

NEWSletter

METROPOLITAN
HOUSING
COALITION
LOUISVILLE KY
MAY 2005

*From the office of the
Executive Director*

To MHC members & friends:

For the past three years, I have had the honor of serving as Executive Director of the Metropolitan Housing Coalition. I have had the privilege of working with MHC's members to advocate for the basic human right of decent housing for all people in this community. I love this work and the community of housing advocates to which it has introduced me.

And so, it is bittersweet to write that at the end of May, I will be leaving my job here at MHC. The move is a hard one because the work and the people are so stimulating and inspiring and dear to me. However, stepping down from this job provides me another great privilege and honor — that of focusing more of my time, energy and heart on the lives of my young children. I guess I'm leaving "housing" because I need to be more at home.

MHC's Board of Directors is engaging in a search for a new Executive Director, and we look forward to sharing news of our new leader with you as soon as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to work for such a fine coalition and with such fine people, and thank you for the work you do. I look forward to more good work together in the years ahead.

— Jane Walsh
MHC Executive Director

Buy Now

LAST CHANCE: Secure your tickets for the Annual Meeting TODAY!

Tickets are going like hotcakes for MHC's 16th Annual Meeting on May 17! Call 584-6858 to secure your tickets or table today. Tickets are \$35 apiece or \$300 for a table of eight. It will be a very special event this year for several reasons.

First, it is your chance to experience the elegance of the brand new **Downtown Marriott, located at 280 W. Jefferson**, which officially opened for business on March 28.

James Carr, Senior Vice President of Research at the Fannie Mae Foundation, will be our keynote speaker. Through a variety of positions in both the government and private sectors, Mr. Carr has steadily worked to improve the effectiveness of community investment. He is an award-winning leader in the housing research field and has authored several books on topics ranging from housing policy to municipal finance. Mr. Carr will discuss high-cost financial services for the poor.

Finally, on that evening, we are honoring **Leonard Watkins'** lifetime of commitment to ensuring fair, safe and affordable housing in Metro Louisville. Leonard Watkins was recently appointed to the Metro Council and will represent District 1.

Ordering your ticket or table for the event is easy — you can down-

load the order form from our website — www.metropolitanhousing.org. Or, simply fill out the order form on the back of this newsletter and mail it in to get your tickets *today*.

Arrive at 5pm on May 17 for a social hour of drinks and a networking bonanza! Parking is available in the Hyatt Regency and Marriott garages or on the street. We'll see you on May 17! ■

May '05 meetings

Advocacy and Education Committee
Please call 584-6858 for date & time.

Fair Housing Committee
Thursday, May 19, 1pm
New Directions Housing Corporation
1000 E. Liberty

MHC Board of Directors
Wednesday, May 25, 12pm
New Directions Housing Corporation



CONTACT US:
Metropolitan Housing Coalition

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Louisville, KY 40204-4533
PH (502) 584-6858
FAX (502) 589-3256

MHC MEMBER News

Here is what some of MHC's member organizations are doing

Kentucky Jobs With Justice will host its third Annual Solidarity Celebration on Saturday, **May 14**. It will be held from 5:30 til 7pm at the Americana Community Center. The Rev. Dr. Bernice Powell Jackson, a 25-year civil rights advocate and Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries at the United Church of Christ, will be the keynote speaker. There will be wine and light refreshments. Contributions of \$15-\$50 per person will be accepted. Call 625-3724 for more information. ■

Kentucky Opportunities (Christian Care Communities) challenges businesses and citizens to participate in the annual *Run for the Rose Bushe* event. On **May 4**, from 12-3pm at the Waterfront Park Great Lawn, teams will be pitted against one another in races through large inflatable mazes and obstacle courses. The money that each participant raises will benefit Christian Care's Louisville Pathways Program — which provides residential homes and long-term ongoing support for individuals with an array of needs. Call 254-4200 to participate in this fun event! ■

Project Warm seeks volunteers for simple energy home improvements for low income households. Volun-

teers will be trained. Please call 636-9276 or visit www.projectwarm.org to sign up. ■

The Housing Partnership Inc. is hosting its first annual *Champions of Homeownership* luncheon on Monday, **June 13**, from 12-1:30pm, at the Downtown Hyatt Regency Hotel to recognize those individuals, corporations or entities that have helped promote or preserve homeownership opportunities in this community. **Metropolitan Housing Coalition** will be honored as one of the "2005 Champions" for its tireless affordable housing advocacy. Tickets are \$30 per person; tables of 10 are \$300. For more information or to make your reservation, please call Christie McCravy at 585-5451. ■

Get ready to jump on board and Bring the Dream Home! **Fifth Third Bank** is getting ready to take homeownership directly to the communities we serve this July! Watch for more information coming soon! ■

Contact **Habitat for Humanity** if you would like to volunteer for Women for Habitat's eighth house in Louisville. Raise the Roof is **May 12, 13 & 14** at 2413 Owen in the Portland Neighborhood. Call 583-6599 to help frame the house or work during 12 weeks after Raise the Roof to complete the house. ■

MHC makes a move!

We love our friends at **New Directions Housing Corporation**, but MHC is moving in June. Our new offices will be located in the **Jewish Family and Vocational Services** building at 3640 Dutchmans Lane.

