



# Metropolitan Housing Coalition NEWSLETTER

May 2010

## History of MHC Annual Meetings

Not long after MHC hired our first director, Suzy Post, we began the tradition of holding an Annual Meeting with national recognized keynote speakers. The first Annual Meeting was sponsored by PNC Bank and was in the Greater Bethel Temple in Old Louisville. It had a community feel and was even catered by the members of the church. For the second meeting, MHC brought in Cushing Dolbeare, the fabulous and famed then-director of the National Low-Income Housing Coalition. The early Annual Meetings were in locations offered by members: Canaan Missionary Baptist Church, the gymnasium at Beecher Terrace and the Jewish Community Center. As the event grew, MHC used larger event venues to accommodate the roughly 400 housing advocates, community members and elected officials in attendance of the social hour and dinner. Renowned speakers have included Nick Retsinas, Chester Hartman, Sheila Crowley and many others. Joining that distinguished list this year will be U.S. **Congressman John Yarmuth** and we are looking forward to hearing the "Legislative and Housing Update From Washington". Guests will also be welcomed by **Mayor Jerry Abramson**.

For the first time, this year we will hold a raffle during the social hour. With raffle tickets at just \$5 for 1, or \$12 for 3, attendees will have the chance to win a date night package (\$50 gift certificate from Wiltshire on Main, 2 tickets to a Actors Theater show and a free room at the Hyatt), a sports package (2 tickets to the July 3<sup>rd</sup> Bats game and 2 tickets to the Louisville Slugger Museum) and a Taste of Kentucky package donated by Republic Bank. **Councilwoman Tina Ward-Pugh** will draw the raffle winners at the end of the program.

## Mark your calendars now!

2010 MHC Annual Meeting  
Wednesday June 2, 2010  
5:00 p.m. Social Hour  
6:00 p.m. Program & Dinner  
Louisville Hyatt Downtown, 320 West Jefferson Street

Individual Tickets are \$50; a Table of 8 Seats is \$500.  
Call MHC at (502) 584-6858 or visit  
[www.MetropolitanHousing.org](http://www.MetropolitanHousing.org) for more sponsorship  
opportunities and ticket sales.  
Don't wait, get your tickets today!

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights

Did you know that Louisville had the largest community of Free Black people west of Baltimore in the decades before and during the Civil War? After the Civil War there were even three banks in the Black relatively prosperous community.

The crowd of roughly 50 people got to hear interesting facts like this at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, where Dr. Blaine Hudson gave a wonderful talk about African-American history in Louisville.

Dr. Hudson, who is the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at UofL, discussed the history that led to this thriving free community and the erosion of that economic independence in the last century. His focus was on housing and we learned the history of where Black home ownership was allowed and discouraged over the decades. "Brownstown" changed its name to Old Louisville as Louisville grew past Broadway and the land became desirable to the White community. The 20<sup>th</sup> Century saw the rise of segregation laws and then restrictive covenants as the laws were struck down. Then there were extra legal practices that kept segregation alive as the restrictive covenants were declared unconstitutional.

In housing, the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights has played an important role and continues to provide a service that is as needed today as fifty years ago.

Thank you to Dr. Hudson for the enlightening history lesson and thank you for the event sponsors: Metropolitan Housing Coalition, Lexington Fair Housing Council, Multi-County Clients Council, Fair Housing Coalition, Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission, Legal Aid Society, League of Women Voters, Center for Accessible Living, American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee-KY Chapter, Janet Dakan, Hispanic Latino Coalition of Louisville, Women in Transition and the Fairness Campaign.

## 2010 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice

Visit [www.MetropolitanHousing.org](http://www.MetropolitanHousing.org) to see our newest study.

As you may remember from past newsletters, Louisville Metro looked to MHC to write the HUD-mandated Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI) that is part of the Consolidated Plan process. The Consolidated Plan is the five-year plan to spend HUD funds allocated to Louisville Metro. The AI ensures that the way we spend federal housing dollars helps promote fair housing.

The federally protected classes for fair housing are race, religion, color, national origin, sex, familial status and disability. Louisville Metro has an ordinance that extends fair housing protection on the basis of sexual identity and gender identity.

When MHC looked at where people in the protected classes lived, it was startling! We have limited housing opportunities for people in many of the protected classes to small areas of our city. Though housing segregation is still an obvious problem, we have zoned away the possibility of creating affordable housing throughout Jefferson County. Instead we have limited the areas where affordable housing is possible to a relatively small area. The segregation by race, color, sex (female head of household), familial status (female head of household with children), and the presence of a disability is shocking.

The AI not only looks at where people in protected classes live, but proposes action steps to tear down barriers to fair housing. The number one impediment to fair housing is the lack of commitment to putting all housing policy in a fair housing framework. When we only allow 20 percent of the land that is zoned for residential use to have the flexibility to include affordable housing, our zoning policies must be considered the root of our problem. All other policies operate within this limitation.

