



SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, June 12, 2014

MHC's 2014 Annual Meeting

featuring Keynote Speaker Sara Pratt, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Programs at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO)

at The Ice House, 226 East Washington Street, 5:00-7:00PM

****Registration and ticket information coming soon!****

Making Louisville Home for Us All

On Thursday, February 13th, the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission (LMHRC) released a 20-year action plan for improving fair housing, *Making Louisville Home For Us All: A 20-Year Action Plan for Fair Housing*, as part of the LMHRC's annual Race & Relations Conference.

The report was researched and produced for the LMHRC by the University of Louisville's Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research in consultation with the Metropolitan Housing Coalition (MHC), which coordinated the development of the action steps outlined in the report. The report is available as a free download at MHC's Website: www.metropolitanhousing.org.

Making Louisville Home for Us All details Louisville's history of discrimination in housing and efforts over time to combat that discrimination. The report documents, utilizing many kinds of data, that residential segregation remains a major problem in metro Louisville and suggests forward-looking remedies. The report analyzes action steps developed from the 2010 report *Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice in Louisville Metro, KY*. *Making Louisville Home for Us All* contains goals to effectively measure and continuously improve fair housing choice in our community.

According to Catherine Fosl, University of Louisville social scientist and lead researcher of the report, "This 20-year action plan offers concrete steps for making fair and affordable housing a reality in metro Louisville. Unlike many action plans in major cities all across the USA, it is firmly grounded in our local history. That history includes persistent structural residential segregation and discrimination that are **20-Year Plan CONT.**

The Utah Solution

This article by Jordan Riley is reprinted with permission from the Indiana Daily Student, the Indiana University newspaper, which ran it on January 31, 2014. Jordan was a volunteer intern with MHC when she was in high school and still understands housing issues.

Utah recently proved once again that the simplest solution is often the best by coming up with a genius plan to solve their homelessness issue — providing houses for homeless people. They crunched the numbers and found the cost of medical bills and arrests for homeless people is actually \$5,670 more than simply housing them.

Most states have been blaming and punishing people for their homelessness. Utah has instituted a plan that will actually solve the problem, instead of shifting blame.

Most cities set restrictions on homeless individuals, such as where they can be and for how long. Some states have even restricted other people from feeding homeless people, likening them to pigeons and other pests. These policies have so far been ineffective.

It turns out that even when you arrest these people, wake them up or tell them to move, they remain homeless. You haven't really changed anything.

People still rely on these policies because of the stigma that homeless people are on the street because they choose to be, because they are lazy drug addicts that refuse to help themselves.

Utah CONT.

20-Year Plan CONT.

with us still, but it also includes concerted effort and creative initiatives by many Louisvillians working together in search of ending housing disparities and reducing poverty. That kind of long term commitment by government and business leaders and ordinary citizens is an important part of what lies ahead in rooting out the vestiges of discrimination and making Louisville home for us all."

"Louisville's current segregation is a legacy of past policies spanning decades", said Cathy Hinko, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Housing Coalition. "Having action steps to further fair housing that takes us out twenty years is the right framework for the future for Louisville," said Hinko. "There are immediate action steps to take, but there must be a long-term commitment."

Hinko identified two action steps she believes are real "game changers": Making fair housing a mandatory lens for review of all actions by all parts of Metro government and the development and utilization of a market analysis to assess housing demand by area of the city, type of housing, price/rental points needed and connection to job centers.

The principal editor and author of the report is Catherine Fosl, PhD. Contributors include Cathy Hinko, Nicole Cissell, Amber Duke, Curtis Stauffer, Joshua Poe, Mariam Williams, and Dana Loustalot Duncan, with special assistance from Tracy E. K'Meyer, PhD.

The report was made possible through 2012-13 partnership funds to the LMHRC as a Fair Housing Assistance Program agency, part of the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing program of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)/Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO).

Allied Organizations for Civil Rights

Invite you to join a commemoration of

The 50th Anniversary

March on Frankfort

March 5, 2014

On March 5, 1964, over 10,000 people from across Kentucky rallied at the state capitol in support of a bill desegregating public accommodations then being considered by the General Assembly. Fifty years later, join this commemorative march and rally with a focus on current-day issues.

To sign up, call Mary Ann Taylor at 502-782-9728 or email mayann.taylor@ky.gov

Utah CONT.

What should be obvious is that no one would actively choose to live on the street. Once there, however, one might be more concerned with exposure, not getting arrested and keeping themselves and their belongings safe — instead of making sure they aren't an eyesore to the more fortunate.

Significant portions of homeless people are afflicted with mental or physical disabilities that make it hard for them to find and keep work. Others are blindsided by extreme circumstances, and find that once they are on the streets, it becomes significantly harder to get back on their feet.

The prejudice and victim blaming directed at homeless people contribute to this.

It's true that addiction is another contributor to homelessness. Instead of blaming those who have succumbed to this, Utah's policy addresses this problem as well.

Utah's new policy gives the homeless a safe place to live as well as providing each person a social worker focused on helping them become self-sufficient. Utah's government has created one of the first humane and effective solutions to a problem that most U.S. cities deal with, including Bloomington.

