

National Issues We're Tracking:

- Violence Against the Homeless is Soaring (page 6)
- Update on Federal Bankruptcy Law (page 9)

State Issues We're Tracking:

- Religious Leaders Unite in Support of Payday Lending Rate Cap (cover)
- OhioVOTES Training in Cleveland (page 2)
- Mortgage Lending Disparities Persist in Ohio (page 8)
- State Awards \$3M to Combat Foreclosure Fallout (page 8)

YEP Advocacy:

- YEP hosting Regional Trainings (page 4)



The Monthly Newsletter of COHHIO, the
Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio

Religious Leaders Unite in Support of Payday Lending Rate Cap

Reverend Tim Ahrens, We Believe Ohio



"I've had calls from people trapped in payday lending debt. These calls are more depressing than the calls I get from people in jail. These are good people who get up and go to work every day. They cannot extricate themselves from this without our help."

Rabbi Susan Stone, Temple Beth Shalom



"I'm reminded of a woman who borrowed \$50 from a payday lender to buy school clothes for her child. Six weeks later, she owed \$625 and had no way to pay it back. The stories are heart-wrenching and horrible and people don't know what they're getting into until they're drowning."

Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, NE Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America



"I don't know of any wealthy person who would ever consent to a loan at 391%, but we have people who are the most vulnerable, with the least amount of resources being caught in this cycle and unable to get out."

Rev. Marvin McMickle, Pastor of Antioch Baptist Church, Cleveland; Representative of United Pastors



"We view the presence of payday lenders as opportunistic. We abhor the interest rate charged."

In an unprecedented display of broad faith-based opposition to predatory payday lending, numerous religious leaders from some of Ohio's most influential religious organizations spoke out against "modern day usury" during a February 26 press conference call. The 55 faith-based groups in the 237-member Ohio Coalition for Responsible Lending (OCRL) represent 2.6 million believers across Ohio, said Tom Allio, OCRL chair.

Co-chaired by Bill Faith, the coalition is in a hard fight to cap payday lending interest rates and spur support for the bipartisan HB 333 sponsored by Republican Bill Batchelder and Democrat Bob Hagan. The bill is currently stalled in the House FIRES (Financial Institutions, Real Estate and Securities) committee.

Rep. Batchelder was also on the press call, and reminded

reporters that payday lending puts thousands of borrowers in the position of being unable to afford anything other than loan interest. "They cannot save money for their families, they can't enter into contracts or agreements for an automobile or household goods, they can't in many cases afford to pay tuition for children in college," he said. "It's a very, very serious impediment to the capitalistic system.

"The social costs we face here are incredible," Batchelder continued. Referencing the mortgage meltdown, he said "subprime lending has destroyed \$120 billion in lending capital. Our country and our state have been adversely affected by greedy lenders."

Religious leaders agreed that payday lending is a "moral as well as an economic issue;" that it's "not a fair



(continued on page 7)



www.ohvotes.org

Voter Registration Roadblocks for Non-Profits Overturned

Remember back in 2006 when the Ohio legislature passed HB 3 requiring third parties (such as nonprofit agency staff and volunteer voter registration workers) to personally deliver new voter registration cards to the Secretary of State or Boards of Elections?

Remember they also made failure to do so a felony?

We are pleased to report that on February 11, in *Project VOTE v. Blackwell*, a federal judge issued a permanent injunction against enforcement of this provision. District Court Judge Kathleen M. O'Malley wrote that the challenged provision not only violated the First and Fourteenth Amendment, but also the 1993 National Voter Registration Act.

OhioVOTES Director, Jocelyn Travis hailed the decision as "a major victory. Many groups doing voter registration felt very vulnerable and confused and some groups just stopped doing voter registration." Travis said. "We need nonprofits to engage underrepresented clients in voting. Everyone needs to know that they can influence public policy." Visit www.ohvotes.org for more information.

OhioVOTES Provides Training Session to Foundation Grantees



From left: George Pillsbury, development director of the Non-profit Voter Engagement Network; Jocelyn Travis, OhioVOTES director; Gladys Harrison Dunbar, Cleveland director of Ohio's Secretary of State office; and Denise Ferguson of the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections.