Stay tuned to find out if our phone number, fax number, and mailing address will change. If we have new information, we will publish it to let you know. MHC meetings will continue to be held at member sites across the community. Watch the newsletter for details! ■

In Memoriam Housing world loses two advocates

MHC salutes Councilman **Willie Bright** and National Low Income Housing Coalition Founder, **Cushing Dolbeare**, both of whom passed away in March of this year.

A long-time friend to MHC, Councilman Willie Bright passed away at the age of 72 on March 19. Whenever we called — and wherever we asked him to be — Councilman Bright answered and was there. We salute his unfaltering dedication to his community, to District 4, and to meeting the housing needs of this community.

Cushing Dolbeare formed the National Low Income Housing Coalition, a diverse group of labor, civil rights, religious and social groups that highlights housing needs for low-income Americans, in 1974. During her reign as NLIHC's president, she developed the now-famous *Out of Reach* report, which documents the gap between housing costs and income in this nation. She was a tireless advocate for our country's poor for more than 50 years. ■

THIS & THAT

Buy a Kroger Card to support MHC

Want an easy way to donate to MHC? Support the mission and work of MHC while shopping for groceries at Kroger! MHC will be selling rechargeable Kroger gift cards that allow a portion of what you spend at your local Kroger store to go to MHC.

Here's how it works: Purchase a \$5 Kroger gift card from MHC. Take it to your local Kroger and use cash, check, or credit to recharge the card at the Customer Service desk or at any register. Then, use the card to pay for your groceries. The card can be recharged indefinitely, and each time you recharge the card, MHC gets 4% of the value you put on the card.

To pre-order your Kroger gift card supporting MHC, contact Nick at nick@metropolitanhousing.org or call 584-6858. ■

MHC's new web site brings members to our coalition

From October 1, 2004 to mid-April, 2005, MHC's web site was visited 2,175 times — an average of about 11 visits per day. A typical visitor stays almost five minutes and looks at five different pages within the site. The number of visits per month has been on a steady rise since December, with March visits more than doubling December's, and April on track to top March. Thus far in April, we've received an average of 21 visits per day. To date, 10 new members have joined using the web site and more are sure to come. This is a great beginning for a new web site! Want to know what the buzz is about? Visit www.metropolitanhousing.org. ■

16th Annual Meeting ticket order form

Sign up today for MHC's May 17th Annual Meeting. For sponsorship opportunities or for more info, call MHC today at (502) 584-6858.

Name _____

Address _____

City/state/zip _____

Phone # _____



Make your reservations today!

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS
_____ x \$35 = _____
individual ticket(s)
\$ _____ TOTAL

TABLE(S) OF 8
_____ x \$300 = _____
table(s) of 8
\$ _____ TOTAL

**PLEASE MAKE CHECK OUT TO:
METROPOLITAN HOUSING COALITION**

Enclose your check for the appropriate amount & mail this form to:
**Metropolitan Housing Coalition
P.O. Box 4533
Louisville, KY 40204-4533**



**NEW Annual Meeting location this year —
the NEW Downtown Marriott at 280 W.
Jefferson Street. Tell your friends!**

Want to receive MHC's newsletter by email?



If you would like to receive MHC's newsletter by email only, contact Nancy at (502) 584-6858 or email her at nancy@metropolitanhousing.org.



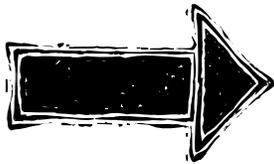
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HIGHLIGHTS FOR MAY ... From the office of the Executive Director/Last chance: Secure your tickets for the Annual Meeting today!/May '05 meetings/MHC member news/MHC makes a move!/Housing world loses two advocates/Buy a Kroger Card to support MHC/MHC's new web site brings members to our coalition/16th Annual Meeting ticket order form/MHC needs YOU to rally for Affordable Housing on May 24

MHC's monthly newsletter is underwritten by a grant from



MHC needs YOU to rally for Affordable Housing on May 24

356 Louisville families are in danger of losing critically needed housing assistance. Put a human face on how many people this affects — represent one of these households on May 24.

MHC, the Coalition for the Homeless and a host of community partners are gathering 356 households to oppose the potential loss of this many Section 8 vouchers in Louisville under the current federal administration's funding cuts to housing.

Stand up for one family by bringing your household to rally at the Mazzoli Federal Building (600 MLK Place) at 5:30pm on May 24. We will meet for a rally and then proceed to the Cathedral of the Assumption for an interfaith service.

The 2005 federal budget passed by Congress last fall included a 4% cut in Section 8 funding. These cuts mean

that the Louisville Metro Housing Authority will suffer a nearly \$2 million shortfall in funding — causing an estimated 356 low-income families to lose Section 8 housing assistance! (Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities)

Already today, over 14,000 qualified Louisville Metro families (nearly 34,000 people) wait for Section 8 housing vouchers because even current funding levels don't come close to meeting our local need.

We cannot afford to lose one Section 8 voucher — and we can't afford to be silent.

Commit your household to represent one of the households who will lose a voucher if these funding cuts are passed. Please complete the form available on our web site, www.metropolitanhousing.org — or call the Coalition for the Homeless at 589-0190 today! ■