

The Housing Center news

February 2005
Annual Report

Research & Advocacy



Grants & Contracts:

In 2004, The Housing Center received funding from a variety of sources, including **The Cuyahoga County Department of Development, The City of Cleveland Heights, The City of Lakewood, The City of East Cleveland and The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.** The support provided by these grants and contracts allow the Housing Center to further its mission of ensuring that all people have equal access to housing through a variety of enforcement, education and research activities.

The Housing Center is excited to announce that in September of 2004, we were notified that we had received a \$100,000 grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. This grant is part of the Fair Housing Initiatives Program—Education & Outreach Initiative under the Disability Initiative of the Program. The Housing Center will be planning and hosting several seminars relating to the Fair Housing Act as it pertains to housing for the disabled.

The Housing Center also started a FHIP Private Enforcement Grant in March of 2004. Under this 18 month contract, the Housing Center, and it's subcontractors, Housing Advocates, Inc. and Heights Community Congress, will conduct lending, sales and rental testing, as well as re-

search on the effects of zoning and occupancy codes on fair housing.

In addition to federal funding, the Housing Center was also the recipient of fair housing contracts from Cuyahoga County as well as a number of municipalities. Through these contracts, the Housing Center was contracted to conduct testing, educate landlords and real estate agents and perform various types of fair housing research.

Education & Outreach:

Education and Outreach continued to be key to the promotion of the mission of the Housing Center. In 2004, In the Spring, The Housing Center conducted two seminars on access to housing for people with disabilities, which were paid for by a grant that was received from the Bruening Foundation in 2003.

With financial support from the Cuyahoga County Department of Development, through the Housing Justice Fund, the Housing Center, in partnership with The Cuyahoga County Bar Association and Housing Advocates, Inc., presented the CLE, *Predatory Lending and Foreclosure Defense* on December 15th.

In addition to these three major events, the Housing Center also hosted a number of small anti-predatory lending workshops throughout the region.

Enforcement & Litigation:

In 2004, the Housing Center continued to focus on enforcement of the Fair Housing Act in order to ensure that all Ohioans receive equal access to housing. The Housing Center settled four accessibility cases as well as a case involving discrimination against persons with disabilities. A number of other fair housing complaints that arose from our testing have been filed with HUD and/or the Ohio Civil Rights Commission and are currently being investigated.

Research:

This year, as part of a contract with the City of Lakewood, the Housing Center completed Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing (AI) in the City of Lakewood. This report was an update to a previous AI completed in 1996.

In addition to the AI, the Housing Center also completed an Analysis of Lending Patterns in the Southeast Suburbs which was paid for by a contract with Cuyahoga County and an Analysis of Lending Patterns in the City of Cleveland. Both of these reports can be viewed on our website at www.thehousingcenter.org.

Twenty Years' Work in Fair Housing

After more than twenty years in the fight for fair housing, **Charles "Chip" Bromley** has left the Housing Research and Advocacy Center (the Housing Center). Effective December 31, 2004, he stepped down as the Housing Center's Executive Director.

Under Chip's direction, a small group of individuals who had been meeting informally for several years became the Metropolitan Strategy Group and incorporated as an Ohio nonprofit in 1992 to advocate for fair housing in Ohio's metropolitan areas. Over a period of years the Metropolitan Strategy Group conducted many public meetings on fair housing and also met with both local and state government

officials to discuss the issue. The organization also began conducting research, hosting conferences and continuing education programs, and engaging in advocacy litigation for fair housing. In 2002, in recognition of changes in Ohio and in fair housing, the organization shifted its focus to concentrate on the greater metropolitan Cleveland area and changed its name to the Housing Research and Advocacy Center.

The Board and staff of the Housing Center recognize Chip's many contributions to both the organization and the cause of fair housing and appreciate his many years of leadership. Chip leaves the Housing Center well-positioned for its future work. There is a committed, engaged lo-

cal Board of Directors and a strong, capable staff. The Housing Center recently completed a three-year Strategic Plan that will focus and direct its energies most productively. Also, over the years Chip and the Housing Center have built good relationships with others working for fair housing and the Housing Center expects to continue those collaborations.

The Board is now engaged in a search for a new Executive Director and hopes to fill the position this spring.

Peter Lawson Jones
President, Board of Directors

The Housing Center wishes to extend its sincerest thanks to all of our Annual Donors for 2004

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THE HOUSING CENTER MISSION

To ensure, through research, educational and outreach programs, public policy advocacy and enforcement activities, that all residents are guaranteed equal access to housing.

The Housing Center Board of Directors:

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Carrie Bender Pleasants,

Director of Research &
Investigation

Amy Roskilly,

Education & Outreach
Coordinator

Spotlight on The Board: Patricia Burgess



Patricia Burgess joined The Housing Research & Advocacy Center Board of Directors in December of 2003.

Patricia, a lawyer, is currently an Associate in the Taxation and Health Case practice at Thompson Hine & Flory, a past Research Assistant at Case Western Reserve University and served the U.S. District Court under Judge Patricia Ann Gaughan during a Federal Judicial Externship.

Patricia received her B.S. in Education, Master's of City

and Regional Planning, and her Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary History, and City-Regional Planning from Ohio State University. She went on to receive her J.D. *cum laude* from Case Western Reserve University.

Patricia is active in the community serving on the Board of Housing Code Appeals for the City of Shaker Heights. She formerly served the City of Shaker Heights both on the Community Visioning Strategy Task Force and the Building, Housing, Planning Committee. She served the Episcopal Diocese on the Diocesan Peace and Justice Commission and the Peace-Making Institute. She is a vestry member of the Christ Episcopal Church in Shaker Heights and also served on the New Life Community as a volunteer for the Children's Program.

The Housing Center Staff News

Harold (Hal) Madorsky is currently serving as acting Executive Director of the Housing Center. Hal started at the Housing Center in November 2003 as Development Director and was elected General Counsel of the agency in July 2004 by the Board of Directors. Hal received his B.A. in English Literature from the University of Massachusetts, a Master's degree from the Boston University School of Public Communication and a J.D. from Syracuse University College of Law. He has practiced law in Cleveland

since 1981, serving as General Counsel of public and private Cleveland area companies. Hal's non-profit experience includes work as a Supporting Foundations Manager at the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland and as a Board Member of the Ohio Citizen Action Education Fund.

The Housing Center is pleased to announce the addition of our new staff member, **Amy Roskilly**. Amy started in December as our full-time Educa-

tion & Outreach Coordinator.

Amy received her B.S. in Communications from Ohio University and is currently working on her Master's degree in Environmental Studies at Cleveland State University, which she expects to complete in the Summer of 2005. Amy previously worked as the education coordinator at the Green Building Coalition.

**THE HOUSING
RESEARCH & ADVOCACY
CENTER**

A New Era of Housing Justice

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Check out
our Website!

www.thehousingcenter.org

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WATCH OUR WEBSITE

The Housing Research & Advocacy Center will feature many new Education & Outreach Opportunities in 2005. Earn CEU's, and/or CLE's at many of our upcoming Events. Check our website for more information
www.thehousingcenter.org

And **YOU** can help too! Support **Housing Justice** by supporting **The Housing Center**. Complete this form and send it with your tax-deductible gift of:

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other _____

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You can charge your donation on your VISA or MasterCard at www.thehousingcenter.org

Make checks payable to The Housing Center and send to 3631 Perkins Avenue, Cleveland OH 44114 (*envelope provided, too!*)

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