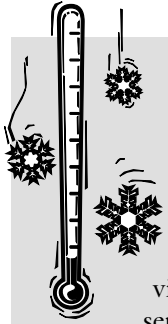




NEWSletter



Get involved!

Project Warm Blitz

Louisvillians are lucky to have Project Warm whose mission is to provide energy conservation services and education, and to promote energy saving practices in the community. Since 1991, Project Warm "Blitz Teams" have helped seniors and disabled people prepare their homes for the winter season.

Teams of volunteers from all over our community work together for the first three weekends in November, installing clear interior window covers over leaky or worn-out windows to make homes more comfortable and to help reduce the burden of rising utility costs for seniors and persons with disabilities. "[The Plastic] definitely keeps the drafts out and makes the place more comfortable. I enjoyed the volunteers' visit. They knew what they were doing," said Jack of zip code 40216.

How can *you* get involved or how can you sign up for Blitz Service? To help prepare these households for the winter season, simply call 502-636-9276. No experience necessary, orientation and training is available for team leaders. Also, call to have volunteers pay you a visit. If you are able-bodied and want to learn how to weatherize your own house, call the number above to find out work-shop times and dates. 🏠

2008 State of Metropolitan Housing Report

Release set for October 28, noon, at Louisville Urban League

by Cathy Hinko, Executive Director

This year's *State of Metropolitan Housing Report* focuses on home energy costs and the impact on affordable shelter. In our MSA, we were used to low cost energy, but that has changed. In August 1998, the total cost for 70 Ccf's of natural gas was \$38.56; in August 2008, the cost is \$134.78. This is without the rate increase before the Public Service Commission. Exacerbating costs is the energy inefficiency of many homes occupied by lower income households.

MHC compares different eras in home building: the 1890's shotgun homes of Germantown, the post World War II suburban homes of Okolona and the Frey's Hill homes of the 1990's. Insulation was not mandatory in the building code until almost 1980 and deteriorating homes without energy efficient rehabilitation increase usage for those least able to afford it.

MHC believes that heat and lights are part of safe, fair and affordable housing and we hope to link all the communities that are interested in energy cost and usage to work on this issue together.

The *New York Times* recently cited a Metropolitan Housing Coalition re-

port in an article on the rising numbers of homeless children in school, including those in Louisville. This article reminds us that affordable housing remains out of reach to many workers as well as those on fixed incomes. To rent a modest two-bedroom unit, without it being cost burdensome, a family would need an income of \$26,520. This is \$12.75 per hour, but the median wage for 37% of all wage-earners in the Louisville MSA is less than \$12.75.

Come join us **October 28 at noon** at the office of the Louisville Urban League, 1535 W. Broadway! 🏠

HIGHLIGHTS FOR OCTOBER...

Project Warm Blitz ... 2008 State of Metropolitan Housing Report Release is October 28 ... Bingham Fellows Work on Regionalism ... Exploring the "C" in MHC ... Schedule of Events for Affordable Housing Advocates ... Here's Help: Check Out These Resources

Metropolitan Housing Coalition

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Bingham Fellows work on Regionalism

by Cathy Hinko
MHC Executive Director

This year, I was fortunate to be with the Bingham Fellows, a Leadership Louisville community action program which focused on Regionalism. We studied models of regional cooperation to accomplish specific goals and gained a better understanding that Louisville is part of many regions, and needs to be a flexible partner to continue growth and improvement in our area.

The Bingham Fellows focused on one rising cooperative effort, the **Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development** (WIRED 65) federal initiative involving 26 counties on or near the I-65 corridor. Despite its acronym, WIRED 65 is about jobs and preparing people for the 21st century workforce.

WIRED 65 and the Bingham Fellows will host a regional summit, **Beyond Boundaries: Building our 21st Century Community**, on **Friday, November 7** from **8am to 3:30pm** at the **Galt House East**. WIRED 65 will continue engaging the 26 counties in planning a Regional Competitiveness Strategy.

This is your chance to participate. Contact Leadership Louisville at 561-0458 for information on registration. 

Exploring the "C" in MHC

The Metropolitan Housing Coalition realizes that the way to build lasting and critical positive change is to work with all those who are affected by the issues at hand. We know that coalition building is the key to our community's success around targeted fair and affordable



With gas and food costing more and more, I am worried that I will have to choose between keeping my family warm or feeding them.

— Virginia Durrance, Women in Transition member




housing issues. We also believe that social change can only come from people working in unity on common goals. We use this model because we are not only dedicated to seeing an increase in fair and affordable housing, but we are intentional in the collective process we use to reach our goal.

It is in this light that we turn

to one of our allies in the struggle, Women In Transition (WIT), which is “a grassroots organization run by and for poor people working to create a world where everyone’s economic human rights are provided.” MHC provides the data and numbers around the effects of rising utility costs, but WIT is poised to tell the human aspect of the story.