The AI has action steps that include changing transportation policies, investigating disadvantageous racial mortgage lending practices and working on changing the NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) fear that pervades Louisville.

MHC will be working towards implementing the action steps of the AI and will look to you, as declared fair housing supporters, to help in our work. We can change things for the better.

## MHC is Hiring for Development Director Position

Sad as we are to let her go, we are excited to announce that Phoenix Lindsey-Hall, our Development Director for two years, was recently accepted to graduate school out-of-state. As an MHC member, you know Phoenix's passion for housing issues and nonprofit development, but you may not know of her love of photography. She will start the Masters of Fine Arts Photography program at Parsons New School of Design in mid-June.

If you are interested in our available Development Director position, please see our full posting on [www.Louisvilleworks.com](http://www.Louisvilleworks.com), [www.Idealist.org](http://www.Idealist.org) and [www.craigslist.org](http://www.craigslist.org).

Key tasks of the Development Director include, but are not limited to:

1. Writing the development plan, meeting with the Development and Annual Meeting Committees, directing and reporting on all development activities.
2. Planning, organizing and coordinating a variety of events focused on advocacy for the organization, services to individual and organizational members, and recruitment of new members.
3. Facilitating ad hoc or collaborative meetings designed to sustain both development and advocacy functions and may represent MHC in a variety of forums.
4. Performing other, related work as required.

Bachelor's degree plus three years' experience are required. Please send a cover letter and resume to [Theresa@metropolitanhousing.org](mailto:Theresa@metropolitanhousing.org).



## Schedule of Events

**May 20** – Nonprofit Housing Alliance Meeting. New Directions, 1000 E. Liberty, 1:00-2:00 p.m.

**April 20**– Fair Housing Coalition meeting. New Directions, 1000 E. Liberty, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

**May 15** - The Louisville Urban League Diversity Soirée & Awards Gala, Celebrating Diversity in Louisville, Grand Ballroom, The Galt House Hotel and Suites, Reception and cash bar 6:00 p.m., The Kick-Off Celebration 7:00 p.m., A Multicultural Entertainment Experience Scholarship and Awards Presentation 7:30 p.m., Dinner and Dancing 8:00 p.m. Call the Louisville Urban League at 585-4622 for more information.

**May 18** – Primary Election!

**May 18**– Louisville Vacant Properties Campaign Meeting. Presbyterian Community Center, 701 South Hancock, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

**June 5** – Southern Indiana Area Repair Affair with N Directions Housing Corporation  
Visit <http://www.ndhc.org/givetime.html> to sign up.

**June 12** – Louisville Area Repair Affair with New Directions Housing Corporation  
Visit <http://www.ndhc.org/givetime.html> to sign up.

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

**June 2** - 2010 MHC Annual Meeting, 5:00 p.m.  
Social Hour, 6:00 p.m. Program & Dinner, Louisville Hyatt Downtown, 320 West Jefferson Street. With Keynote speaker **Congressman John Yarmuth** and will be welcomed by **Mayor Jerry Abramson**.

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To submit your community events, please email Phoenix at [phoenix@metropolitanhousing.org](mailto:phoenix@metropolitanhousing.org).

## Kentucky Habitat for Humanity Has Two Community Notices:

2010 Green Housing Summit  
Affordable Comfort, Super Efficiency.  
Monday and Tuesday, June 28-29

Who Should Attend: non-profit and for-profit home builders, construction staff and volunteers, housing agency executive directors and board members, students & faculty, architects/designers, HVAC contractors and anyone interested in green residential construction

Location: The Commons Complex, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Sponsors: Kentucky Habitat for Humanity, Home Depot Foundation and Fifth-Third Bank  
Workshops: Passive House, ENERGY STAR, Financial Analysis of Building Green, Advanced Framing and much more!

For more information, please contact Ginger Watkins, Sustainable Building Specialist, KyHFH  
[ginger@kyhfh.org](mailto:ginger@kyhfh.org)/(502) 320-9373.

### They are also looking for a staff position in Resource Development:

Director Resource Development is a member of Kentucky Habitat for Humanity's administrative team reporting to the Executive Director and the chair of the Finance & Resource Development committee.

#### Qualifications:

- A minimum of 1-2 years professional fundraising experience.
- Proven experience in designing and managing development programs.
- Experience with developing and maintaining productive working relationships with board members, donors, administrators and affiliates.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Ability to work as a leader and as part of a team.
- Habitat for Humanity knowledge and experience is a plus, but not required.

Contact Mary Shearer for questions.  
[Mary@kyhfh.org](mailto:Mary@kyhfh.org) or 502-608-7041.



## Remember MHC in the Spring Season!

### As an MHC Member you:

- **Support** the creation of long-term solutions to our community's affordable housing crisis
- **Join** the diverse coalition of 200 individual and 180 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 to talk to Phoenix or to make an online donation, visit us on the web at [www.metroloshousing.org](http://www.metroloshousing.org)



Metropolitan  
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Coalition

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