



We would like to thank everyone who helped make 2010 MHC Annual Meeting a great success!

MHC 2010 Annual Meeting

Once again, MHC had a great Annual Meeting on June 2, with over 350 people attending. The social hour (or as Cathy Hinko, MHC's Executive Director, calls it, "the Schmooze Hour") was too much fun. It is THE opportunity to run into hundreds of our fair and affordable housing friends. Lots of connections were made and revived during that time. We could barely tear ourselves away to be seated. **U.S. Congressman John Yarmuth** was a wonderful speaker. We received an update on, at that time, a very recent vote on the national Housing Trust Fund. Equally important was that Congressman Yarmuth looked out at a sea of people who actively support fair and affordable housing. In a year with so many national issues presenting themselves, this was a reminder that a most basic need, a place to live, remains a priority.

We have some of the photos from the dinner here, and you can see more on [our Facebook page](#).



Rep. Yarmuth speaks

Upcoming Events

July 13 - Fair Housing Coalition Meeting. New Directions, 1000 E. Liberty, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

July 13 & 14- Bank On Louisville Rallies. Bank On Louisville is a new program to help unbanked citizens- those who do not have a checking or savings account- gain better access to the mainstream banking system. The rallies will have financial education workshops, financial information tables, and activities for kids. For more information, go to www.bankonlouisville.com, or call Metro 311.

July 13 - Northwest Neighborhood Place (Shawnee HS), 4018 West Market, 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

July 14 - Wesley House Community Services, 5114 Preston Highway, 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

July 19- Community Meeting: How Can We Build a Campaign for Public Ownership of Louisville Gas & Electric? This forum will discuss what is needed to campaign for LG&E to become a not-for-profit, publicly owned, community controlled utility. Sponsored by the Kentucky Alliance Against Racism and Political Oppression. For more information, call 778-8130 or email kycall@insightbb.com. Braden Center, 3208 W. Broadway, 7:00-9:00 p.m.



Former MHC Board President Gabe Fritz & Rep. Yarmuth



A sea of supporters of fair and affordable housing

The 2010 Annual Meeting was made possible with the generous support of our sponsors. We want to thank them for all the hard work they do to make our community a wonderful place to live and work.

Keystone Sponsor - Arthur K. Smith Family Foundation

Groundbreaking Sponsors - PNC Bank; Fifth Third Bank; Kentucky Housing Corporation; and Stites & Harbison.

Table Sponsors - Catholic Charities of Louisville; Community Action of Southern Indiana; Fairness Campaign; Habitat for Humanity; Home of the Innocents; Housing Partnership Inc.; Janet Dakan; Jewish Family and Career Services; Legal Aid Society; Local Carpenters Union 64; Louisville Metro Housing Authority; Making Connections Network; New Directions Housing Corporation; Norton Healthcare; Oracle Design Group; Presbyterian Church USA; Republic Bank; River City Housing; University Hospital; Volunteers of America; and Zion Community Development Corporation.

July 20 - Louisville Vacant Properties Campaign Meeting. Presbyterian Community Center, 701 South Hancock, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Sept. 16 - Nonprofit Housing Alliance Meeting. New Directions, 1000 E. Liberty, 1:00-2:00 p.m

Sept. 24- The Race to End Homelessness 2010 5K. Benefits the Coalition for the Homeless. Get more information and register at

www.racetoendhomelessness.org.

Cherokee Park Scenic Loop, 9:00a.m.

October 28 - ACLU Bill of Rights Dinner

Featuring the Executive Director of the National organization, Anthony Romero. Save the date now, more details to come.

Thank you to Louisville Metro Government

MHC extends its thanks to the Louisville Metro government for supporting our work for fair and affordable housing. Because of this support, MHC's work facilitating neighborhood group discussions continued, resulting in the Vacant Property Campaign, a unified multi-neighborhood effort to address issues associated with vacant properties. Metro government also allocated MHC Community Development Block Grant funds to write the *2010 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice*. This resulted in a document that has been accepted as policy by Louisville Metro and has launched MHC's campaign to see the recommendations implemented. These are just two examples of the work that is supported by the Louisville Metro government.



Vacant Property and Urban Agriculture

The **Louisville Vacant Property Campaign**, an MHC-staffed program, continues to explore the problems and opportunities created by vacant properties, both lots and buildings. On June 22, we met at LAMP, 227 S. 26th Street, to discuss the potential relationship between vacant lots and urban agriculture. We met at LAMP because the weekend before the meeting, LAMP and volunteers from several groups set up a number of container gardens and made initial plantings.

The meeting's discussion involved several organizations involved with urban agriculture and its issues. Pat Williamson, with LAMP, welcomed us and gave us information about LAMP's mission and its urban garden. Tom Denning, with CART Enterprises, LLC, spoke about container gardens. Steve Vice, with Dismas Charities and 15Thousand Farmers, Wayne Long and Denise Peterson, both with the Jefferson County Cooperative Extension, and Michael O'Leary, from the Clifton Neighborhood Community Garden, all added their thoughts and information about their respective organizations and the role they play in the local movement for urban gardening.

