



## The 2011 MHC Annual Meeting Speaker will be Vacant Property Expert Dan Kildee

On Thursday, May 19, MHC will host Daniel T. Kildee as the speaker for the 2011 MHC Annual Meeting, to be held at the Downtown Hyatt. Mr. Kildee is Co-Founder and President of the Center for Community Progress. To learn more about the Center, go to [www.communityprogress.net](http://www.communityprogress.net). Prior to founding the Center, Kildee served as Genesee County (Michigan) Treasurer from 1997-2009. Before his election as Treasurer, Dan served for 12 years as a Genesee County Commissioner, including five years as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners.

Dan also has served as President of the Genesee Institute, a research and training institute focusing on smart growth, urban land reform, and land banking. Dan was a member of the Executive Committee of the National Vacant Properties Campaign. The Center for Community Progress is the successor to the Genesee Institute and the National Vacant Properties Campaign (NVPC). NVPC held its national conference in Louisville in June 2009. Many citizen activists, elected officials and government employees attended the conference. Most of the citizen activists were from Louisville, many on scholarships made available due to funding from nine Metro Council members. Of those attendees, many continue to work on vacant properties both in their own neighborhoods and city-wide.

Dan initiated the use of Michigan's new tax foreclosure law as a tool for community development and neighborhood stabilization. He founded the Genesee Land Bank – Michigan's first land bank, and a model for others around the nation. In 2007, the Land Bank program was named winner of the Harvard University/Fannie Mae Foundation Innovations in American Government Award for Affordable Housing.

It is the hope of MHC and the Louisville Vacant Property Campaign (LVPC) that Mr. Kildee's visit will spark more creative ideas and commitment by local activists and Louisville Metro government towards solving our growing vacant property problem. Come hear Mr. Kildee at the 2011 MHC Annual Meeting and join us for the third Tuesday of each month for the LVPC meetings. For information about the LVPC, please contact Doug Magee at [doug@metropolitanhousing.org](mailto:doug@metropolitanhousing.org). For information about attending the Annual Meeting, or becoming an event sponsor, please contact Curtis Stauffer at [curtisstauffer@metropolitanhousing.org](mailto:curtisstauffer@metropolitanhousing.org)

## Meet the New HUD-KY State Office Department Heads

The Kentucky State Office of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has two new department heads: Roger A. Leonard, Director of Community Planning and Development (CPD) and Natasha J. Watson, Director of the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO). MHC and the Louisville Urban League are hosting a reception to welcome them on Wednesday, February 16 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. at the Louisville Urban League, 1535 West Broadway. Come meet our newest partners in making Louisville and Kentucky a thriving and fair community.

Natasha J. Watson is the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) Center Director for the Louisville Program Center of HUD. The Louisville Program Center serves Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. In addition to supervising the Center, Ms. Watson's tasks include advising HUD funded recipients and partners of their obligations to comply with statutory and regulatory requirements. These entities are funded by HUD through the Fair Housing Assistant Programs (FHAP) and are known as FHAP Agencies. Currently the center has 13 FHAP partners and 3 FHIP partners. Ms. Watson has served with HUD since 1989. She has worked with the Office of Housing as an Asset Manager and has held numerous positions with FHEO, most recently as the FHEO Director in the Birmingham, Alabama office.

Roger A. Leonard joined HUD in November 2010 as the Louisville Field Office Director of Community Planning and Development (CPD). He has more than 20 years of experience in community planning, economic development, affordable housing, strategic planning, program and project management, technical writing, risk assessment and financial management. His prior positions include: Community/Strategic Planner and Policy writer for J.M. Waller and Associates, Inc., where he worked with the US military, and Senior Program Analyst and Project Manager for RSR Development Associates. Mr. Leonard served in the US Navy for 20 years as a technical engineer and program manager before starting his private sector career.

## The 2011 Coalition for the Homeless “Street Count” Had Its Most Volunteers Ever!

By Theresa Boyd, MHC

Every year the Coalition for the Homeless conducts a "Street Count" to compile a census of Louisville Metro's homeless who are living on the street. This year's "Street Count" held on January 26 was reported to have one of the largest volunteer bases ever – with over 200 people giving their time! The "Street Count" helps the Coalition for the Homeless determine the amount of funding needed to provide services to the homeless and combat homelessness in the Louisville Metro. The volunteer base was so large this year that the "Street Count" had to be conducted from two different locations. Hotel Louisville was the site for "neighborhood walking" and the Jefferson Street Baptist Center was where the "inside" work was done. About 25-30 "inside" volunteers assisted with the completion of surveys, providing resource information, handing out clothes, blankets, gloves and hats, as well as offering food to homeless men and women. Fifty-nine teams of "outside" volunteers made up of 2-4 people were assigned streets to survey by foot to count homeless people.

