

A P R I L
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NEWSletter



THE UNITED VOICE FOR SAFE, FAIR AND
AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR TWO DECADES

Kentucky Housing Corporation:

Working for stable affordable housing

by Cathy Hinko

During the ice storm in January, MHC hosted a get-together with the new leadership of Kentucky Housing Corporation: **Rick McQuady**, Executive Director and **William Summers, V.**, board chair. Despite the weather, we had a nice turnout. For those of you who missed the chance to schmooze, we hope to offer another opportunity.

MHC thanks KHC for the great work over the last year. You have read the MHC exclusive on the state AHTF. While there will not be a allocation precisely matching our contribution each year, KHC is sensitive to making sure all the state benefits from the state AHTF. We can support great opportunities both here and in other parts of the state. The need is there.

KHC also stepped up to the plate on foreclosure mitigation by creating the Kentucky Homeownership Protection Center, a central point for all legitimate efforts to help people who have difficulty paying their mortgages. The creation of the state backup center was optional and KHC opted in! KHC created a central data base that ensures access to resources (and, MHC hopes, a rich source of information on what our state is experiencing). KHC also ensures that all of the state is covered. This vision has led to many productive partnerships.

MHC also thanks KHC for the Non-profit Housing Production and Repair loan program. MHC operates the loan pool available to non-profit housing developers in the Louisville area and the allocation to this part of the state has been proportional and made MHC stretch our service.

We send our congratulations to KHC for their vision for Kentucky!

Kentucky Affordable Housing Trust Fund: A wonderful investment

An MHC exclusive by Cathy Hinko, MHC Executive Director

Your successful advocacy created a dedicated, public source of revenue to the Kentucky Affordable Housing Trust Fund in 2007, and the results are in! We now appear to be geniuses, because about \$5,000,000 is generated from across the state dedicated to affordable housing. Imagine trying to get \$5,000,000 for affordable housing from this biennium state budget! And we need every cent.

MHC researched how much money has come from Jefferson County and how much has been allocated from the state AHTF to projects in Jefferson County. Many thanks to Kentucky Housing Corporation and to the Jefferson County Clerk for the information.

The total collected and distributed to Jefferson County through the state AHTF from July 1, 2007 through January 31, 2009 was \$1,562,328. The amount allocated from the state AHTF to Jefferson County affordable housing initiatives during this time period was about \$1,623,500 (approximate due to an allocation to the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association for work in Jefferson County that has an estimated cost).

For you numbers wonks, the AHTF portion of fees collected by the Jefferson County Clerk has been:

07/1/07—12/31/07 (six months)	\$553,548.00
01/1/08—12/31/08 (a full year)	\$946,032.00
01/1/09—1/31/09 (one month)	\$62,748.00

The list of projects that have gotten AHTF funding are:

Coventry Commons	\$320,000
Habitat of Louisville	\$100,000
Downtown Scholar House	\$200,000
Zoe Fields	\$100,000
New Directions	\$157,500
Healing Place	\$250,000
Wellspring	\$96,000
KDVA (estimate)	\$400,000

Call to action!

MHC and the Open the Door advocates know that an AHTF is an effective tool for affordable housing. The fight for a local AHTF is not over. It has been over 10 months since the Metro Council adopted an ordinance to set up a local AHTF board, but no movement has been made. Please call the Mayor's office at (502) 574-2003 and your local Council member at (502) 574-3521 to ask for this task to be done.

Metropolitan Housing Coalition

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

MHC: Who we are and how we reached our 20th anniversary

by Suzy Post
Founding Director

In 1989, a group of social service providers, worried at the growing number of homeless on Louisville's streets, started meeting to devise a strategy for dealing with the problem. They concluded that the need for safe, fair and affordable housing would lighten the load of homeless men and women in our city. Along with representatives of organizations building such housing, they were incorporated as the **Metropolitan Housing Coalition**, a 501 (c)(3) with a mission to advocate for safe, fair affordable housing in the metro Louisville area.

Almost immediately, MHC applied for a million dollar grant to the Bingham Foundation. Instead it was given \$100,000 to be used for staffing over a three year period at the end of which it was to become self-sufficient.

In 1990 MHC's Board of Directors hired me, a long time civil rights advocate as its first Director. I began to build a large membership base by recruiting affordable housing providers, labor unions, banks and faith-based groups until our membership base, a source for both funding and influence, reached about 120 organizational members. The Bingham Foundation was so impressed by the work of the MHC Board and staff that it allocated an additional \$25,000 in its third year of funding.

MHC's early primary programmatic mission was three fold: passage of a state Affordable Housing Trust Fund, involvement in a local land use plan, and the development of an annual State of Metropolitan Housing Report to help define our community's housing needs. Additionally, a Fair Housing group was created which currently meets monthly as an MHC committee and has done visible and vigorous work to advance the movement for housing without discrimination based on race, religion, disability and national origin.