On a blustery, frigid February morning in Cleveland, approximately 40 people representing 22 nonprofit agencies braved the weather to attend an OhioVOTES training at the Cleveland Foundation Conference Center.

Attendees were greeted by Marcia Egbert, senior program officer of The George Gund Foundation; and Jill M. Paulsen, program officer of the Cleveland Foundation. Gladys Harrison Dunbar, Cleveland director of the Secretary of State's office, also provided remarks. In addition to lots of great information about voting, the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections was set up to answer questions,

recruit poll workers and provide information on the new optical scan paper ballots being used for the first time in the March partisan primary election.

George Pillsbury of Boston's Non Profit Voter Engagement Network shared perspective on the national voting status with a power point presentation on nonprofit voter engagement.

Due to the many who were unable to attend because of weather, a follow up session is being scheduled on **Thursday, May 1 at the Trinity Commons**. Please contact OhioVOTES if you are interested in attending. (614-280-1984 ext. 23).



Jill Paulsen (left), and Marcia Egbert, program officers with Cleveland Foundation the George Gund Foundation, were pleased with the results of the OhioVOTES training session their foundations sponsored.

From the Partisan Primary to the General Election: It's Time to Prepare!

Ohio will continue to play a major role in deciding our country's next president. For this reason, it is critically important that everyone understand how to correctly complete voter registration forms and absentee ballot applications. It is also important to understand **who** can vote in Ohio.

People with a criminal background do have the right to vote in Ohio; they must simply re-register. Seventeen-year-olds can register and vote in Ohio, as long as they will be 18 by the November 4th elec-

tion. Homeless persons can vote using the address of a shelter or relative/friend. It is important that everyone has the opportunity to have his or her voice heard!

OhioVOTES is seeking trainers to help provide voter education throughout the state of Ohio. If you are interested in becoming a trainer or receiving training or information on voting, please contact OhioVOTES via our web site, www.OHVOTES.ORG, or call our Hotline, 888-8VOTE0H.

Notes of Faith

from COHHIO's Executive Director

I spent the last few days in Washington D.C. where foreclosure woes and possible solutions were the talk of the town. Two initiatives generated the most buzz; the first was a comprehensive package, Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2008, being pushed by the Senate Democrats; the other would give judges the authority to modify harmful subprime mortgages in bankruptcy cases. (See page 9)

I came home to presidential candidates making dizzying zig-zags across our troubled state. A flattened economy, a wave of foreclosures and no shortage of predatory mortgage and payday lenders make Ohio the perfect place to frame campaign rhetoric. Ohio's problems are daunting and solutions out of Washington are slow in coming, but there are plenty of strides we can make by pushing the Ohio General Assembly to pass several pieces of legislation.

Rebuild Ohio, a consortium of government, nonprofit and civic organizations, recently released a report prepared by Community Research Partners on vacant and abandoned properties in certain communities and neighborhoods. The *\$60 Million and Counting* report highlights 25,000 vacant and abandoned properties, \$15 million in city service costs, \$49 million in lost property tax revenues and weakened housing markets around the state. The report reveals only the tip of the iceberg of problems, but it provides context to the following bills that we should all support.

HB 138, sponsored by Reps. Foley and Blessing, will take the mystery out of who owns vacant foreclosed properties by requiring sheriffs to file the deeds soon after the sheriff sale. The bill also requires foreclosing agents to provide contact information on the parties responsible for the state of the property as it sits vacant. Lastly, the bill cleans up tax foreclosures where the land is vacant or abandoned and is subject to foreclosure from the County Treasurer. The bill passed the House in December and is pending in the Senate Judiciary-Civil Justice Committee.

HB 359, sponsored by Rep. Huffman

and **HB 338**, sponsored by Reps. Driehaus and Foley, would allow communities to access funds from their county's Delinquent Tax and Assessment Collection Fund (DTAC) for maintenance of vacant and abandoned properties. HB 338 would also allow these funds to be used for foreclosure prevention counseling and rescue loans to help people avoid foreclosure. The House Ways & Means Committee will most likely vote out HB 359 shortly after Ohio's primary, and will hopefully be amended to include foreclosure prevention as an eligible use of the funds.