Why can't we just turn all vacant lots into gardens? We learned about the need for soil testing and soil replacement, the need to monitor the path of the sun on the vacant lot, appropriate placement of the garden

Curtis Stauffer Joins MHC as Our New Development Director

MHC is excited to announce that Curtis Stauffer has started as our new Development Director/Advocacy Project Coordinator. Curtis moved from Jackson, WY to accept the position.

Curtis has a strong belief in the importance of affordable housing to our communities. He also has experience in the field. In Jackson, Curtis served as the AmeriCorps*VISTA Development Associate for Habitat for Humanity of the Greater Teton Area. Before moving to Wyoming, he worked for the City of Philadelphia Office of Housing & Community Development as a Housing Program Analyst.

Curtis earned his MA from Temple University in Urban Studies, where he researched affordable housing policy. He holds a BA from Macalester College with majors in History and Urban Studies.

Curtis is thrilled to join the MHC team. "I look forward to working with MHC's members and supporters to advocate for fair and affordable housing in Greater Louisville," he said.



Curtis
Stauffer

compared to trees and buildings, safety and security issues, and maintenance and water needs. Some of these issues can be overcome by planning, but sometimes a vacant lot should become a side yard or sitting area as opposed to a food production site.

However, we also discussed the social and community values involving urban agriculture. By growing our own foods or buying produce from local farmers we know, we have a better connection to and understanding of our food needs and sources. We cut down on travel and production costs, have potentially fresher items and, in many cases, improve the soil in our urban setting. We also gain social connections and build community by planning, working and shopping together.

The meeting opened the conversation among people involved in a more sensible approach to using vacant urban land and slowing sprawl into undeveloped farm and forest lands. But this is just one aspect of the work of the LVPC, which is dedicated to considering many approaches to re-using vacant properties.

If you are interested in assisting or learning about this community work, contact Doug Magee at doug@metropolitanhousing.org or 584-6858. Our group usually meets the third Tuesday evening of each month at Presbyterian Community Center, 701 S. Hancock Street.

MHC Board Members

MHC has had some changes to the governing board. We never say good-bye to exiting board members; they are always part of the work for fair and affordable housing. But we want to thank this year's exiting board members for their great service:

Gabe Fritz has worked hard as MHC board president this last year, and he was always working on MHC committees during his six year tenure on the board. He has left MHC in great shape.

Barbara Banaszynski served as treasurer for most of her six years. Cathy Hinko wants to thank Barbara for helping her really master the MHC finances.

John Rosenbarger has been a valuable connection to southern Indiana, especially New Albany. He helped keep MHC focused on being regional in our outlook.

Next Newsletter

Changes at MHC delayed the release of the June newsletter and limited it to an email edition only. The printed MHC Newsletter will return for the July/August 2010 Edition.

Susan Stokes completed a second set of six years on the MHC board and served for several years as chair of the Nominating Committee, keeping the board vital.

Former board chair **Phil Tom**, who left earlier this year to work in the federal Department of Labor, still keeps in touch with us.

John Bajandas is beginning his second term on the MHC board. We appreciate having a private developer on the board because affordable housing is about community.

We have five new board members and we are very excited about their participation:

Lawrence Wilbon

Lawrence is the Program Director of the Presbyterian Community Center, where he has established several new initiatives such as the 4th District Clean Team and has strengthened relationships with local government officials. He has more than 10 years of experience working with at-risk youth and families.

Adam Hall

Adam is a Mortgage Loan Officer with Fifth Third Bank. Adam has dedicated his career to providing loan opportunities to low-income and minority home buyers. Adam served on the board of the Mortgage Bankers Association of Louisville for 6 years and was president for 2 ½ years. He now serves as Secretary/Treasurer of the Mortgage Bankers Association of Kentucky.

Janet Dakan

Janet, a graduate of UCLA and a former UofL Library staff member, is a key leader in MHC's current and past successes. Her current volunteer work includes various MHC committees, the Olmsted Conservancy, the Center for Neighborhoods Leadership Council, and the Tyler Park Neighborhood Association.

Patricia Ann Yense-Woosley

Patricia serves as the Director of Housing for New Hope Services, Inc. She counsels one-on-one and in group sessions for homeownership, rental, credit & budget, reverse mortgages and foreclosure prevention. She has provided counseling for 20+ years with the bulk of her experience in home ownership.

Ron Jackson

Ron currently works for Metro United Way in Louisville, Kentucky as the Project Manager of the Gheens Bridges to Tomorrow Initiative, a collaborative learning lab working to ensure that children are prepared to succeed in Kindergarten while ensuring that their parents are financially stable.

New Executive Committee

A new Executive Committee was elected at the June board meeting. Former Treasurer **Christie McCravy** (Louisville Urban League) was elected as President of the MHC Board. **Richard Vance** (Stites and Harbison) will continue as Vice President. **Faith Weekly** (Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, Louisville Office) is the new Treasurer. Congratulations and thanks to the new board officers.



Both our printed Newsletter and our e-Newsletter are made possible with the generous support of PNC Bank.