

JUNE / JULY  
2009

# NEWSletter



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## MHC 2009 Annual Meeting: A huge success!

*Hundreds gather to celebrate our 20th year*



The evening began with a social hour where guests caught up with colleagues and got to meet new ones. **Cathy Hinko** opened the program with a few words of celebration for 20 years of MHC and appreciation of the good work of our board members, membership base, and allies. Then on behalf of MHC, Cathy and MHC Board President **Phil Tom** received recognition from **Rick McQuady** of Kentucky Housing Corporation and from **David Howard** of Louisville Metro for MHC's two decades of housing advocacy.

We also accomplished the bitter-sweet task of welcoming new board members while saying goodbye to those whose term is up. Though it is hard to see long-time supporters roll off the board, we know that it is because of their hard work that the new members will see great successes.

The program continued with our keynote speaker **Michael Bodaken**, President of the National Housing Trust. His passion for affordable housing and preservation policy created a refreshing perspective for our guests. He gave a message of hope by talking about the Obama administration's progressive approach to housing. Federal legislation suggests that the silos of energy, transportation and housing are being discussed together for the first time since the New Deal. As an MHC supporter, you know how important working in coalition to make change is.

We have been overwhelmed by positive



**Keynote speaker Michael Bodaken, President of the National Housing Trust, delivered a powerful message to the sell-out audience.**

feedback about the event! From the social hour to the last remark, attendees had the chance to network and socialize with colleagues, old and new, while learning about our national housing landscape. First-time attendee Betty Kolb from Shelby Park Neighborhood Association said, "Being a part of such a group of persons was a marvelous experience!"

MHC sincerely appreciates Michael Bodaken's remarkable address at our Annual Meeting and his immeasurable dedication to affordable housing. We thank each sponsor as well as each guest for their constant support not only by attending the dinner but for continual support throughout the year. MHC continues its 20th year of advocacy for affordable housing with the support of Louisville Metro community members! 🏠

## Metropolitan Housing Coalition

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

## Welcome to MHC's new Board members!

★ **Dr. Renee Campbell Mapp**, President/CEO of Wesley House Community Services, is a state approved domestic violence trainer and a board member of the Mary Byron Foundation and Phoenix Global Humanitarian Foundation. She also serves as an adjunct faculty member in Kentucky State University's undergraduate social work program.

★ **Faith Weekly** is a Community Development Specialist working in the Louisville Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. She is responsible for promoting community and economic development and fair and equal access to credit.

★ **Michael Gardner** graduated from U of L in December 2003 with a bachelor's degree in Political Science. He works at New Directions Housing Corporation and is in charge of managing their owner-occupied rehabilitation programs and is engaged in neighborhood revitalization efforts in Newburg, and the Smoketown and Shelby Park neighborhoods.

★ **David Ritchay** works for The Housing Partnership, Inc. as the Program Manager for Multi-Family Housing. He oversees all of HPI's in-house rental development projects as well as being responsible for HPI's consulting services. Prior to joining HPI, David worked in a variety of capacities to develop affordable housing in Louisville and throughout the Commonwealth.

★ **Peter H. Wayne, IV** serves as a Kentucky-licensed settlement planning consultant for FORGE Consulting, LLC and is also the company's general counsel. Peter also spends time volunteering and serving on various boards and was recently appointed to serve as the President of the Young Lawyers Section of the Louisville Bar Association from January 2009 to December of 2010.

★ **Dan Forbis** has been a long-time MHC member and leader as he previously served on the MHC Board of Directors. Forbis continues to serve on the Southwest Festival Committee, the Labor Day Committee of United Labor, and the Workforce Investment Board of Southern Indiana, Region 10.



## Focus on Vacant Properties

### Vacant Properties: A Tool to Turn Neighborhood Liabilities into Assets

No matter if you call Germantown, Fairdale or Shawnee home, every neighborhood in Louisville has been affected by vacant properties. Last week, MHC electronically released an issue paper, which we hope you'll use as a tool for learning about and solving this widespread problem. Like all of our reports and publications, we encourage you to pass information along to others and use our published data to strengthen your own organization. Please go to our website and look under the reports tab to see this and all of our publications. 📄

### National Vacant Properties Campaign Added to our Local Work!

The National Vacant Properties Campaign held its very successful conference, *Reclaiming Vacant Properties: Building Leadership to Restore Communities*, in Louisville from June 1-3. Over 550 people, 106 from Kentucky, attended this highly educational and motivational event where activists and professionals were provided with valuable lessons and strategies for reusing the often forgotten assets of vacant land and buildings. With all the financial troubles nonprofits, governmental entities, and even for-profits are enduring

right now, this great attendance highlights the importance of vacant property revitalization.

