

NEWSletter

METROPOLITAN
HOUSING
COALITION
LOUISVILLE KY
FEBRUARY 2006

Advertise your organization at MHC's May 9th Annual Meeting

With the help of **Dreams with Wings, Inc.**, MHC will have dynamite centerpieces this year at the May 9th Annual Meeting. Send in a picture and logo from your business, organization, or group to help create collage vases that reflect affordable housing successes in our community.

We want to reflect the breadth of our coalition through this year's theme — **MHC: The Key to Affordable Housing**. It is a *great* opportunity to advertise the work that you are doing to support families in our community.

Call Nancy at 584-6858 for more information. 

We need YOU in Frankfort on February 23



The "Open the Door" Affordable Housing Trust Fund Campaign needs your support!

On February 23, the Campaign has secured the Rotunda in Frankfort for a press conference and rally, starting at 10am. We need your support — Louisville alone has pledged to bring 150 people! If you cannot find your own transportation, we will find you a ride. Call Rachel Hurst at 589-0190 to sign up.

And, there is exciting news to report. On Thursday, January 12, the leadership of the Kentucky House of Representatives announced their complete support for HB338, the Affordable Housing Trust Fund proposal! Thanks to everyone who attended the press release. About 50 supporters from all over the state, including eight Louisville Metro Government representatives, were in attendance.

Led by Rep. Jim Wayne (D-Louisville) and Rep. Charles Siler (R-

Williamsburg), the proposed legislation would enable Kentucky to join a growing number of states that have both created a state housing trust fund and enabled localities to partner in creating their own housing trust funds. The proposed bill has 24 other co-sponsors.

The Campaign has secured 70 organizational endorsers over the last few months. We continue to work on the local campaign with the support of the Mayor's office and the Metro Louisville Department of Housing and Community Development.

Visit our website at www.metropolitanhousing.org to learn more about the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. To be added to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Action list, contact Nick Braden at 584-6858. 

February Meetings

Advocacy and Education Committee

Committee meetings will be suspended until March due to the AHTF campaign.

2/2 — Fair Housing Coalition

Thursday, February 2, 1pm, Louisville Urban League. Attend to help plan upcoming Fair Housing Commemorative Events and to discuss issues germane to fair housing for all!

2/22 — MHC Board of Directors

Wednesday, February 22, 12pm, Jewish Family and Vocational Services

Metropolitan Housing Coalition

CONTACT US!

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MHC Member News

The **ACLU OF KENTUCKY** will host a Youth Rights Leadership Conference on Saturday, March 25, 9:30am to 4:30pm at the Muhammad Ali Center, 401 West Main Street, Louisville. The conference will include workshops on a variety of civil liberties topics of interest to young people and is open to all high school students throughout Kentucky. The conference is free, but registration is required. Registration forms are available online at www.aclu-ky.org or by calling 502-581-9746.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY of Metro Louisville is accepting applications for home ownership now. This year Habitat will be building in the Smoketown, Portland, Russell and California neighborhoods. For more information or to see if you qualify, call 583-6599.

The **HOUSING PARTNERSHIP INC.** will award this year's Champions for Home Ownership at a luncheon on June 21. This year's speaker is Henry Cisneros, former HUD Secretary. Invitations will be mailed in late April.

JEWISH FAMILY & VOCATIONAL SERVICES will host a forum, entitled *Ripped from the Headlines: Utilizing the Media to Affect Social Change*. The speaker will be Dr. Neal Baer, Executive Producer of *Law and Order, Special Victims Unit*. The luncheon will be held on February 28 at the Hyatt Regency Louisville. Tickets are \$40 per person and all proceeds benefit JFVS. Call 452-6341 for more information.

LEGACY HOMES is accepting applications for an early summer move-in date to Norton Commons Legacy Seniors

Take a look at what some of our member organizations are doing!

Residences. These apartments are reserved for seniors at 50% and 60% AMI. Rents range from \$489 to \$716. Elevator service, secured lobby access, and common area lounges on each floor are provided in this building that features Legacy Homes' trademark energy-efficient construction. Call Stephanie Vest at (502) 562-0016 for details.

METRO UNITED WAY supports a program worth knowing about—our local asset building coalitions! Do you work with families earning less than \$37,263? The Louisville Asset Building Coalition and the Southern Indiana Asset Building Coalition offer free tax preparation assistance to help families claim the Earned Income Tax Credit and connect clients to financial skills-building workshops. For more information please call (502) 581-7262 in Louisville or (812) 206-7512 in Clark County.