Virginia Durrance has been a member of Women in Transition for 3 1/2 years. Like many Louisvillians, she struggles to pay her LG&E bill every month because she simply doesn’t have the money to pay for it. Virginia says, “Right now I have a bill which is \$202 but have paid some of it because I have other bills to pay. I don’t know why my bill is so high. Wintertime is coming and last year I really struggled to pay my bill. I am so scared that I won’t be able to do it and they are going to get turned off. With gas and food costing more and more, I am worried that I will have to choose between keeping my family warm or feeding them.”

At MHC, we know this story all too well and as we gather data on the *2008 State of Metropolitan Housing Report*, which will focus on utility costs, we are finding new policy recommendations and solutions to this rising problem. It is also through partnerships with grassroots organizations such as WIT that we will work in coalition to make lasting and systemic change! 



October 2—5

Interfaith Paths to Peace Pilgrimage 2008: Crossing Barriers — Pilgrimage for Peace & Justice. Follow the path of the Underground Railroad from Louisville to Southern Indiana. Call 214-7322 for more information.

October 6

Boehl Distinguished Lecture in Land Use Policy: Silver Bullet or Trojan Horse? The Effects of Inclusionary Zoning on Local Housing Markets. Speaker is Vicki Been. 6pm at UofL Louis D. Brandeis School of Law, Room 275. Reception to follow.

October 8

MHC Affordable Housing Committee at New Directions, 1000 E. Liberty, 12:15pm.

October 9

Southern Indiana Housing Initiative (SIHI) at Life Spring, 460 Spring Street, Jeffersonville, Indiana, 1pm.

October 14

Fair Housing Coalition Meeting at New Directions, 1000 E. Liberty at 2pm.

October 16

Non-profit Housing Alliance Meeting at New Directions, 1000 E. Liberty at 1pm.

October 16

ACLU Bill of Rights Dinner 5:30-8:30pm at the Henry

Clay, 300 W. Chestnut in Louisville. For more info, contact kendell@aclu-ky.org.

October 22-23

2008 Kentucky Affordable Housing Conference. The theme is Spirit of Unity — Embracing Partnerships. Sponsored by Kentucky Housing Corporation at the Hyatt Regency and Lexington Convention Center. Register soon for this collaborative conference to address the many facets to affordable housing in this uncertain market. Visit www.kyhousing.org.

October 24

MHC Board Meeting at New Directions, 1000 East Liberty Street at noon.

October 25

Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression 2008 Annual Unity Dinner, Saturday evening. Speaker is former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Jocelyn Elders. For info or tickets, call Katrina at 778-8130.

October 28

2008 State of Metropolitan Housing Report Release, 12pm, Louisville Urban League, 1535 W. Broadway. The focus is home energy costs — a very timely topic as we move into the heating season.

November 5

Eighth Annual Nonprofit Leadership Conference and Awards: Thriving in Challenging Times, 8am to 4pm, Galt House Hotel & Suites East, 140 N. Fourth, Louisville, KY 40202. Call (502) 315-CNPE or visit www.cnpe.org for full event information and pricing.

November 7

Beyond Boundaries: Building our 21st Century Community. 8am to 3:30pm at the Galt House East. Regional summit hosted by WIRED 65 and the Bingham Fellows. Contact Leadership Louisville at 561-0458 for registration information.

November 15

2008 Mayor’s Neighborhood Summit, Clarion Hotel, 9700 Bluegrass Parkway, Saturday, 8:30am to 4:30pm.

To learn more about upcoming events and other items of interest to affordable housing advocates, please visit

www.metropolitanhousing.org

Schedule of events for Affordable Housing advocates



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Here's help!

Do you or a loved one need help with rising utility costs this winter? Check out these resources!

- **Louisville Metro Community Action Partnership, 810 Barret Avenue, 40204, 574-1157**

LIHEAP — energy assistance, air conditioners/fans for low income Louisville Metro residents with a medical condition; heaters for low income Louisville Metro residents with a broken furnace.

- **Louisville Metro Housing (Weatherization) 745 W. Main Street, 40202, 574-2690**

Installs weatherization materials for low income Louisville Metro residents.

- **Louisville Metro Human Services 810 Barret Avenue, 40204, 574-8000**

Assesses eligibility for MHS emergency assistance and refers eligible persons/families to the appropriate Neighborhood Place. Also provides referrals to other emergency and social programs.

- **LG&E WeCare Weatherization Program, 1-800-251-7808**

Installs weatherization materials for low income residents. Must be qualified through Louisville Metro Community Action Partnership LIHEAP.

- **LG &E Home Energy Audit, 1-800-251-7808**

A trained energy specialist will show you how you can lower your monthly bills and reduce your energy use. Cost is \$15 and includes some free weatherization products.

- **Affordable Energy Corporation 10617 Taylorsville Road, 40299 Call 267-1399 for an appointment**
All Seasons Assurance Plan (ASAP)

- **Project Warm 1252 S. Shelby Street, 40203 Call 636-9276 for an appointment**
Weatherization Services & Education

Join MHC today!

Become an assisting, supporting, anchoring, sustaining or sponsoring member of **Metropolitan Housing Coalition** today! Call Phoenix at **584-6858** for membership information.