



MARCH 2007

NEWSletter

Don't forget your taxes!

EARN IT. Did you earn less than \$38,348 in 2006? The Earned Income Credit could pay you as much as \$4,536 based on your earnings and family situation. Make sure you claim all your tax credits like EITC, child tax credit and the new phone credit or split your refund to different accounts. Spend some, save some.

KEEP IT. Don't pay to have your taxes filed or for a refund loan. Visit a convenient *free* and *fast* tax preparation site to have your taxes prepared by certified preparers and e-filed for *free* for even a quicker refund. We have 12 locations all over Metro Louisville.

SAVE IT. Always wanted to own a home, open a bank account, save for school, pay off debt, start a business or anything else? Do you want to learn about saving? You can now split your return into different accounts, even qualify for free bank accounts. Spend some, save some.

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 3-1-1 or go to www.LouisvilleABC.org to find the Free and Fast tax preparation site near you! 

6,000 homeless kids in Jefferson County deserve a home run

by Cathy Hinko, MHC Executive Director

Church of the Epiphany awarded a grant for the Open the Door to an Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) campaign, giving a great opportunity to engage more members of Epiphany in the AHTF campaign. The sixth grade Sunday school teacher gave us the way to do this. The class has been studying Catholic social doctrine and learning about

social justice work. They chose housing as their topic of interest. The sixth graders will do a presentation on March 18 at the 9am Liturgy about the AHTF and ask members to sign post cards which will be forwarded to council members. What a great opportunity to engage our future leaders!

I spent three weeks with the class, talking about housing needs and how incomes and housing costs do not meet.

One bright sixth grader asked about the role of

individual effort in creating a better situation. A really great question because individual effort is very important. I asked if everyone knew the game of baseball.

"In baseball, you want to get to bat, get on base and make a run. But what if you could start on first or second



"...we must work hard to put every child we can on first base."

base? Individual effort takes you home, but you certainly have an advantage. Other people can get up to bat and make a home run or make a run base by base.

But baseball is a game of statistics; the probability of a run increases dramatically if you start on first base. Having a stable, safe place to live is just one way we can go directly to first base."

With over 6,000 homeless children in Jefferson County schools, we must work hard to put every child we can on first base. 

Metropolitan Housing Coalition

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AHTF Update

Momentum for the *Open the Door* campaign continues to gather strength. Advocates met with key Metro Council supporters Mary Woolridge and Tina Ward-Pugh in early February. The councilwomen expressed their determination to create legislation that would establish and fund a local Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Their concept of the program closely aligns with the advocates. Woolridge and Ward-Pugh expressed an eagerness to develop an ordinance early in the year.

The Councilwomen said ideally the Mayor's position would compliment theirs and strengthen the political will for a desirable ordinance. Mayor Jerry Abramson is expected to make his recommendations regarding an Affordable Housing Trust Fund in a soon to be released task force report.

Woolridge and Ward-Pugh said they would seek a meeting with the Mayor's office to discuss the issue. Mary Woolridge, who heads the Health and Human Services Committee, said she would likely hold hearings on the Affordable Housing Trust Fund soon. Advocates and those affected would have an opportunity to articulate and publicize the benefits of a trust fund.

A number of important developments could be happening soon — the Mayor's report, committee hearings, and legislative action. Readers can keep on top of what's happening by checking the *Open the Door* campaign's website, openthedoorlouisville.org. Be sure to get involved by clicking the Action Alert link! 

MHC

Member news & events

Come to the **Women In Transition (WIT) & Kling Center Yard Sale** at 219 W. Ormsby Avenue on **March 3**. You will find plenty of bargains! 

MHC will hold a Hollywood viewing of *Waging A Living*, a documentary following the lives of three individuals working for more than the proposed new minimum wage and still struggling! The viewing will be at the **Louisville Urban League** on Tuesday, **March 13** at noon. The minimum wage bill has passed the Senate, and, if passed by the House, it will be \$7.25 in 2009. Come out to discuss why our work for a living wage is not over! Come see the story of America's workforce! Come learn how you can help! It will be a red carpet affair! 