HB 440, sponsored by Reps. Yuko and Lundy and **SB 295**, sponsored by Sen. Dale Miller, would provide that a lease does not terminate upon the foreclosure of the landlord's mortgage. Under current law, a tenant in good standing can be evicted from their foreclosed rental property with only a three-day notice. It is estimated that about 30% of the foreclosures are on rental properties, so large numbers of tenants are being displaced with virtually no notice and for no fault of their own. In these situations, tenants don't get their security deposits back and face significant hardship in finding new housing immediately. HB 440 is pending in the House Civil and Commercial Law Committee but has yet to have any hearings.

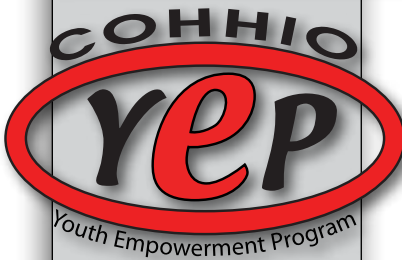
Finally, **SB 277**, introduced by Senator Steve Stivers, would assist nuisance property abatement by creating a new cause of action in foreclosure in the environmental or housing division of a municipal court (applies only to Franklin, Cuyahoga and Lucas counties), giving the court greater jurisdiction and the ability to proceed to foreclosure in a timelier fashion.

While we await the inevitable impasse at the federal level, it is important to move swiftly over the next three months on laws that truly can help rebuild Ohio. I urge all housing advocates to make calls to your state Senators and Representatives in support of the above legislation. We will be significantly more disadvantaged if these bills stall in either chamber.



Bill Faith
Executive Director

Bill Faith



Our Next President Will...

- Have style like Will Smith
But have leadership like M.L.K
And be sympathetic like he was homeless
And be noble like mother Teresa
Non-violent like Ghandi
Is real old to bring back old times when everyone knew each other

These are the traits the best president will have.
- *Homeless 7th grade student in an education after-school program in Columbus*
- "Make more Twister games."
- *2nd grader*
- "Take Action and not just talk. I hear them talking about fixing things. They say "we'll fix schools." How about actually fixing the schools?"
- *8th grader, Columbus*
- "I want my president to be smart and listen to what people have to say."
- *6th grader*

Youth Leadership Award Applications Due

The COHHIO Youth Leadership Award applications are due March 13th by 4:00pm. Please visit www.cohhioyep.org today to download an application for eligible youth!



opportunity identified by the applicant. This may include, but is not limited to: Class trips, summer camp, sports, music, art or dance programs and supplies, college fees, GED classes, tutoring, school tuition, extracurricular activities, graduation fees, college visits, test fees and prep courses, summer classes, or any effort that contributes to the personal and leadership development of the youth.

Who is eligible to apply?

Any youth or young adult in or out of school (11 to 22) in Ohio who has experienced homelessness or housing crisis. This includes youth who have lived in shelters, doubled up, have been independently homeless, or who have lived in other types of transitional or temporary situations. The four winners will be given \$500 each.

The Leader Award can be used for expenses associated with any leader

We would like to thank Direct Energy for sponsoring this award for the third year in a row. We would also like to thank our youth and adult review committees who have the difficult task of selecting the four winners from among dozens of deserving applications.

Upcoming Trainings

The COHHIO Youth Empowerment Program is hosting regional trainings throughout the state on homeless youth transitioning into adulthood. This training series will address a variety of topics that affect youth ages 16-24. Topics include: teen parents, education, youth development and incorporating young adults into adult programs, and resources available to help agencies meet these needs. Please visit www.cohhioyep.org to download a registration form. THIS TRAINING IS FREE AND CEU'S WILL BE PROVIDED! ☺

