



# NEWSletter

## Home is the ♥ of the City *Annual Meeting update!*

Four hundred of our members, friends and neighbors came out to hear **Mayor Bill Purcell** speak on *Home is the Heart of the City!* It was a wonderful night. MHC is delighted to welcome two new Board members:

- **Deborah Bemberry Williams** is Regional Community Reinvestment Act Manager at National City Bank. Prior to joining National City, Deborah spent 10 years as program manager and then as director of Focus Louisville with the Leadership Louisville Foundation. Deborah, a native of Louisville, is an active volunteer. She currently serves on the boards of New Directions Housing Corporation, St. George's Community Center, and is a member of the Kentucky Bankers Association's Government Affairs Committee, to name just a few. Committed to excellence, Deborah is

on the Louisville Free Public Library's Advisory Council and is National City's volunteer coordinator for the *Every 1 Reads* program.

- **Barbara Carter** retired from state government in 2006 after working in child and family welfare for 25 years. She is currently the Director of Social Work Field Instruction at Spalding University and is a part-time instructor at the University of Louisville Kent School of Social Work. Barbara serves on the board at St. John Center and is a member of the Citizens Review Panel and the Race, Community and Child Welfare planning committee.

Thanks to all involved for making our 19th Annual Meeting a smashing success, including our Annual Meeting Committee Co-Chairs **Dan Forbis** and **Kenny Lanham** and the rest of the committee: **Steve Bogus, Garnett Furnish, Chris Palmer, Alane Goldstein, Marita Willis** and **Faith Weekly**.

We still have some Affordable Bird-Housing Centerpieces with a customized heart wreath available! Call today to reserve yours! Thanks so much to everyone who took time to build, decorate and/or personalize each birdhouse: **Dreams With Wings, Dan Forbis, Jim Haswell,**



Mayor Bill Purcell, wowed a crowd of over 400 members and friends and loyal affordable housing advocates at our Annual Meeting on May 6.

**Gabe & Jill Fritz, Owen Nash-Blair, Abigail & Anne Lanham, Linda Luster, Mary Bryan, Huyett Hurley, Sandy Wagner, Nan Kline, Dona O'Sullivan, Had Burdick, Mat Sandfer, and Connor & Jordan Riley.**

Be sure to check out our website — [www.metropolitanhousing.org](http://www.metropolitanhousing.org) — to see more pictures from the event.

Finally, MHC would like to offer a special thanks to our sponsors. They are:

- **Keynote Speaker Sponsor** — **Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, Louisville Branch**
- **Keystone Sponsors** — **Fifth Third** and **PNC**
- **Groundbreaking Sponsors** — **Kentucky Housing Corporation, National City,** and **BB&T**

MHC would like to give special thanks to **Dan Forbis** who has served his last term on MHC's board. Dan served MHC while in the Kentucky and Indiana Regional Council of Carpenters and Millcabinet Local 2501 and even through the beginning of his retirement. He has been a leader of the Annual Meeting committee for several years. In fact this year, Dan was instrumental in ensuring the construction of the 60 birdhouses that served as our centerpieces! Thanks so much, Dan! Enjoy your retirement! 🏠



Our keynote speaker energized a sellout crowd with a passionate speech on affordable housing.

## Metropolitan Housing Coalition

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# In memoriam

## MHC mourns loss of friend and Board member, Mike Davis

by Jane Walsh

The Metropolitan Housing Coalition is mourning the loss of one of the region's great coalition builders. MHC Board member **Mike Davis**, who died unexpectedly on May 13, was the founding director of the Louisville Asset Building Coalition, the Kentucky Asset Initiative, and the Southern Indiana Asset Building Coalition. His leadership, passion and vision shaped the asset-building field in this region and across the country.

**"He is part of our coalition still — and we are part of his."**

Mike was also my friend and my guide. Over nine years ago, I hired Mike to be the first IDA Family Advocate at the Center for Women and Families. He so fully shaped Louisville's first IDA program that within eight months he had taken over as Director.

Mike was on fire when he was making a coalition work. He loved to bring people together, lift up the common goal, and set diverse parties to the task of accomplishing that goal. He gave so much of himself that he never let on that he was actually asking a lot of you, too.

In February, Lynn Luallen told me he was looking for someone to head up the Education and Counseling division of the Housing Partnership, Inc. during what has been the most difficult period for housers in my lifetime. I could only think of one name — Mike Davis — an entrepreneur, a problem-solver, a change-agent, a coalition-builder. We will all suffer for not having the benefit of his energy, wisdom and talent as we confront the foreclosure crisis and its fallout. He would have asked tremendous things of all of us — and he would have delivered tremendous things.