Homelessness is a harsh reality that many people are not familiar with, do not recognize as a problem or simply just do not acknowledge. Volunteers at the 2011 "Street Count" were upbeat and eager to help. As one volunteer said, "This is my first time volunteering for anything. To see homelessness in its rawest form, the people cold, hungry and in need was sobering. It has made me want to do more. Made me appreciate, want to advocate and want to help." Activism, volunteerism and education can help end homelessness in our community; thanks to over 200 volunteers, a major step forward has been taken. The volunteer turnout at "Street Count" demonstrated that our community is aware of the issues of homelessness and is mobilizing around them.

### MHC Fair Housing Month Forum

April is Fair Housing Month. This year, the MHC Fair Housing Coalition Fair Housing Month Forum will be held on Thursday, April 14 at the Louisville Free Public Library Main Branch from 1:00-4:00 p.m. This year's Fair Housing Month Forum will feature presentations and a panel discussion about the fair housing issues facing people with disabilities.

Members of the Fair Housing Coalition from the Center for Accessible Living and the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission are helping MHC plan the forum. If you would like to help too, please call MHC.

## MHC Releases *The State of Fair Housing in Louisville*

MHC released *The State of Fair Housing in Louisville: Impediments and Improvements* on January 25 at the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Race & Relations Conference. This report examines where people protected by Fair Housing laws live and explores the barriers that lie at the heart of true fair housing choice, many of which are inherited. The report offers action steps to remove barriers to fair housing choice so that it becomes a reality.

MHC wishes to thank the generous sponsors of *The State of Fair Housing in Louisville: Impediments & Actions*: Louisville Metro government, through the Department of Housing and through a special grant from Ninth District Councilwoman Tina Ward- Pugh, and Making Connections Network. MHC would also like to thank the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission for including the release of *The State of Fair Housing in Louisville* in the Race & Relations Conference.

You can download the new report at [http://metropolitanhousing.org/pdf/mhcdoc\\_265.pdf](http://metropolitanhousing.org/pdf/mhcdoc_265.pdf). MHC will be hosting a forum to discuss *The State of Fair Housing in Louisville* on Tuesday, March 29 from 12:00-1:00 p.m. at New Directions (1000 E. Liberty).

### Metro Government Roof Initiative

New Directions Housing Corporation (NDHC), in partnership with Louisville Metro Government Housing & Community Development Division, can make repairs or replacements to roofs in owner-occupied dwellings in Louisville Metro. This emergency repair assistance is a grant to participating homeowners.

The Roof Initiative is available on a first-qualified, first-served basis to Louisville Metro homeowners earning less than 80% of area median income according to family size. Preference is given to families earning less than 30% of area median income. Homeowners must have proof of income, homeowner's insurance, and valid legal title in order to participate.

Assisted homeowners must agree to keep the property as their primary residence and sign a one-year certification of affordability. The value of repairs provided under the Roof Initiative is generally between \$2,000 and \$5,000.

For more information about the program, call Butch Rice at 719-7134.

## Schedule of Events

**February 9 - Fair Housing Coalition Meeting.** New Directions, 1000 E. Liberty, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

**February 15 - Louisville Vacant Properties Campaign Meeting.** Presbyterian Community Center, 701 South Hancock, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

**February 16- Reception to Welcome New HUD-KY Office Staff.** MHC & the Urban League invite you to welcome two new members of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Kentucky State office, Natasha Watson, Director, Louisville FHEO Program Center & Roger Leonard, Director, Office of Community Planning and Development. Louisville Urban League, 1535 W. Broadway, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

**March 29- Forum to Discuss MHC's *The State of Fair Housing in Louisville: Impediments and Improvements*.** New Directions, 1000 East Liberty Street, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

**April 14- MHC Fair Housing Month Forum.** Features presentations and a panel discussion about the fair housing issues facing people with disabilities. Louisville Free Public Library Main Branch, 301 York Street, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

**May 19- MHC Annual Meeting.** Features vacant property and land bank expert Dan Kildee as keynote speaker. For more information, contact Curtis Stauffer at 584-6858 or [curtisstauffer@metropolitanhousing.org](mailto:curtisstauffer@metropolitanhousing.org). Hyatt Regency Louisville, reception and registration, 5:00 p.m., dinner 6:00-9:00 p.m.

**February, March & Early April- Louisville Asset Building Coalition Free Tax Preparation Services.** If you made less than \$49,000 in 2010, you qualify for free tax preparation available at sites across the city. For more information, call 211 or go to <http://labcservices.org/free-tax-help/>

**February 10 - Kentucky Sustainable Energy Alliance Clean Energy Lobby Day.** Join KySEA for a full day of meetings with legislators aimed at having good conversations about the benefits of clean energy for Kentuckians and about the specifics of the Clean Energy Bill of 2011. . Email [nancy@kysea.org](mailto:nancy@kysea.org) to sign up. Room 111 of the State Capitol Annex, Frankfort 8:30 -10:30 a.m.