Training dates

Columbus March 12, 2008

Columbus Public Library
96 S. Grant St
Columbus, OH 43215

Athens March 14, 2008

COAD Inc.
1 Pinchot Lane
Athens, OH 45701

Cleveland March 18, 2008

YWCA Cleveland
4019 Prospect Ave
Cleveland, OH 44103

Kent April 2, 2008

Family and Community Services
705 Oakwood Street
Ravenna, Ohio 44266

Dayton April 4, 2008

AAA Conference Center
825 S. Ludlow St.
Dayton, OH 45402

Bowling Green April 9, 2008

Peace Lutheran Church
1028 W Pearl St
Bowling Green, OH 43402

YEP Welcomes New Springfield Partner

Forging Responsible Youth of Springfield, Ohio, has been participating in YEP trainings for the past few months to learn more about our youth council activities. On February 27, YEP youth made the snowy trek to Springfield to visit with

program members and learn about what changes they want to make in their community. We found youth leaders with great ideas and endless energy directed toward positive change. YEP is very excited to partner with Forging Responsible Youth,



expose our students to as many learning and service opportunities and collaborations as possible. Our job is to get them to the table, so that they can begin to share their gifts with the community.”

— Liz Hale

- “Be responsible, Be Truthful, Be Respectful, Improve Schools, Improve economics, Improve Housing”
- 14-year-old
- “Help us get more computers!”
- 5th grader

What do you want to hear the president say?

- “I will do with all my power to help put our country back on justice. We want a country with reasonable explanations and reasonable payments, lower taxes, lower gas prices to a more reasonable price. And to keep our children safe and live in a safer environment.”
- 7th grader
- “I will fight the power and I will help people and that’s why I want to be president.”
- 3rd grader

and asked Program Director Liz Hale to introduce her program to our readers:

“The mission of Forging Responsible Youth is to educate, motivate, and inspire children to become happy and productive citizens. Since, 2000, the program has provided an out-of-school time mentoring program called RAFT (Respect, Accept, Forgive, and Teach others), that is designed to challenge at-risk students to improve school performance, set personal goals, and learn responsibility and respect for themselves and others.

All of our students struggle with issues like poverty, homelessness, foster care, addiction and abuse. Each of them has a profound message to share about the resilience that develops from deep suffering. At Forging, we encourage our students to take action to help end theirs and others suffering.

We focus on the basic skills that will allow them to effectively participate in community planning processes. We work on everything from manners and hygiene to public speaking and research, in order to make sure that they will be heard. We

**Welcome aboard,
Forging Responsible Youth!**



Note: Photos courtesy of Forging Responsible Youth, Springfield, Ohio

COHHIO

**Housing Ohio
2008**

**Register
Online:**

www.cohhio.org

April 14th & 15th, 2008

National City

**Lead Conference
Sponsor**

Attacks on Homeless Increase Nationwide; Young Adults Mostly to Blame

Nationwide, violence against the homeless is soaring, and more often than not, the perpetrators are young adults. According to the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, violent attacks have increased by 65% in just three years and are being committed by teenagers and young adults who are part of a culture that views hurting homeless as sport. "I think it reflects a lack of respect for the homeless that has reached such extreme proportions that homeless people aren't viewed as people," said Maria Foscarinis, executive director of the Center.

Homeless advocacy organizations such as the National Coalition for the Homeless, concerned about the

extraordinary rise in incidences, are beginning to take action by teaming up with AmeriCorps Vista members to educate young people about homeless issues. Some of those doing the educating are homeless individuals who have themselves been victims of violence, offering young adults a fresh perspective on the problems that homeless people and families face.

In Ohio, Representative Mike Foley (D-Cleveland) has introduced legislation calling for stiffer penalties for crimes against homeless. To help put an end to violence against homeless persons, call your state representative and ask them to support HR 419.

