

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



**FAIR
HOUSING
CENTER**
of CENTRAL INDIANA



ORIGINAL ARTWORK BY:
AMBER MILLS

2016 by the numbers...

5 Years of activities in Central Indiana

Served **901** clients (**a 24% increase**)

179 fair housing allegations were received or recorded

Opened **49** new fair housing investigations

Conducted over **230** fair housing tests

Filed **7** enforcement actions to address housing
discrimination

Conducted **35** fair housing trainings for **1,106** persons

Participated in **30** community exhibits reaching **2,621**
persons

Distributed over **32,000** fair housing publications

Released **52** PSAs to advance fair housing knowledge

Mentioned in over **50** Indiana news stories

Had **344,707** views and **48,846** visitors to our
website

About the FHCCI

The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) offers an array of programs and activities to ensure that discrimination does not impact a Hoosier's choice of housing. We were incorporated in August 2011 by a small group of dedicated fair housing advocates. The FHCCI began operations in January 2012 and is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

MISSION: The mission of the FHCCI is to ensure equal housing opportunities by eliminating housing discrimination through advocacy, enforcement, education and outreach.

VISION: The FHCCI recognizes the importance of "home" and envisions a country free of housing discrimination where every individual, group and community enjoys equal housing opportunity and access in a bias-free and open housing market. We envision a country where integrated neighborhoods are the norm, and private and public sectors guarantee civil rights in an open and barrier-free community committed to healing the history of discrimination in America.

PROGRAMS: The FHCCI offers four main programs to fight housing discrimination and promote equal housing opportunity: Advocacy, Education, Inclusive Communities, and Public Policy.

SERVICE AREA: The FHCCI primarily serves 24 counties in Central Indiana: Bartholomew, Boone, Brown, Clinton, Decatur, Delaware, Fayette, Franklin, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Henry, Johnson, Madison, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, Putnam, Randolph, Rush, Shelby, Tipton, Union, and Wayne. We are available to assist other Indiana counties as staff resources and budgets allow. We are the only nonprofit organization in all of Indiana, at this time, focusing exclusively on fair housing.

BOARD CHAIR'S MESSAGE: Thank you for supporting the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana! 2016 certainly was an eventful year, and the Fair Housing Center was in the thick of the fight for fair housing! With your support, and the commitment of our staff and Board, the Fair Housing Center has worked hard to become the advocate, educator, and promoter of fair housing that Indiana needs.

As always, our staff works across central Indiana – and beyond! – to provide education, advocacy, and enforcement programming to Hoosiers. The Fair Housing Center is not just committed to serving each individual who walks through our doors. Everything we do is in hopes of large-scale awareness and a community-shift toward the understanding and embracing of fair housing principles. Each April, during National Fair Housing Month, our tireless staff organizes and

hosts a Fair Housing Conference that provides a wealth of education and networking opportunities for folks on all sides of the housing spectrum.

It is my hope that the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana continues to be a guiding force in our community for years to come. The long-standing injustices, the systemic discrimination, and the reality of segregation must be laid bare before the widest audience to construct a path to true fair housing for all. Thank you.



-Caroline Richardson

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE: At the end of 2016, the FHCCI celebrated five years of operations. Only through the commitment of our board, our staff, and the community at large were we able to meet this major point in our stabilization and growth in addressing fair housing needs in Central Indiana.

With each year, the need for our work becomes even more pronounced. Whether it is by being a resource for questions from housing providers or consumers, or in having the capacity to conduct investigations to determine if unlawful housing discrimination is occurring. Unfortunately, housing discrimination is a reality. And it's an incredibly harmful and devastating reality that has long term impact.

Each year, I am amazed at the strength and perseverance our clients have. People willing to report discrimination and work to ensure it does not continue to happen. It is through their strength that we are able to work toward a society free from discrimination.

I also want to thank our funders, those who donate to our organization, and those who have given their time and counsel. We cannot thank you enough.



-Amy Nelson

Advocacy

The Advocacy Program of the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) works to assist persons who feel they may be victims of housing discrimination to understand their rights and options under fair housing laws. We also conduct fair housing investigations, both client-based and systemic, to determine if unlawful discrimination may be occurring. We file enforcement actions, when necessary, to address and eliminate uncovered acts of housing discrimination.

