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**FAIR HOUSING CENTER OF CENTRAL INDIANA
CELEBRATES LGBT PRIDE MONTH**

INDIANAPOLIS – This June, the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) celebrates LGBT Pride Month and honors the landmark achievements towards equality that have been made.

“The FHCCI seeks to ensure a more inclusive and diverse Indiana,” said FHCCI Executive Director Amy Nelson. “The LGBT community is a vital part of our city and our state. Over the last few years, we have seen phenomenal progress towards a more equal society, but we still have further to go.”

In 2012, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) issued a Federal Rule listing protections against housing discrimination for LGBT individuals. These included prohibiting lenders from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation in the approval process for FHA home loans; including same-sex couples and any family that includes a gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender person in the definition of “family” for all HUD programs; and making it unlawful for housing which is financed or insured through HUD from inquiring about the sexual orientation about any household member.

Housing discrimination against LGBT households does occur. In 2013, a Nebraska jury awarded \$147,000 to two gay men after finding that the couple had been discriminated against by an on-site maintenance man and others who failed to stop the maintenance man’s harassment. In another case from last year, HUD reached a settlement with Bank of America to settle a claim that the mortgage lender refused to provide FHA financing to a lesbian couple.

“Although 20 states have provided protection, unfortunately, there is still no statewide protection against housing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in Indiana,” continued Nelson. “But many localities, including Indianapolis, have been proactive in establishing their own ordinances to ensure that our LGBT neighbors, friends, and family are able to access the housing of their choice, free from barriers and discrimination.”

The Indianapolis-Marion County Human Rights Ordinance, as amended, prohibits housing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, among other protections. Though remedies are limited as compared to any possible federal or state protection, city and county residents have a process by which to file a complaint if they believe they have been discriminated against.

Circle City IN Pride will take place throughout Indianapolis from June 6th through June 14th. The FHCCI will once again participate as a festival exhibitor to celebrate equality for all. To see the complete list of Pride events, please visit <http://www.circlecityinpride.org/>.

The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) is a private, non-profit fair housing organization. Its mission is to ensure equal housing opportunities by eliminating housing discrimination through advocacy, enforcement, education and outreach. For more information on fair housing or enforcing your fair housing rights, contact the FHCCI or visit www.fhcci.org.

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