Hidden Homeless... Rural Homeless Program Updates

A grant from the Osteopathic Heritage Foundations has enabled COHHIO to reassemble the Rural Advisory Council (RAC). The first meeting of the RAC was held January 23rd in Newark, during which time members had a chance to network, discuss how RAC will operate, brainstorm training topics, and review McKinney-Vento Reauthorization. Members of the RAC include: Sondra Anderson – VOA of Northwest Ohio; Bernice Brett – Greene Metropolitan Housing, Project TOTAL; Tom Calhoun – Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development (COAD); Antonia Dosik – Hyden Consulting; Mary Jo Frank – The Woodland Centers; Debbie Groves – Warren Metropolitan Housing Authority – Transitions Program; Thomas Halfhill – Veterans Administration; Martin Hammar – Tri-County Mental Health and Counseling Services; Becky Hammond – Pickaway County Community Action Organization; Mary Ellen Natale – Legal Aid of Western Ohio; Jim Wilson – Delmor Dwellings; and Fred Zawilinski – Portage Metropolitan Housing Authority. Members were invited to join the RAC based on

a statewide representation of different types of housing/homeless service and program providers. The Council has four objectives:

1. Advise COHHIO on state and federal public policies that affect homelessness and housing in Ohio's rural counties.
2. Advise COHHIO on system change needs that address the macro issues of housing and homelessness issues such as poverty, economic, workforce, transportation, financial literacy, etc.
3. Advise and plan rural convening's that will address the training needs of rural homelessness and housing providers e.g., networking, evidenced based research, program development and implementation, and other issues that uniquely effect rural communities.
4. Assist COHHIO to develop capacity building in rural communities to apply for and receive funding for homelessness and housing projects.

Please contact Jonda Clemings at jondaclemings@cohhio.org for more information on the Rural Advisory Council.



Religious Leaders Unite in Support of Payday Lending Rate Cap

(continued from page 1)



and just way to do business;” that it’s “morally irresponsible;” and “it clearly violates the basic teaching of Jesus, which is to love our neighbor.”

The OCRL is circulating a “Faithful Pledge” within places of worship around the state that calls the 391% interest charged by payday lenders “a modern day form of usury.” Signers are urging members of the Ohio General Assembly and the Governor to support an interest

rate cap of 36% on small loans. The OCRL is pushing for passage of HB 333 in the Ohio House before March 31.

Action is needed from religious leaders and all consumer advocates, Batchelder stressed, “before we have another tsunami of debt. I challenge you to visit with members of the legislature and urge them that there is no reason this current interest rate should be legitimized.”

Bishop Bruce Ough, West Conference United Methodist Church



“We believe we are a moral country and, here in Ohio a moral state, but we often fail to enact the legislation by which we can become a moral country and state. With House Bill 333 we can do that.”

Bishop John Hopkins, East Ohio Conference United Methodist Church



“Payday lending reaches out to the vulnerable and pushes them deeper in debt. Social service agencies are more heavily burdened. Payday lending costs everyone in Ohio.”

The Rt. Rev. Thomas E. Breidenthal, Bishop of Southern Ohio Episcopal



“Our tradition is deeply grounded in the conviction that society is the object of God’s salvation; that He created us for a common life. We need all individuals in society to flourish and be full participants in life in order that we all flourish.”

Jim Tobin, Associate Director, Catholic Conference of Ohio



“We call upon elected officials to closely examine payday lending. Too often the results do more harm than good. We believe a reasonable rate cap is necessary for reform.”

Pastor Dan Franz, Vineyard Church of Columbus



“We are extremely concerned about the presence of payday lending and how it impacts the poor, elderly, and those on a fixed income. We find it a social justice issue and are very much in favor of the bipartisan bill [HB 333].”

Rep. William G. Batchelder, The Ohio House of Representatives



“I challenge you to visit with members of the legislature and urge them that there is no reason this current interest rate should be legitimized.”

Call to Action

Call your state representative TODAY in support of a 36% RATE CAP on payday loans. Go to www.house.state.oh.us and click on “Your Representatives” for the appropriate contact information. Remember, payday lending doesn’t help – it HURTS Ohio!