The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) provides fair housing advocacy services to promote equal housing opportunity and to decrease incidents of housing discrimination. We believe that discrimination should not play a role in where someone wants or chooses to live. In the past year, our advocacy work identified significant barriers to fair housing choice, specifically on the bases of race/color, national origin, familial status, and disability.

In May 2016, the FHCCI was alerted to this yard sign posted in front of a home for sale in Southport, Indiana. The sign was targeting the Chin community. After investigation, it was determined the sign was placed by an unknown neighbor. The FHCCI conducted outreach in an attempt to combat the discrimination uncovered and to notify the Chin community of their rights under law. We also sought to inform the public that this could be a form of national origin discrimination covered under fair housing laws. The social media post about this sign and attempts to educate the public went viral - reaching over 184,700 people through the FHCCI's Facebook page. The sign was removed and no similar signs, to date, have been placed.



CLIENT COUNSELING: The FHCCI recorded **901 housing intakes** in 2016 which was a 24% increase over 2015. Of those intakes, **179 contained fair housing allegations**. Similar to previous years, fair housing allegations were primarily based upon rental transactions and due to race/color, national origin, and disability.

INVESTIGATIONS: In 2016, the FHCCI **opened 49 new fair housing investigations**. At the end of 2016, the FHCCI was conducting over **75 fair housing case investigations** across Indiana. As part of its investigation work, the FHCCI conducted over **230 fair housing tests**.

NEW ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS: In 2016, the FHCCI filed or assisted in the filing of **seven new enforcement actions** to address evidence of unlawful housing discrimination.

FHCCI, et al v. Grandville Cooperative/Kirkpatrick Management: In February 2016, the FHCCI, Indiana Disability Rights, and an Indianapolis family filed a federal lawsuit against Grandville Cooperative and Kirkpatrick Management alleging the family had been refused a rental due to disability. The complaint was later amended to also include an additional family and claims of discrimination against families with children. Pending.

FHCCI, et al v. Anderson Housing Authority: In April 2016,

Housing Authority hit with a lawsuit

Fair housing group accuses AHA of racial discrimination

By Scott L. Miley
and Ken de la Bastide
The Herald Bulletin

ANDERSON — A federal class-action lawsuit claims residents at a government-subsidized apartment complex suffered sexual harassment, racial discrimination and health problems related to conditions management failed to address.

For more than a year, requests for apartment repairs by residents at Westvale Manor went

unanswered, according to the suit filed Monday by the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana against the Anderson Housing Authority. Westvale Manor, a 45-apartment housing complex near West 22nd Street and Raible Avenue on the city's west side, is home to more black residents than any other federal housing complex in the city, the lawsuit states.

The suit names two current tenants who are both black and have physical disabilities as the plaintiffs along with the Fair Housing Center, based in Indianapolis. The Fair Housing Center is a private not-for-profit that seeks to ensure equal housing opportunities.

Amy Nelson, executive director of The Fair Housing Center, said Monday that an investigation into the conditions at the Westvale Manor had been ongoing for more than a year.

The complaint alleges the housing authority violated the federal Fair Housing Act by:

- Maintaining multifamily dwellings differently, based upon race, than other complexes.
- Refusing to provide reasonable accommodations to residents with disabilities.
- Maintenance men using their positions to sexually harass female residents.

See **LAWSUIT / A2**

the FHCCI and two Anderson residents filed a federal lawsuit against the Anderson Housing Authority of Anderson, Indiana. The complaint alleged that the Authority discriminated in its ownership and management of its multifamily public housing dwellings on the basis of race, gender, and disability in violation of the federal Fair Housing Act and for its failure to maintain its dwellings in a decent, safe, and sanitary condition in violation of state housing laws. Pending.

