



NEWSletter

Watch for your copy in the mail!

MHC's Housing Insecurity white paper release date is March 5

MHC received a grant from the Center for Health Equity to hold focus groups on health care costs and housing instability and to

release the findings in a white paper. The day has finally arrived! On Wednesday, March 5, MHC will release *Housing Insecurity: Neighborhood Conversations on Health Care Costs!*

This will be a slightly different

release for a different kind of paper for MHC! This paper is based on qualitative data, gathering personal narratives

from those living in fragile communities. At the focus groups, participants self-identified as advocates and returned for an advocacy training held by MHC and partners **Women In Transition, Advocacy Action Network, Kentucky Youth Advocates** and **PCC's Harambee Clinic.**

Instead of holding a release event, some of those advocates will be writing personal letters to policymakers which will be attached to the white paper and mailed to every state legislator! The personal words of those without adequate health care coverage will be more powerful than a blurb on the 6 o'clock news! Of course, every member will also receive a copy of this exciting qualitative study. 📧

"The personal words of those without adequate health care coverage will be more powerful than a blurb on the 6 o'clock news!"

Home is the of the City

Pre-sale tickets for the 2008 Annual Meeting — **Home is the ♥ of the City** — are available now! You won't want to miss affordable housing guru **Bill Purcell's** speech — **Home is Where the Heart Is: If You Build It They Will Come.** Reserve your tickets by March 31 and your name will be entered into a drawing for free valet parking for the Annual Meeting! All you have to do is email **Kendell@metropolitanhousing.org** or call **584-6858** to reserve your tickets today!

Mark your calendar now for **May 6** and be on the lookout for the 2008 Annual Meeting invitation to hit your doorstep soon! 📧

Metropolitan Housing Coalition

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Member News

Project Women's fourth annual *Women of Wisdom* art exhibit will be shown at the Mary Craik Gallery, 815 East Market from **March 7 through April 5**. The exhibit showcases women artists with ties to Kentuckiana. The art is for sale — artists receive 50%, and 50% goes to Project Women to help them assist single moms to get a college education. An opening reception will be held on Friday, March 7 at 5pm. Please join us to meet the artists and see their works of art. 🏠

The first of three sessions in the Rehab Train Institute will take place on **March 26, 27 & 28** and will focus on Rules and Regulations. Each class runs for three days from 9:30am until 3pm. For more information, including location, contact Mary Mayrose, Director of Community Development at the **Center for Neighborhoods** at 502-589-0343. 🏠

The **Louisville Urban League** presents the 2008 Greater Louisville Home Ownership Expo on **April 5** at the Louisville Gardens, from 10am until 4pm. Workshops will expose visitors to the entire process of purchasing a home. Booths will feature brokers, lenders, builders, insurance agents, retailers and more. Government and non-profit agencies will discuss programs to help with down payments or other aspects of the purchase. Workshops will also address foreclosure prevention and maintaining the home after purchase. Free credit reports will be available for all attendees. A house will be given away as a grand prize. Other prizes include a washer and dryer. Admission is free. 🏠

AARP will hold workshops for job-seekers aged 50+ in conjunction with Employment Guide Job Fair on **April 7** from 10am–3pm at Galt House West, 140 N. Fourth. 🏠



Calendar of upcoming events

Fair Housing Coalition

March 11 at 2 pm
New Directions
1000 E. Liberty Street

Fellowship of Reconciliation

Third Thursday Luncheon
featuring Cathy Hinko
March 20 at 11:30am
Rudyard Kipling
422 W. Oak St.

NHA Monthly Meeting

March 20 at 1pm
New Directions
1000 E. Liberty Street

MHC Board Meeting

March 26 at noon
New Directions
1000 E. Liberty Street

MHC Annual Meeting

Home is the ♥ of the City
May 6 at 5pm
Hyatt Regency
320 W. Jefferson

Upcoming event on April 11 to honor the memory of Louisville's own Carl & Anne Braden



The Metropolitan Housing Coalition's Annual Fair Housing Month program will unveil a Kentucky historical marker at the former home of Carl and Anne Braden on **April 11 at 11am at 4403 Virginia Avenue**, three blocks east of Southwestern Parkway and Chickasaw Park. Bring your family, friends and colleagues to honor the memory of these two Louisvillians who fought racial injustice all their lives. This event is sponsored by **MHC, Councilwoman Cheri Bryant Hamilton,** and the **Braden Institute** at the **University of Louisville College of Arts and Sciences**. See April's newsletter for further information. 🏠

To learn more about upcoming events and other items of interest to affordable housing advocates, visit www.metropolitanhousing.org.

Questions? Need more information? Call 584-6858.