Governor's Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives

The Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (GOFBCI) will hold a roundtable meeting with leaders of faith-based and community nonprofits in Columbus on **March 6 from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.** at the DAS Conference Center (4200 Surface Rd., Columbus,

OH 43228). Community and nonprofit leaders are invited to learn more about the office, the best way to access funding and training opportunities, and how to forge partnerships through the Ohio Benefit Bank program. *RSVP to Stacey Schad at 614-644-3973.*

Report: Wide Racial & Ethnic Disparities Remain in Mortgage Lending

African Americans and Hispanics Denied More Often, Receive Higher Interest Rates
Cleveland Region Worst in State for Subprime Lending Disparities



Upper income African Americans in Ohio are denied mortgage loans more often than low income whites and, when they obtain loans, are more likely to wind up in high-cost subprime loans than low income whites, according to a study released in February by the Housing Research and Advocacy Center in Cleveland.

Statewide, upper income African Americans were denied home purchase loans 31.56% of the time, compared to 10.58% of the time for upper income whites and 27.37% of the time for low income whites. For refinance loans, upper income African Americans were denied loans 45.78% of the time, compared to 31.66% of the time for upper income whites and 48.26% of the time for low income whites.

The disparities were even greater when examining what type of loans

Ohioans actually obtained. The Housing Center's report, entitled "Continuing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Ohio Mortgage Lending," analyzes 2006 home mortgage lending data (the most recent available) statewide and in Ohio's seven largest metropolitan areas – Akron, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Toledo, and Youngstown.

The report recommends that local governments enact stronger fair housing laws, implement comprehensive education efforts, vigorously enforce fair housing laws through systemic testing for discrimination as a means of addressing housing discrimination in the region, and increase investigation of mortgage lenders.

Copies of these reports are available by contacting the Housing Center or on its website at <http://www.thehousingcenter.org>

State Awards \$3M to Combat Foreclosure Fallout

In February, \$3 million was awarded from the Ohio Housing Trust Fund to help stem the tide foreclosures as well as reduce the blight associated with their aftermath. The Finance Fund was awarded \$1 million to help community groups who are in the process of redeveloping vacant and abandoned properties; and the Ohio Department of Development awarded \$2 million to 24 statewide prevention

and counseling agencies, many of which are based in northeast Ohio. The state estimates the Foreclosure Prevention Housing Counseling Program funding will assist 9,000 households in 64 of Ohio's 88 counties.

In Ohio, one out of every 56 households is in some stage foreclosure, nearly twice the national rate of one for every 97 households.

67 Ohio Agencies Win NeighborWorks America Awards

NeighborWorks America announced on February 27 the awarding of \$130 million to 32 State Housing Finance Agencies, 16 HUD-approved Housing Counseling Intermediaries and 82 community-based NeighborWorks organizations to provide counseling to

families and individuals facing the threat of foreclosure. In Ohio, 67 agencies were funded to assist an estimated 38,500 Ohio homeowners. A subsequent funding pool of \$37.8 million will be awarded later this year. To view Ohio awardees, visit www.nw.org

Bill Would Help Ohioans facing Bankruptcy

With foreclosures and bankruptcies on a steady incline, state officials are searching for ways to help struggling Ohioans to prevent further economic hemorrhaging. Ohio's current bankruptcy law allows homeowners to keep only \$5,000 in equity, far below the federal allowable amount of \$20,200 (\$40,400 per couple).

Senate Bill 281, introduced in early February by Senator Bill Seitz

(R-Cincinnati), would increase all of the exemptions on property protected in bankruptcy such as for cars, homes, tools and other personal property. Half the Senate co-sponsored the legislation. Proponents of the bill believe the legislation will actually help discourage foreclosures and incentivize earlier negotiations between lenders and borrowers. Please call your Senator today in support of SB 281.

Update on Emergency Home Ownership and Mortgage Equity Protection Act

In December, the House Committee on Judiciary passed the Conyers-Chabot compromise to H.R. 3609, the Emergency Home Ownership and Mortgage Equity Protection Act of 2007. This legislation will allow qualifying homeowners facing foreclosure to restructure their home mortgages under the protection of Chapter 13.

If both debtor and mortgage qualify, the mortgage can be modified in the following ways: exorbitant interest rates can be reduced; onerous prepayment penalties do not have to be paid; the term of the mortgage can be extended up to 30 years; and the principal amount of the mortgage can be reduced to the home's fair market value. It also allows homeowners to object

to fees charged by unscrupulous mortgage lenders or servicers.