FHCCI, et al v. Smitley: In April 2016, the FHCCI and an Indianapolis resident filed a federal lawsuit against an Indianapolis property owner alleging discrimination due to disability and familial status. The complaint alleged the owner/manager was making comments to the tenant such as "I really don't want you living here in a hospital bed," "I think you should go to a facility," and "You should be in a nursing home," among other comments. The tenant was later served with a notice of eviction. During its investigation, the FHCCI also observed a sign posted at the front of the apartment complex that read, "ADULTS ONLY." Pending.



Suit claims Jeffersonville landlord discriminated against kids

IL Staff November 3, 2016

A federal lawsuit filed Wednesday claims a Jeffersonville landlord discriminated against families with young children and denied them the opportunity to rent apartments in violation of the Fair Housing Act.

The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana Inc., announced the suit it filed on behalf of Meredith Fortner against Pinnacle Properties Development Group LLC, which owns and operates more than 400

FHCCI, et al v. Pinnacle Properties Development Group: In November 2016, the FHCCI and a Jeffersonville resident filed a federal lawsuit against Pinnacle Properties Development Group, LLC of Jeffersonville, Indiana. The complaint alleged that the defendants refused to rent a two bedroom apartment to a mother with three young children due to the presence of her children. In the FHCCI's investigation, three testers posing as single mothers with three children were also denied two bedroom units by Pinnacle Properties' leasing agents. Pending.

FHCCI, et al v. Bank of America: In August 2016, the FHCCI, the National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA), and other private fair housing organizations announced the filing of an amended discrimination complaint with HUD against Bank of America (BoA). The complaint alleged unlawful discrimination by



BoA in African American and Latino neighborhoods in six additional cities including Gary, Indiana. The previously filed complaint had included evidence for the city of Indianapolis.

FHCCI, et al v. Fannie Mae: In December 2016, the FHCCI, with the National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA) and other private fair housing organizations across the United States, filed a federal lawsuit against the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) alleging race and national origin discrimination. The civil rights groups alleged that Fannie Mae failed to maintain and market bank-owned foreclosures (also known as real estate owned or REO properties) in African American and Latino neighborhoods to the same standard as in White neighborhoods. Pending.

SETTLEMENTS/RESOLUTIONS: Some of the previously filed cases reached resolution in 2016 while other cases reached resolution outside of formal enforcement action. Some case highlights follow:

FHCCI, et al v. AMP Residential: The FHCCI, along with the Fair Housing Center of West Michigan (FHCWM), the Fair Housing Center of Southeast & Mid Michigan (FHCSMM), the Fair Housing Center of Southwest Michigan (FHCSWM) and the Central Ohio Fair Housing Association (COFHA), an-



Advocacy

nounced settlement of a fair housing complaint against AMP Residential, an Indianapolis-based property management company that owns and operates apartment complexes throughout the United States. In the complaint filed with the

INVESTIGATIONS

Evansville apartments named in complaint to HUD



By Zach Osowski, zach.osowski@courierpress.com
Posted:

INDIANAPOLIS — Two Evansville apartment complexes were named in a complaint to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development,

U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) in July 2016, the fair housing groups had alleged that AMP engaged in systemic discrimination against families with

children across 20 properties evaluated in three states by enforcing an occupancy policy of no more than two people per bedroom in each apartment, regardless of the unit's square footage or whether that unit has a den, office, loft, or other feature that could provide an additional bedroom or living area for a child. HUD did not make a determination as to the validity of the allegations and AMP denied the allegations and admitted no wrongdoing, but agreed to settle the claims by entering into a Conciliation Agreement with HUD and the private fair housing groups. In order to settle the complaint, AMP agreed to pay \$207,000, change their occupancy policy to provide equal housing opportunity to families with children, and train their employees and managers across the nation on fair housing each year for the next three years, among other terms to ensure compliance with fair housing laws.

FHCCI, et al v. Brookfield Farms Homeowners Association: In 2014, the FHCCI and a Lafayette couple filed a federal lawsuit against Brookfield Farms Homeowners Association in Lafayette, Indiana. The complaint alleged the Association deterred a group home for three unrelated adults from opening in the subdivision through a covenant that restricted housing to single families. After a ruling by a federal judge denying a motion to dismiss, the case was resolved. The respondents admitted no wrong doing.

