayer vigils and political action culminating the 1967 Louisville Open Housing Law.

Forty years work for justice in housing expanded Open Housing to protect other groups. Each inch forward has been hard won and we need to celebrate. Yet, we need to be vigilant.

Currently, wounds of intolerance fester in our city. The facts about youth benefiting from the wonderful work done by Brooklawn should compel us to welcome this youth program. Alternatively, simple humanity compels us to welcome young people who have been abused and are now thriving in a caring setting.

But facts and humanity do not seem to be enough. Please join the Yes In My Back Yard campaign. 



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HIGHLIGHTS FOR FEBRUARY... MHC urges public to stay connected to the Open the Door movement/Generous, Enthusiastic volunteers make Open the Door campaign a huge success/Housing community loses dedicated leader/MHC member news/this tax season you can have more cash in your pocket/NHA member focus/Facts, humanity not enough/MHC membership renewal form/YIMBY campaign meeting is Feb. 1, 1pm

MHC's monthly newsletter is underwritten by a grant from



MHC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Name _____
Address _____
City/state/zip _____
Phone # _____

INDICATE LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP

- Sponsoring Membership \$1000 or more
- Sustaining Membership \$500—\$999
- Anchoring Membership \$200—\$499
- Supporting Membership \$75—\$199
- Assisting Membership \$25—\$74

Please make your check payable to:
METROPOLITAN HOUSING COALITION & mail to:
Metropolitan Housing Coalition
P.O. Box 4533
Louisville, KY 40204-4533

*Please come on
Feb. 1, 1pm*

Yes In My Back Yard

Please join the YIMBY campaign. We urge you and your friends, family and colleagues to attend an organizing session on **Thursday, February 1 at 1pm** at the **Louisville Urban league** located at 1535 West Broadway.