



For Immediate Release
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FAIR HOUSING CENTER OF CENTRAL INDIANA ANNOUNCES NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION GRANTS

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – Today, the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) announces over \$500,000 in grants to support neighborhood stabilization in Indianapolis communities of color impacted by foreclosure.

Projects to be funded include:

- Hearts & Hands of Indiana Corporation, \$75,000, to rehab currently vacant and/or abandoned housing for occupancy in the Haughville neighborhood
- Marian University, \$75,000, to create a Farmer's Market, Urban Teaching Garden, and Summer Biking Camp
- Martindale-Brightwood Community Development Corporation, \$75,000, to assist low income homeowners with needed repairs in the Hillside neighborhood
- Near North Development Corporation, \$75,000, to rehab currently vacant and/or abandoned housing for occupancy in the Crown Hill neighborhood
- Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic, \$75,000, to address maintenance of vacant homes in Indianapolis neighborhoods of color
- King Park Area Development Corporation, \$74,485, to assist low income homeowners with needed repairs
- Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, \$20,000, to modify a currently vacant lot into a pocket park in the Historic Meridian Park neighborhood
- Harrison Center for the Arts, \$15,000, to create a public arts project focusing on the value of community
- NeighborLink Indianapolis, \$15,000, to assist low income homeowners with needed repairs in Indianapolis neighborhoods of color
- Haughville Neighborhood Association, \$5,000, to add a neighborhood recreational trail through the Haughville neighborhood
- Historic Meridian Park Neighborhood Association, \$5,000, to add a neighborhood meeting space structure into a pocket park
- Neighbors Helping Neighbors Neighborhood Association, \$5,000, to modify a vacant lot into a pocket park to be called the Paris Neighbor Park

“We were overwhelmed at the quality of the applications we received and sought to fund a diverse collection of projects to encourage and further neighborhood stabilization,” said Amy Nelson, Executive Director of the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana. “The FHCCI looks forward to partnering with these organizations to strengthen our neighborhoods and community. We wish we could have funded every application received but funds were limited.”

Over the past two years, the FHCCI has conducted an extensive investigation of the maintenance and marketing of real estate-owned (REO/foreclosed) properties in Indianapolis. Through this work, the FHCCI has joined with several other fair housing organizations in four nationwide fair housing cases, which allege that lenders care for REO homes in predominantly white neighborhoods differently than homes in neighborhoods of color. One of those cases, filed against Wells Fargo, reached a settlement in June 2013 in which the FHCCI was a party. **This settlement included grant funding to be administered by the FHCCI for neighborhoods of color impacted by foreclosure.** This is the source of the funding for the grants noted above.

A grant for \$600,000 was awarded from these funds in September 2013 to the Mapleton-Fall Creek Development Corporation for new construction, housing rehab and homeowner repair. Remaining funds from the Wells Fargo settlement will be used toward accessibility modifications for low income homeowners with disabilities and/or signs of aging. Learn more about this program at: <http://www.fhcci.org/grants/>

The FHCCI also has three similar housing discrimination complaints pending involving the marketing and maintenance of Indianapolis REOs against Bank of America, Safeguard, and U.S. Bank, filed in October 2012, March 2013, and October 2013, respectively.

Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (www.fhcci.org)

The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) is a private, non-profit fair housing organization founded in 2011 and based in Indianapolis, Indiana. Its mission is to ensure equal housing opportunities by eliminating housing discrimination through advocacy, enforcement, education and outreach.