The Federal Reserve Bank will host another segment of their Neighborhood Revitalization Series. Dan Tatar, a Community Affairs Officer at the Federal Reserve Bank in Richmond will talk about *Neighborhoods In Bloom* (NIB) on **March 20** at the Kentucky International Convention Center at 221 Fourth. The NIB program is an aggressive and innovative approach to reversing neighborhood decline and stimulating private housing market activity. Call Kendra Keller at 568-9202 or visit www.stlouisfed.org. 

ElderServe, Inc. will sponsor a special program on **March 22**, at noon, at Dosker Manor, 411 W. Muhammad Ali. In response to the ever-increasing needs of today's seniors and their families, ElderServe is offering one-hour sessions called *Endless Options*. These events are designed to increase the overall awareness of the "age wave" and its effects on us as individuals and as a community, and to demonstrate how ElderServe's myriad programs address the challenges and opportunities of aging. The free sessions are open to the public. Special sessions can be arranged for groups of 10 or more at businesses or community sites.

On Wednesday, **April 11** at noon at the new **Legal Aid Society** office at 416 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd, third floor, **MHC** will host the commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the Open Housing Movement. The focus is on movement members who became leaders. On the panel are State Sen. Georgia Powers, State Rep. Reginald Meeks, and Metro Councilwoman Cheri Bryant Hamilton. The moderator is Dr. Tracy K'Meyer. 

MHC Member

Spotlight

ElderServe, Inc. is the oldest and largest agency in the Louisville metropolitan area that serves senior citizens. The agency offers a wide variety of services to persons who are homebound and frail as well as to persons who are well and active. The mission of the agency is to provide a wide range of supportive human services that enables older

was stated that, “ElderServe” connotes an organization which serves elders and through which elders serve their community.”

Today, ElderServe reaches thousands of Louisville’s seniors through programs designed to allow the elderly to live their



persons to live secure and self-directed lives.

ElderServe was incorporated as Senior House in 1962 as a result of a study committee established in 1961 by the Community Chest (now Metro United Way). Initial funding for the agency came from the National Council of Jewish Women and the Junior League of Louisville. The agency was admitted into Metro United Way in 1965. At that time, it served over 1,500 elderly each year. On July 26, 1990, the name of Senior House was changed to ElderServe to signify the expansion of social services provided by the agency. It

vintage years with dignity. Some of these services include: Client Services, Home Care, Senior Companions, Telecare — a telephone reassurance service, Adult Day Care, a Senior Crime Victim Assistance program and an Emergency Crisis Response Team. At present, ElderServe operates at two sites: Dosker Manor, 411 Muhammad Ali Blvd., and the Oak and Acorn Intergenerational Center located at 631 S. 28th St.

For more information on what ElderServe has to offer call 587-8673 or visit their website at www.elderserveinc.org.

Triple digit interest rates?

House Bill 92 limits the interest rate of Pay Day loans to military personnel to 36%. While this seems to be a shockingly high rate, the allowed rate for everyone else is 459% on an annual basis.

State Rep. Darryl Owens introduced the bill, which was voted favorably out of a House committee on February 14, and now moves to the House floor. It is not too late to encourage Rep. Owens and your representative to amend the bill to protect everyone, not just the military, from triple digit interest rates. 

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HIGHLIGHTS FOR MARCH ... Don't forget to pay your taxes/6,000 homeless kids in Jefferson County deserve a home run/Affordable Housing Trust Fund update/MHC member news & events/MHC member spotlight on ElderServe/Triple digit interest rates/Job possibilities/MHC membership renewal form

MHC's monthly newsletter is underwritten by a grant from



Looking for a job?

The **Louisville Urban League** will host its annual Career Expo on **March 21** from 10am til 5pm at the Kentucky International Convention Center at the corner of Market and 4th Street. Over 100 employers will be in attendance! 

Kentucky Habitat for Humanity, Inc. is looking for an individual to assist with its Capacity Expansion program. Candidate should have the following qualifications: detail- oriented, people person, self-motivated, and be a team player. Experience in nonprofits, grants, mortgages and QuickBooks is a plus. This is a contract position, which can be performed from any location, with limited, flexible hours to begin, but might develop into more over time. Send information to Mary Shearer, ED, KYHFH, 4050 Westport Rd. #204, Louisville, KY 40207 or email habitatforhum116@bellsouth.net. 

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