This past year, 2008, to celebrate April as National Fair Housing Month the Fair Housing committee raised money to place a Kentucky historical marker in front of the former home of Anne and Carl Braden. In 1954 the Bradens, a progressive white husband and wife, bought

a home in southwestern Louisville for a black family, the Wades. Almost as soon as the Wades moved into the house it was bombed. In this post McCarthy era, both Anne and Carl were arrested and charged with sedition.

MHC, in these early years, also brought in knowledgeable people from the national affordable housing community. These included Cushing Dolbeare, founder of the National Affordable Housing Coalition, Nic Retsinas, Director of Harvard's Joint Center for Joint Housing Studies, and David Rusk, author of "Cities Without Suburbs." More recently Gary Orfield, an expert on school desegregation was the featured speaker at MHC's annual meeting just as the Jefferson County Board of Education was struggling to devise a new student assignment plan. This year, on June 4th, we will welcome keynote speaker Michael Bodaken, the President of the National Housing Trust.

As MHC has continued to grow and

mature it has released annual reports and short issue papers on issues affecting low income families and housing needs. These reports are used by a breadth of state and local organizations focused on the critical needs of our low income population, one which, unhappily, continues to grow as our economy shrinks.

Those of us who believe in a more equitable and just society than the one in which we are now living are invited to support the Metropolitan Housing Coalition through membership, labor, or a combination of the two. As you know, life is a constant struggle, but success is more possible as more and more of us link arms to reach our goal. I fully retired from MHC in 2007 and now work on behalf of the organization in a voluntary capacity, trusting the competence of the MHC Board and staff to continue this vitally important work. If you are not a member, call 584-6858 and become one: your time, energy, and money will help a population that needs it. ■

Two Upcoming MHC Events!



Home Sweet Home: Understanding Housing Basics on Wednesday, April 15, Public Library, Main Branch Basement, 310 S. York Street, 5-8pm. Growing out of our coalition work on the recent community forum on racism and mortgage lending products, MHC has partnered with many wonderful organizations to bring you Home Sweet Home: Understanding Housing Basics. This is an evening of short workshops to help participants know their housing rights. Whether you are paying your rent or your mortgage, we invite you to attend these short sessions to better understand housing basics. Workshop Topics include: *Understanding Credit* — National City Bank; *Tenant's Rights* — Legal Aid Society & Fair Housing Council; *Utilities Cost & Weatherization* — Project Warm; *Foreclosure Prevention* — Louisville Urban League; *Is Homeownership Right for You?* — Housing Partnership, Inc. ■

Pegasus Parade: Party with MHC! April 30, East Broadway Home Store,

 **802 East Broadway (on the parade route at the corner of Broadway & Shelby) All day!**

We are camping out at the East Broadway Home Store during the Pegasus Parade to make a space for our members, nonprofit colleagues, and active community members to celebrate Derby. Please bring your friends and family to stay for the whole event, or just pop in to say "hi." We will have chairs outside on the Parade route, and limited space inside to keep coolers and non-valuable items. We are also using this opportunity to educate our community about the need for the local Affordable Housing Trust Fund to get up and running. If you are interested in volunteering for a short shift, just give MHC a call! Thank you to Bobby Shore and the Home Store for donating the space for us all to use. ■

SCHEDULE of EVENTS



*Items of interest for
affordable housing advocates*

April 15 — Home Sweet Home: Understanding Housing Basics. Whether you are paying your rent or your mortgage, attend these short sessions to better understand housing basics. Wednesday, April 15, Public Library, Main Branch Basement, 310 S. York, 5-8pm. See workshop topics on page two.

April 17 — Louisville Loves Mountains Festival. Spend Friday evening from 4-10pm celebrating our Kentucky mountains with a number of local musicians and Kentucky authors Silas House and Erik Reece. Food and drinks will be provided by local vendors. This event has been organized by the Jefferson County Chapter of KFTC and sponsored by Heine Bros. Coffee and Carmichael's Bookstore. Meet at the corner of Bardstown Road and Longest Avenue in Louisville.

April 18 — 10am-noon at the Okolona AMVETS Post 61, 9405 Smyrna Parkway. Congressman Yarmuth will hold Congress on Your Corner. You are invited to meet and share your opinions with Congressman John Yarmuth. For information, call the Congressman's staff at (502) 582-5129.

April 19 — The young women of WOW (Women Offering Wisdom) have planned, are promoting and will present Heaven and Nature Swings into Spring: Youth Making a Difference in Youths' Lives. Sunday, April 19, 2-5pm at Incredible Dave's, 9236 Westport Road. Admission is \$10, which includes music a silent auction, food and fun. Call 558-8317.