The mortgage must have been originated after January 1, 2000, but before the Act's date of enactment. The two types of mortgages covered are nontraditional – interest only and negatively amortized mortgages; and subprime mortgages – those with higher interest rates.

Most of the democrats in Ohio's congressional delegation have indicated their support of this bill but so far on the republican side, only Congressmen Chabot (a primary co-sponsor) and Turner are supporting it. Please encourage your Congressperson to support this important bill. We'll keep you posted on its progress.

Introduction to Receivership:

A Tool for Addressing Distressed or Abandoned Buildings in Ohio

Thursday, March 6, 9:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

Columbus urban League, 788 Mt. Vernon Ave., Columbus

Sponsored by: Ohio State Legal Services Assoc., COHHIO, Ohio CDC Assoc.

Morning Session: An introduction to using receivership as a remedy for vacant and abandoned buildings as well as occupied buildings that constitute a public nuisance.

Afternoon Session: Participants will learn the intricacies of the statutory framework (including its recent amendments), practical applications, and strategies for filing R.C. 3767.41 actions.

The workshop is free but registration is required. For questions about the morning session please contact either Celia Elkins at celkins@ohiocdc.org or Patricia Barnes at pkbarnes@ohiocdc.org. They can also be reached at 614-461-6392. For questions about the afternoon session please contact Joe Maskovyak at 614-221-7201 x 105



**Housing Ohio
2008**

**Register
Online:**

www.cohhio.org

April 14th & 15th, 2008

National City

**Lead Conference
Sponsor**



Communications Webinars:



www.agoodmanonline.com

- Storytelling iSchool
- Raising Your Eye-Q
- The Four Connecting Points

Check out Andy Goodman's website for more information.



**Housing Ohio
2008**

**Register
Online:**

www.cohhio.org

April 14th & 15th, 2008

National City

**Lead Conference
Sponsor**

Upcoming Trainings

Implementing the Direct Housing Program

The training will provide detailed information about how the Direct Housing Program, as funded through the Ohio Department of Development, can best be used to meet the housing needs of homeless individuals and families in Ohio.

Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2008
Time: 10am – 3pm
Location: Southeast Meeting Room
 Columbus Metropolitan Library, Southeast Branch
 3980 S. Hamilton Rd.
 Groveport, Ohio 43125

RSVP: Email rsvp@cohhio.org by March 3rd to reserve a seat and indicate if you'd like lunch ordered for you

Cost: \$10.00 (this fee is only mandatory for those requesting lunch)
 Submit payment on day of training – checks payable to COHHIO

CEU's: CEU's will be provided for Social Workers

Questions: ericamulryan@cohhio.org

Nonprofit Board Development

This training will cover a range of topics related to nonprofit boards of directors, including board governance, roles and responsibilities, and fundraising.

Date: Wednesday, March 26, 2008
Time: 9:30am – 4pm
Location: Area Agency on Aging, Annex
 Room A 110
 800 Park Ave. West
 Mansfield, Ohio 44906

RSVP: Email rsvp@cohhio.org by March 19th to reserve a seat and indicate if you'd like lunch ordered for you

Cost: \$10.00 (this fee is only mandatory for those requesting lunch)
 Submit payment on day of training – checks payable to COHHIO

CEUs: CEUs will be provided for Social Workers

Presenter: David Maywhoor

Information Roundup

- COHHIO's Training and Technical Assistance staff are sending weekly updates to those interested in training opportunities, notices of funding availabilities, research reports, housing and homeless resources, etc. If you are interested in receiving these updates, please contact Jonda at jondaclemings@cohhio.org to be added to our database.
- The Home for Good Ohio Campaign is a statewide coalition focused on ensuring that Ohio has a dedicated funding stream for the operation of permanent supportive housing, including front desk staffing, service coordination, and rent subsidies so that people who are disabled and homeless will have the supports necessary to lead productive lives and maintain their homes. For more information on this coalition, its mission, etc. - please see <http://oacbha.org/programs/homeforgood.html>
- The goal of the COHHIO Training and Technical Assistance program is to help our member organizations efficiently and effectively deliver services to persons who are experiencing or are at risk of experiencing homelessness.