Over 30 Louisville activists attended through the generosity of nine Metro Council members, **Tina Ward-Pugh, Cheri Bryant Hamilton, Rick Blackwell, Mary Woolridge, David Tandy, Tom Owen, Dr. Judith Green, Marianne Butler, and Barbara Shanklin**. A number of local neighborhood and housing activists and government officials participated in mobile workshops in Phoenix Hill, Park Hill, Clifton, Waterfront Park, Park-DuValle and the old Henry Clay Hotel/YWCA building. Local participation adds to the depth of our collective understanding and skill set. Thanks to all those who helped with sponsorship! 📄

### Y'all Come! MHC Hosts a Monthly Discussion Group

As previously reported, for over two years MHC has hosted a group of Louisville neighborhood and housing activists working on the problems caused by vacant properties. This group, the Louisville Vacant Properties Campaign, continues to meet on the third Tuesday of each month at the Presbyterian Community Center from 5:30-7:30pm. For more information or to RSVP, call Doug Magee at **584-6858** or email [doug@metropolitanhousing.org](mailto:doug@metropolitanhousing.org). 📄

# SCHEDULE *of* EVENTS

**July 16–19** — WIT presents *Building the Unsettling Force — A National Conference to End Poverty* at Spalding University on July 16–19. This conference is being organized to provide a forum for people to share ideas, inspire and motivate each other. Participants will strive for collective actions based on sound analyses and actions that can be taken locally, regionally, and nationally. For more info, contact WIT at 502-636-0160 or witadmin@witky.org. 📍

**July 19** — WIT presents *People's Fest* on Sunday, July 19, noon–7pm at Shelby Park. Celebrate the power of poor people. Come and enjoy the party and barbecue. 📍

**July 31–August 2** — *Another Kentucky is Possible!* on July 31–August 2 at Berea College. Kentucky Social Forum is continuing to educate and empower Kentuckians on issues that affect us all. Are you a member of a grassroots Kentucky-based organization that would love to reach out on an organization-to-organization level? For more information, contact kentuckysocialforum@gmail.com. 📍

**August 19** — In our most recent issue paper release, we examine how Louisville's housing crisis is affecting the growing number of homeless schoolchildren in the Jefferson County Public Schools. Please attend on August 19, noon, Presbyterian Community Center, 731 S. Hancock. After this date, the report will be available on our website. Call MHC if you need more information. 📍

**October 18** — *Dare to Care Hunger Walk* on Sunday, October 18 at Waterfront Park, Festival Plaza. Festivities start at noon; the walk starts at 2:15pm. For more information about this event, please go to [www.thehungerwalk.org](http://www.thehungerwalk.org). 📍

**October 28–29** — Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC) presents *2009 Kentucky Affordable Housing Conference* on October 28–29 at the Hyatt Regency and Lexington Convention

Center. For sponsorship opportunities or for more information about this conference, contact Mary Kay Meagher at 614-224-8446 or email [mmeagher@occh.org](mailto:mmeagher@occh.org). 📍

**September 12** — *2009 Homeward Bound 5K Race/Walk/Run to End Homelessness* on September 12, at 9am, Cherokee Park Scenic Loop. 📍

**December 1–3** — *11th Annual Ending Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Conference* on December 1–3 at the Marriott Griffin Gate Resort in Lexington. Sponsored by Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs (KASAP), Kentucky Domestic Violence Association (KDVA), Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, Division of Violence Prevention Resources, and others. Call Tana at 502-226-2704, ext. 300. 📍

*To learn more,*  
**visit MHC on the web**

*If you are interested in Community Development, visit our website at [www.metropolitanhousing.org](http://www.metropolitanhousing.org) and download "Community Development Block Grant Funds: A Tool for Neighborhoods." We designed this tool back in 2004, but have dusted it off because it is still very relevant to our community work.*



**TOP | to r: Fox Ritchay, Susan Stokes, Rebecca Matheny**  
**BOTTOM | to r: Deborah Williams, David Howard, Alane Goldstein**

**Annual meeting pix**

METROPOLITAN  
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**HIGHLIGHTS FOR JUNE/JULY ...** Many Thanks  
to our Annual Meeting Sponsors/MHC 2009 Annual  
Meeting: A Huge Success/Welcome to MHC's New  
Board Members/Focus on Vacant Properties/Schedule  
of Events/Visit MHC's Website/Annual Meeting Pix/  
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