Bloomington has a homeless population noticeable to anyone glancing down Kirkwood Avenue, and no one really seems to be doing anything that helps. Last December, 24-year-old Ian Stark froze to death in Bloomington. This tragedy incited many Bloomington natives to march on the mayor's office, as well as a few less-legal displays of unrest .

If Bloomington can adopt the same progressive and cost effective approach as Utah, then everybody wins.

Downtown areas look cleaner, and the homeless get to change the only truly offensive thing about them — the

**Want to get involved in 2014,
but need more knowledge of the issues?**

MHC will come to you!

**We're happy to present to your group,
whatever the size and wherever the location.**

**Contact Dana Loustalot Duncan, Development Director
at dana@metropolitanhousing.org or 502-584-6858**

Help Raise Money for MHC at NO COST to You!

*Do you shop at Kroger? If so, participate in the
Mid-South Kroger Fund Raising Program!*

How does it work?

- 1) **Buy a \$5 Kroger Gift Card from MHC.** This card starts with a \$5 balance.
- 2) Add money to your Kroger Gift Card at any Kroger Customer service desk or Kroger register.
- 3) Use your gift card to buy your groceries or get gas at a Kroger gas station.
- 4) Refill your gift card when your balance is low and keep using it to make your Kroger purchases.
- 5) **Each time you refill your gift card, Kroger will donate 4% of your recharge amount to MHC.**

How do I sign up?

There are **three ways you can sign up** and get a MHC Kroger Fund Raiser Gift Card:

- 1) Send a check for \$5 to MHC, PO Box 4533, Louisville KY 40204. Be sure to include your mailing address and **write Kroger Card on the "for" line** of your check. We'll then mail you your gift card.
- 2) Make a \$5 donation online at www.metropolitanhousing.org. **Be sure to type "Kroger Card" in the Comment box of the donation page.** MHC will then send your gift card in the mail.
- 3) Call MHC at (502) 584-6858 or email dana@metropolitanhousing.org and make arrangements to stop by MHC offices to pay for and pick up your card.

Schedule of Events

Fair Housing Coalition meets 2pm each 2nd TUE at New Directions, 1000 E. Liberty

Louisville Vacant Property Campaign meets 5:30pm each 3rd TUE at Sojourner Church, 1229 S. Shelby St.

Feb. 18, 11am-1pm – Bank On Louisville Start Fresh! workshop at Ujima Neighborhood Place

Feb. 20, 10am-12pm – Bank On Louisville Start Fresh! workshop at 810 Barret Ave.

March 13, 5:30pm-7:30pm – Bank On Louisville Start Fresh! workshop at Louisville Urban League

March 20, 10am-12pm – Bank On Louisville Start Fresh! workshop at 810 Barret Ave

Thursday, February 20, 11:00 a.m. Shawnee Branch of the Louisville Free Public Library. Black Neighborhoods of Louisville, presented by local historian Tom Owen.

Wednesday, April 23 Project Warm presents the 2014 Green Spark Awards and Luncheon. The Green Spark Awards honor individuals and organizations that inspire energy conservation and environmental stewardship. Information at: www.projectwarm.org/greenspark.

April 23-24 HHCK Annual Conference: **Housing from the Starting Gate to the Finish Line** – Crowne Plaza, Louisville, KY- Early registration for HHCK members only \$150 and good until February 21: www.regonline.com/hhckconference. Sessions include: Case Management; Homeless Issues and Solutions; Rental Property Development and Management; New Construction; Nonprofit Management; Fundraising for Nonprofit Sustainability; HMIS. For questions or problems with registering for the conference contact Fran Whittenburg Alvis, Executive Director of HHCK at 502-223-1834, ext 1114.

Ongoing:

Want to learn safe soil practices? The Center for Environmental Policy and Management is partnering with the Jefferson County Extension Service and Louisville Metro to provide local residents with information about soil testing, best soil practices, and general gardening resources. We can present at your regularly scheduled meeting or at another time that suits your group. Benefits of our Safe Soils Program: Learn simple but important practices for keeping your gardens safe and healthy; Meet others with shared interests in urban gardening; Discover resources available to support safe urban gardens in your community Questions? Please contact U of L CEPM at (502)852-8042 or Jefferson Co. Extension at (502)569-2344.

When do you most often hear about housing issues in local media and conversation?

Usually about the time MHC releases our annual *State of Metropolitan Housing Report*.

We've just released our *2013 State of Metropolitan Housing Report*, but we need your support today to ensure that MHC is again able to raise awareness of and help organize our community around critical issues and provide valuable information for our partners.

Support MHC's work with a donation today!

Online at metropolitanhousing.org or via mail at the address below.

Strengthen the United Voice for Fair and Affordable Housing!

Make your donation online at www.metropolitanhousing.org or
mail this form to MHC, P.O. Box 4533, Louisville, KY 40204-4533

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MHC would like to thank
Louisville Metro Government
for its continuing support



MHC's monthly newsletter
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