Assistance is available upon a request-response basis. If you would like to request COHHIO's assistance, please contact Jonda at jondaclemings@cohhio.org or Erica at ericamulryan@cohhio.org

- Staff can assist with:
 - Developing and sustaining a Continuum of Care
 - Continuum of Care process
 - Capacity building at the Continuum and agency level
 - Developing, writing and implementing a Plan to Address Homelessness
 - Grantsmanship
 - Housing and Homelessness 101 – best practices for programs and services
 - Program and service development; program analysis and consultation
 - Preparation for HUD's Continuum of Care and Ohio Department of Development's Homeless Assistance Grant applications
 - And other requests that can help local agencies and/or continua respond to emerging needs



Phone:
614-280-1984

Fax:
614-463-1060

E-Mail:
membership@cohhio.org

To update your contact info, please e-mail
tomrogers@cohhio.org

We're on the Web!
See us at:

www.cohhio.org

www.cohhioyep.org

www.OHvotes.org

www.ohiodebttrap.org

**COALITION ON
HOMELESSNESS
AND HOUSING IN
OHIO**

175 South Third
Street,
Suite 250
Columbus, OH 43215

Suzanne Gravette Acker,
Editor, Writer

Kelan Craig,
Contributing Writer

Tom Rogers,
Layout



Fair Housing Turns 40!

Join the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center and the Dayton Area Board of Realtors for a special day commemorating the promises of equal housing opportunity embodied in the Federal Fair Housing Act.

2008 Fair Housing Month Celebration

Thursday, April 3, 2008, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

David H. Ponitz Sinclair Center - Sinclair Community College

Celebration Schedule

You can attend all events, or pick and choose - workshops only - luncheon only - but don't miss it!

8 am -	Workshop Check-in & Continental Breakfast
8:45 am -	Plenary Session
9:15 am - 11:30 am -	Concurrent Workshops
11:30 am -	Check-in for Luncheon
11:45 am -	Opening Remarks
12 noon - 1:30 pm -	Luncheon & Award Presentations
1:30 pm -	Keynote Address

Go here for detailed information & convenient on-line registration & payment -
<http://www.mvfairhousing.com/fhmonth2008/>

40th Anniversary of the passage of the Federal Fair Housing Act

Forty years ago, on April 11, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1968, which expanded on previous acts and prohibited discrimination concerning the sale, rental, and financing of housing based on race, religion, national origin, sex, (and as amended) handicap and family status. The Act is also known as the Fair Housing Act (of 1968).

The enactment of the federal Fair Housing Act came only after a long and difficult journey. For more than two years, Congress considered the fair housing bill, but failed to garner a majority for its passage. However, when the Rev. Dr.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated on April 4, 1968, President Johnson utilized this national tragedy to urge for the bill's speedy Congressional approval.

With the cities rioting after Dr. King's assassination, and destruction mounting in every part of the United States, the words of President Johnson and Congressional leaders rang the Bell of Reason for the House of Representatives, who subsequently passed the Fair Housing Act. Without debate, the Senate followed the House in its passage of the Act, which President Johnson then signed into law.



Coalition on Homelessness
and Housing in Ohio

COHHIO

175 S. Third Street, Suite 250
Columbus, Ohio 43215

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NonProfit Org

U.S. Postage

PAID

Columbus, OH

Permit No. 3731



YEP's Latoya Takes Flight in Support of Legislation

On January 28, 2008 Latoya took her first ever airplane ride to Washington D.C.

Latoya was an invited speaker at the National Network for Youth Conference where she spoke to youth service providers, state representatives and various elected officials from across the country. During her speech, she shared her experiences as a former foster care and homeless youth, and spoke about the importance of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act.

Well done Latoya!

Thank you Housing Ohio 2008 Sponsors!

National City



OCCH
OHIO CAPITAL
CORPORATION
FOR HOUSING