April 24 — Sixth Annual Brush, Bottle and Barrel of the Bluegrass, a benefit for the Legal Aid Society, on Friday, April 24 at 5:30pm at Louisville Collegiate School. For more information, contact Legal Aid at (502) 584-1254.

April 30 — Party all day with MHC at an Pegasus Parade. On the parade route at the corner of Broadway and Shelby Streets. Please bring your friends and family to stay for the whole event, or just pop in to say "hi." We are also using this opportunity to educate our community about the need for the Local Affordable Housing Trust Fund to get up and running! If you are interested in volunteering for a short shift, just give MHC a call!

Every Tuesday — Legal Aid Society is offering foreclosure clinics for families and individuals who meet the federal poverty guidelines. Attorneys will provide advice on alternatives. The clinic is offered every Tuesday, 11am at 416 W. Muhammad Ali. The clinic is free. Call 584-1254 for more information.

Saturdays — Saturday Academy. Regular sessions, from 11am-12:15pm, are free and open to the public, and meet in the DuValle Education Center Cafeteria, 3610 Bohne Avenue, in the Park DuValle Community, north of Algonquin Parkway at 35th Street. For information, contact Marian Vasser at 852-2252 or mrvass01@louisville.edu.

June 1-3 — Reclaiming Vacant Properties: Building Leadership to Restore Communities at the Galt House. This three-day national conference is a *don't miss* event for anyone working to revive their neighborhood and strengthen the greater community! Call MHC for more info or visit reclaimingvacantproperties.org.

June 2-3 — Safe Place Implementation Training in Louisville, Kentucky. This two-day session prepares organizations to implement Safe Place as a community youth outreach, education and runaway prevention program. For more info, contact Susan Harmon, National Safe Place at 1-888-290-7233 or sharmon@nationalsafeplace.org.

June 4 — Metropolitan Housing Coalition Annual Meeting. Social hour at 5pm; program & dinner at 6pm. Louisville Hyatt Downtown, 320 W. Jefferson in Louisville. Single tickets are \$50 and a table of 8 seats is \$500. Join over 400 housing advocates, key decision makers, and active community members to hear keynote speaker **Michael Bodaken**, President of the National Housing Trust, speak about the importance of safe, fair and affordable housing. Call MHC at (502) 584-6858 or visit www.metropolitanhousing.org for sponsorship opportunities and ticket sales.

*Don't forget to get
your MHC
Annual Meeting
tickets & purchase
ad space early!
Call the office at
584-6858 today!*

METROPOLITAN
HOUSING COALITION

THE UNITED VOICE FOR SAFE, FAIR AND
AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR TWO DECADES



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HIGHLIGHTS FOR APRIL ... Kentucky Housing Corporation: Working for Stable Affordable Housing ... Kentucky Affordable Housing Trust Fund: A Wonderful Investment ... MHC: Who We Are and How We Reached Our 20th Anniversary ... Two Upcoming MHC Events ... Schedule of Events ... Metro United Way 2-1-1 at a Glance

*MHC's monthly newsletter is
underwritten by a grant from*



Metro United Way 2-1-1 at a glance

*Every hour of every day, someone in the Metro Louisville area is in need of help — from finding substance abuse assistance to securing quality care for an aging parent. There are so many agencies, services, and help-lines that individuals often don't know where to turn. In many cases, people give up, going without readily available services because they do not know where to start looking for what they need. **2-1-1** is changing that by connecting people with needed services and volunteer opportunities.*

Metro United Way 2-1-1 provides services to 1.2 million residents in our 12-county, two state area. Three counties in Indiana (Clark, Floyd, and Harrison) and nine in Kentucky (Bullitt, Carroll, Jefferson, Henry, Nelson, Oldham, Shelby, Spencer and Trimble) make up the current service area. **2-1-1** is an easy to remember number, where you speak with a trained counselor and receive the information on the services you need.

Our community as a whole will benefit by having access to information on a wide range of services and the agencies that provide services. The following examples

highlight the information available from **2-1-1**:

- Basic Human Needs: Neighborhood House, Center for Lay Ministries, Interfaith Community Council
- Employment Support: Louisville Central Community Center, Louisville Education Employment Partnership (LEEP)
- Children, Youth and Families: Home of the Innocents, Family & Children First
- Support for Older Americans and Persons with Disabilities: ElderServe, Custom Quality Service
- Volunteer Opportunities and Donations: Direct connection to all local agencies and places for people to volunteer their time and talents.

Metro United Way's 2-1-1

line is staffed around

the clock by the counselors at the Seven Counties Crisis and Information Center. If you are interested in building awareness about **2-1-1** in your

community, contact Glen Powell at 502-292-6149 to schedule a meeting.

