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**Celebrate Fair Housing Month Through a Fair Housing Conference  
and Civil Rights Photography Exhibit**

INDIANAPOLIS – On April 11, 2013, the country will celebrate the 45th anniversary of the passage of the federal Fair Housing Act. As part of Fair Housing Month activities, the Indiana Civil Rights Commission, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana, Back Home in Indiana Alliance, accessABILITY and the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority seek to bring greater awareness and understanding of the rights and responsibilities under fair housing laws with their conference entitled ***Equal Housing is STILL the Issue*** on April 18, 2013 in Indianapolis.

"We are so pleased to partner with other organizations to promote equal housing opportunity through this conference," said Amy Nelson, Executive Director of the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana.

Throughout the one-day event, presenters will provide information on fair housing laws, court cases, recent reports, legislative action and activities to address housing discrimination. Speakers include Chris Brancart of Brancart & Brancart, Bryan Greene of the Washington, DC, office of the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, Erin Kemple of the Connecticut Fair Housing Center and others.

The conference also includes Bernard J. Kleina's ***Chicago Freedom Movement Photography Exhibit***, which has been shown in more than 40 cities. Mr. Kleina participated in several of the marches and assembled these photos from his personal collection. The exhibit, located in the Government Conference Center South Atrium, includes rare color images of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Coretta Scott King, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Andrew Young, Al Raby and many more. Mr. Kleina will be available for questions on his experiences and photographs. Some selected works from the exhibit are included in this release.

"Mr. Kleina's work is a powerful visual history of the struggle for equal housing. This conference provides an incredible opportunity to discuss the movement with someone who was on the ground," continued Nelson.



The free conference will offer attorneys, education experts, housing and service providers and the community an occasion to share best practices on bringing an end to housing discrimination. Continuing education credits for attorneys and real estate agents are available for those who are eligible. Social work credits are pending. For more information or to register, visit:

<http://www.fhcci.org/events/equal-housing-conference>

Seating is limited so pre-registration is required. Those who only want to tour the photography exhibit do not need to register.

Signed into law in 1968 by President Lyndon Johnson, the federal Fair Housing Act provides protection for persons from housing discrimination based on race, color, national origin and religion. Every April is celebrated as Fair Housing Month to honor the passage of the original law. In 1974, the Act was amended to include gender (sex). President Ronald Reagan then signed the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988, which expanded protections to families with children and people with disabilities.

The federal Fair Housing Act became law after a long and difficult journey. In 1966-1967, Congress regularly considered the pending fair housing legislation, but failed to garner a strong enough majority for its passage. Following the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on April 4, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson urged Congress to pass the Act. It was signed into law one week later.

Today, it is unlawful under federal and state fair housing laws to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, ancestry or familial status in rental housing, real estate sales, lending, insurance, and any financial or other housing-related service.



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

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