NEW ALBANY COMMUNITY HOUSING recently announced that the first two houses relocated from the Floyd Memorial expansion are nearly ready for their new buyers. They have been relocated and rehabbed, and will be sold to first time homebuyers at a discount from their appraised value. There may be other down payment assistance available as well. Many more coming at Linden Meadows in 2006! Call 945-1866 for details.

NEW DIRECTIONS HOUSING CORPORATION is now accepting applications for its annual Repair Affair Event. To qualify one must own and occupy their single-family home, be age 60 or certified Disabled and qualify as low-income. Applications are taken over the phone Monday–Friday from 8am–4pm. The last day to apply is Feb. 28. To apply or get more info call 371-4906.

The Kentucky Derby will soon be here and what better way to get into the spirit than by attending the **WELLSPRING** Derby Preview Party to be held at Churchill Downs, Millionaire's Row, 6th floor from 6:30–9:30pm. on Tuesday, April 25. Attendees can get those important betting tips and mingle with famous personalities such as honorary host Hall of Fame jockey Steve Cauthen who won the last Triple Crown aboard Affirmed in 1978. Please call 637-4361, ext. 12, for single ticket or table information.

Welcome New Members

MHC warmly welcomes the following new individual members to our organization. They are:

- **Fischer Sips**
- **Susan Hinko & Carl Batlin**
- **Catherine & Sam Graber**
- **Cathy Ford & Everett Hoffman**

FY2007 budget on the radar screen

by Cathy Hinko, Executive Director

The U.S. Congress passed the FY2006 budget for HUD during the holiday season. Section 8 allocations were cut. If allocated as before, Kentucky will have about 1,800 fewer vouchers than last year. Community Development Block Grants were cut by \$500 million nationally. Youthbuild was cut, as was housing for the elderly and disabled. Brownfield Redevelopment and Lead-based Paint Hazard Reduction Programs were cut.

However, Homeless Assistance Grants were increased. Apparently, Congress recognizes the impact of these

"We need to start the fight for a decent, human budget in housing for 2007"

funding cuts on our communities and sees the need for more funding in the area of homelessness assistance. This budget will push people into homelessness. As an American, I am not proud of the Congressional recognition that the funding cuts will increase human misery, but, hey, at least they have a plan. And they have communicated the plan in plain language.

We need to take note of that plan and continue to mobilize to ensure the passage of all the components of the state and local Affordable Housing Trust Funds. We need to keep up the fight for a National Affordable Housing Trust Fund that does not penalize agencies that work with voter registration efforts. We need to start the fight for a decent, human budget in housing for 2007. We need to ensure that working people have increasing ability to pay for shelter and basic needs. We need to ensure safe, affordable housing for our fragile populations. 🏠

TAKE A LOOK AT MHC'S WEBSITE!
www.metropolitanhousing.org

February is African American History Month

To learn of the events that will take place, get a copy of the *African American History Month Cultural Events Calendar* that Walter Hutchinson publishes each year. You can currently pick one up at the Louisville Urban League or at any Republic Bank branch. Soon you will be able to get one at Borders Book Stores and at Fifth Third Bank branches. 🏠

Upcoming Fair Housing Events

- April 13 at 12pm, at the Louisville Urban League
Ed Goetz is the featured speaker
- April 18, at 12pm, at the Louisville Urban League
Dr. Tracy K'Meyer is the featured speaker

Congratulations to Raoul, Senlin, Maria!

MHC extends congratulations to previous board member **Raoul Cunningham**. He was recently awarded the city's annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom Award. Raoul has been a community and civil rights activist for nearly fifty years and is the current president of the Louisville NCAAP.

MHC also congratulates **Senlin Ward** who is soon to become the Executive Director of Dress for Success. We are sad to see her leave the Coalition for the Homeless, but we are thrilled for her new opportunity. And we would be remiss not to congratulate **Maria Price** who is taking Senlin's position. 🏠



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 FEBRUARY ... Advertise Your Organization at the May 9th Annual Meeting of MHC/February Meetings/We Need You in Frankfort on February 23/MHC Member News/Welcome New Members/FY2007 Budget on the Radar Screen/February is African American History Month/Upcoming Fair Housing Events/Congratulations to Raoul, Senlin, Maria/Thank You for Supporting MHC in 2005

MHC's monthly newsletter is underwritten by a grant from

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Thank you for supporting MHC in 2005

MHC is grateful to the following individual donors from 2005:

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