I will miss Mike Davis. I had planned to work along side him for many years to come. Now, the best I can do is continue to do the work we shared. He is part of our coalition still — and we are part of his. 🏠

## Message from our Executive Director

by Cathy Hinko

On May 15, 2008 the Metro Council approved the ordinance establishing a local Affordable Housing Trust Fund in a 25-1 (Doug Hawkins) vote! The AHTF will have an independent board with a representational constituency, including an amendment added by the Council to ensure geographic representation. The AHTF public funding will benefit those with incomes below

She had been raised in a home that relied on public housing and then Section 8 and, at the age of 19, Ms. Smith purchased a Habitat home. Now Ms. Smith owns a salon, and she and her husband own rental property. Of the AHTF, Ms Smith said, "[t]his is not offering affordable housing for people in need; it's offering affordable housing helping people achieve."



One last step remains. We will be working on securing a renewable public source of funding for the AHTF. Keep on the path, we are so close!



80% of median income, with a set aside of 50% of public funding for those below 50% of median income. The comprehensive permissible activities remain. A floor amendment requires that the AHTF go back to the Council for approval if some activity not contemplated is added.

With the approved amendments, many Council members added their names as sponsors and the local AHTF truly received bipartisan support. So many of you need to be thanked, but we will single out Council members **Tina Ward Pugh** who garnered support and championed this through. Thanks also to Committee Chair **Mary Woolridge** who was a staunch supporter and saw the ordinance through the committee process. Thank you to **Janel Temple** who picked up the responsibility of facilitation of the *Open the Door* advocacy. **Habitat for Humanity of Louisville** was a great leader in the last year! Don't forget to thank *your* Council member.

Tiffany Smith spoke the most powerful words at the Council meeting.

But our work is not over. Every year we have worked on this has seen significant success — from the rally of over 700 people in 2005, to the success in funding the state AHTF (and wasn't that done in the nick of time to ensure funds for affordable housing!), to this last phase. One last step remains. We will be working on securing a renewable public source of funding for the AHTF. Keep on the path, we are so close! 🏠



*To learn more about upcoming events and*

*other items of interest to affordable housing advocates, visit*

**[www.metropolitanhousing.org](http://www.metropolitanhousing.org)**

*Questions? Need more information?*

*Call 584-6858.*

## What's going on with affordable housing in Jefferson County?

Come to the Federal Reserve Bank on June 11 to find out! The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, Louisville Branch, will host a **Fed Focus: An Update on Affordable Housing in Jefferson County** on **Wednesday, June 11, from 11:30am to 1pm**. Panelists will include Tim Barry, Executive Director, Louisville Metro Housing Authority; Kimberly Bunton, Director, Louisville Metro Housing & Community Development; and Janel Temple, Family Services Director, Habitat for Humanity. The panel will deliver updates on the economic impact of Park DuValle and Liberty Green, the local Affordable Housing Trust Fund, and the significance of the AHTF to Louisville Metro. The meeting will be held at the Louisville Branch office — National City Tower, 101 S. Fifth,

*fyi*

Suite 1920. Advance registration is required by June 9. There is no cost to attend, but seating is limited, so please register early. Lunch will be provided. Contact Faith Weekly at 502-568-9216 or [faith.e.weekly@stls.frb.org](mailto:faith.e.weekly@stls.frb.org) and let her know you're coming. 🏠

### NHA Update

The Non-profit Housing Alliance continues to meet on a regular basis and to have involvement with the Working Group on Barriers to Neighborhood Revitalization. At the last monthly

meeting the speakers included Rick McQuady, interim Executive Director of the Kentucky Housing Corporation, speaking about KHC; Wally Deener, Deputy Director of Louisville Metro Housing and Community Development Division, speaking about LMHCD and local issues; and Christopher Posey, Executive Director of the Urban Development Enterprise Group, who spoke on national housing issues.

In furtherance of the Center for Health Equity grant, the NHA called together the Working Group on Barriers to Neighborhood Revitalization. This group is working on solutions for problems facing many neighborhood associations as they address revitalization of their neighborhoods. NHA members also have participated as both trainers and trainees in the Rehab Retain series of workshops. 🏠

## MHC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/state/zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

*Join  
MHC  
today!*

### PLEASE INDICATE YOUR 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  
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**June 25, 1pm**  
**MHC Board Meeting,**  
**New Directions, 1000 E. Liberty**



**HIGHLIGHTS FOR JUNE ...** Home is the Heart of

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You Own Too Many T-Shirts?

**Do you own too many college t-shirts?**



Urban Spirit, a local non-profit and church that has a primary mission of poverty education, partners with the JB Atkinson Elementary School in Portland, doing many kinds of support and volunteer services throughout the year. JB Atkinson is one of the poorest schools in Kentucky, with an average student household income of \$14,500. The pastor of Urban Spirit, Deborah Conrad, is spearheading a drive this summer to collect 500 t-shirts with a college name/logo on them to give to the children at the school so that they can imagine, dream, and hope that perhaps they too can someday go to college. They will need plenty of small- and medium-size shirts. Visit [urbanspirit.org](http://urbanspirit.org) and click on their newsletter link to find a shipping label for the t-shirt project. Lauren Kehr of Jewish Family and Vocational Services will also be collecting college logo t-shirts for this endeavor in June and July — so if you are in the neighborhood, you can just drop them off. Please donate any of these t-shirts you may have; gather them from family members and friends, as well! An unknown child will thank you! 🙏