**February 14 – KFTC I Love Mountains Day.** A rally to demand that legislators recognize the harm done to people and communities by mountaintop removal mining. For more information, contact Lisa Abbott of Kentuckians for the Commonwealth at (606)-878-2161 or [lisa@kftc.org](mailto:lisa@kftc.org). State Capitol Building, Frankfort, 11:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m.

**February 16- Bank on Louisville Big Table Meeting.** Bank On Louisville is a comprehensive program to serve the "unbanked" and "under-banked." This meeting will review 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter data and discuss next steps. For more information, email [BankOnLouisville@louisvilleky.gov](mailto:BankOnLouisville@louisvilleky.gov). Go to [www.surveymonkey.com/s/CZ9FZF9](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CZ9FZF9) to register. Liberty Green Community Room, 500 E. Jefferson , 9:30-11:30 a.m.

**February 19 - Legal Aid Society Foreclosure Conciliation Project- Volunteer Training.** Legal Aid Society is performing outreach to those for whom foreclosures have recently been filed to let them know about free clinics available that can help them with housing counseling and legal advice. For more information and to enroll in the training, please contact Sade Jackson at [SJackson@laslou.org](mailto:SJackson@laslou.org) or 614-3182. Volunteer Trainings will also be held on **March 19 & April 9**. Legal Aid Society, 416 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd., 12:00 p.m.

**February 23- Film Screening and Discussion of “Flag Wars.”** The Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research is screening a documentary that follows the conflicts that arise when gay white professionals move into a black working-class neighborhood in Columbus, Ohio. Co-sponsored by MHC and University of Louisville LGBT Services. Ekstrom Library Room W104, 2301 S. Third St., 4:30-6:30 p.m.

**February 23- Center for Women & Families Celebration of Service & Survival.** Honors the 2011 Women of Distinction. To RSVP or for more information, call 581-7253 or email [charity.stark@cwfempower.org](mailto:charity.stark@cwfempower.org). Louisville Marriott Downtown, 280 W. Jefferson, Reception 5:30 p.m., Dinner 6:30 p.m.

**February 24 – ACLU of KY Voting Rights Day.** Work to support of HB 70, which would restore felons’ voting rights once an individual has completed his or her full sentence The day will include a training in the morning, meetings in the afternoon, and a rally at the end of the day. For more information, contact Kate Miller at [kate@aclu-ky.org](mailto:kate@aclu-ky.org) or 581-1181. State Capitol Building, Frankfort.

**February 26 - St. John Center for Homeless Men 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Raisin’ the Rent Party.** A fundraiser featuring music by Thumper and the Plaid Rabbits, hors d’oeuvres, dancing, games of chance, and live and silent auctions. For tickets or to get more information call 568-6758 or go to [www.stjohncenter.org](http://www.stjohncenter.org). The Olmsted, 3701 Frankfort Avenue, 7:00–11:00 p.m.

**February 26- PNC Bank Foundation of Money Management Class** – This free class covers “Banking 101” and budgeting. Classes are also scheduled on the following dates: **March 19; April 16; May 21; June 11; July 16; Aug. 20; Sept. 17; Oct. 15; Nov.19, & Dec. 17.** For reservations or for more information, contact Marita Willis at 581-2576 or [marita.willis@pnc.com](mailto:marita.willis@pnc.com). 500 W. Jefferson Street, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

**February 28 – NDHC Neighborhood Roundtable Meeting.** NDHC 2011 Neighborhoods Assessment Report addresses and descriptions are due. The Report is a summary and call to action for city officials to address participating neighborhoods' most problematic dilapidated, vacant or abandoned properties. To RSVP or for more information, contact Lydia Comer at 719-7169 or [lydiac@ndhc.org](mailto:lydiac@ndhc.org). New Directions, 1000 E. Liberty, 5:30 p.m.

## Strengthen the United Voice for Fair and Affordable Housing- Join MHC or Renew Your Membership Today!



As an MHC Member you:

- **Support** the creation of long-term solutions to our community's affordable housing crisis.
- **Join** the diverse coalition of over 170 individual and 200 organizational members which make up our far-reaching base.
- **Receive** our monthly newsletter and published reports on timely housing issues that touch the Metro Louisville region and beyond.
- **Advertise** your events in our printed and electronic newsletters and link your website to ours.
- **Most important of all**, you will have your voice heard at this historic and critical time!

For membership questions, please call the office at (502) 584-6858 and speak with Curtis Stauffer. To make an online donation, visit us on the web at [www.metropolitanhousing.org](http://www.metropolitanhousing.org).



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*MHC's monthly Newsletter is  
underwritten by a generous grant from*



*MHC would like to thank  
Louisville Metro Government  
for its continuing support of  
our outreach efforts.*

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