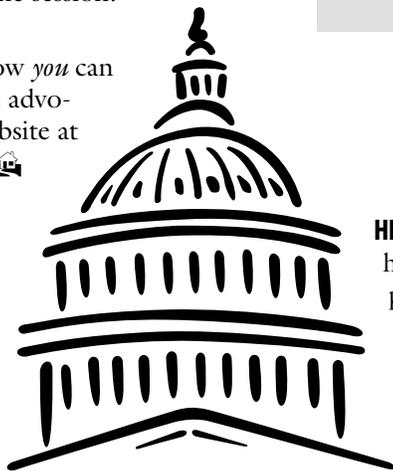
Ten ways to become an effective advocate

MHC's partner, **Kentucky Youth Advocates (KYA)**, cites many ways you can become an effective advocate. These include:

1. Believe that you can make a difference.
2. Register and vote.
3. Know about your government. Know your own local, state, and national representatives.
4. Know your issue(s) well and relate that issue by calling, writing letters, and visiting your elected officials.
5. Tell your story. Make sure your information is accurate, specific. Give your contact information in case there is a need for follow-up.
6. Join organizations such as KYA and MHC that work to support your issue(s) and to stay informed on which policies relate to your own issues so that you can multiply your efforts.
7. Educate and involve others in your cause by talking to your neighbors and friends or writing a letter to the editor of your local newspaper.
8. Be willing to compromise, but hold elected officials accountable.
9. Build relationships. Stay in touch with your representatives all the time — not just during the session.
10. Never give up.

For more tips on how *you* can become a successful advocate, visit KYA's website at www.kyyouth.org. 

**For specifics
on how to
contact**



**your state
representative or
senator, turn to the
back page.**

Exciting news about our Executive Director!

MHC's Cathy Hinko is a member of the Bingham Fellows Class of 2008

Many of us live in one community, work in another, and cheer for a home team miles away. As one of the Deep Drivers of Change identified by the Greater Louisville Project, balanced metropolitan growth is required to move our region into the top tier of U.S. cities.

Strong regional partnerships are needed to create the landscape of the future that will catapult Louisville forward. What's missing? Focused leadership that will identify opportunities to promote regional collaboration and break down boundaries.

The Bingham Fellows Class of 2008 is made up of graduates of Leadership Louisville Center programs or of other community leadership programs such as Leadership Kentucky or Leadership Shelby.

The work of the Bingham Fellows Class of 2008, including MHC's Executive Director Cathy

Hinko, will address two questions of major importance: How do we define regionalism and how can we change the way we think and act together as a region to ensure balanced metropolitan growth?

Serving as catalysts for this change, the 2008 Fellows will apply GE's change acceleration tools — essentially a framework enabling them to rapidly initiate, lead and manage change that was designed to be flexible and scalable to adapt to any challenge or goal — to create innovative projects that will promote balanced growth for our region.

The work of the Bingham Fellows Class of 2008 will be focused on four primary outcomes:

- Identify key regional leaders
- Identify common ground within and among communities
- Establish regional leadership collaborations.
- Plan and execute a regional leadership summit in August of this year. 

Get to know HB 447 and HB552

HB447 impedes the ability of local governments to respond to the affordable housing crisis. HB447 removes the ability for our local government to use price point goals either in zoning regulations or in any ordinance. Local government is barred from ever employing successful models for other areas. Nominally, the bill bars inclusionary zoning, a model that has worked well in many areas. As written, the bill completely bars much more than that. For more analysis, see the MHC website. Please write, call, email or visit your legislator to express your opinions on HB447! 

As of February 22, **HB552** is the most comprehensive bill for protecting mortgage borrowers. It creates a duty by a broker to a borrower and finally has Kentucky extend the definition of a "high cost loan." It creates prudent practices for lenders, such as documenting income of borrowers (seriously, this was not required in certain types of loans) and exposes the hidden fees that devastate borrowers. (And you thought the interest rates were the *only* problem!) For a further analysis, see the MHC website. Write, call, email or visit your legislator to express your opinions on HB552! 



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Let your voice be heard!

We encourage *every* MHC member to have your voice heard by writing, calling, emailing or visiting your legislator!

To get in touch by mail, write:
Senator/Representative Name
Legislative Offices
701 Capitol Avenue
Frankfort, KY 40601

- To get in touch by phone:
- Leave messages for legislators by calling **1-800-372-7181**.
 - TTY is available at **1-800-896-0305**.
 - Call the switchboard and ask for specific legislators at **1-502-564-8100**.

You may send a fax to any legislator at **1-502-564-6543**.

Or visit www.lrc.ky.gov to find your legislator's email!

HIGHLIGHTS FOR MARCH ... MHC's Housing Insecurity

White Paper Release Date is March 5 ... Home is the Heart of the City is the Annual Meeting Theme ... MHC Member News ...

Upcoming Event on April 11 to Honor the Memory of Louisville's Own Carl & Anne Braden ... Calendar of Upcoming Events ... Ten Ways to Become an Effective Advocate ...MHC's Cathy Hinko is a Member of the Bingham Fellows Class of 2008 ...Get to Know HB447 and HB552 ... Let Your Voice Be Heard