FHCCI Case No. 16-003-2329: The FHCCI was contacted by a Clinton, Indiana resident with disabilities who had a therapy cat that management had charged a pet deposit in allowing and other outstanding issues. The FHCCI made contact with the Respondent who agreed to refund the pet deposit (and clarified other issues for the client).

FHCCI Case No. 15-052-2199: The FHCCI was contacted by a Terre Haute, Indiana resident with mobility impairments that wanted to have a ramp installed at her apartment complex entrance. She had made verbal requests to the property management but had not received a satisfactory response. The FHCCI then contacted management on her behalf and the reasonable modification was then approved.

FHCCI Case No. 16-007-2441: The FHCCI was contacted by a Clinton, Indiana resident with disabilities who sought information on obtaining approval for his support animal. There was some confusion between the tenant and the property regarding the information he should have to provide to document his disability and need of the animal. The FHCCI contacted management to clarify the issues and ask for approval of the tenant's reasonable accommodation request. The reasonable accommodation was then approved.

FHCCI Case No. 16-015-2571: The FHCCI was contacted by a Linton, Indiana resident with disabilities who wanted approval for her support animal. After assistance in making the request by the FHCCI and a conversation with the property manager, the request was approved.

FHCCI Case No. 16-044-3086: The FHCCI was contacted by a Noblesville, Indiana resident whose husband had disabilities that limited his ability to go up and down stairs. The residents lived on the second floor because there were no ground level units available when they needed to move into the complex. The FHCCI assisted the client in writing a reasonable accom-

You have a nice set of wheels but can't find a place to park them.



Landlords must permit reasonable modifications to allow persons with disabilities full use of their apartment. Telling you that you can't install grab bars or ramps is against the law. You can fight back.

If you believe you may be a victim of housing discrimination, contact HUD or your local Fair Housing Center:

Contact the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI)
Phone: 317-644-0673 Email: info@fhcci.org Web: www.fhcci.org



NFHA
National Fair Housing Alliance

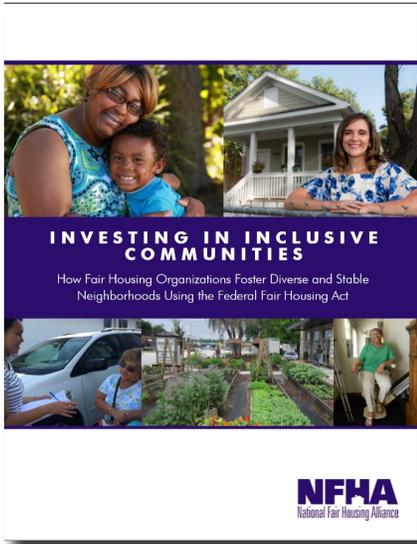
A public service message from the National Fair Housing Alliance. The Federal Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status or disability. For more information, visit www.fair.gov/housing.



Advocacy

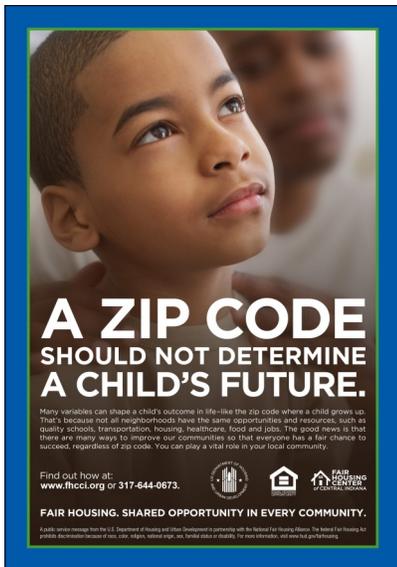
modation letter for them to move into a ground-level unit and counseled them with any questions. The reasonable accommodation was then approved.

REPORTS: In 2016, the National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA) released a new report titled, *Investing in Inclusive Communities: How Fair Housing Organizations Foster Diverse and Stable Neighborhoods Using the Federal Fair Housing Act.*



Neighborhoods Using the Federal Fair Housing Act. This report provided a detailed overview of how 14 fair housing centers, including the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana, invested \$27 million in predominantly African American and Latino communities following a settlement

agreement with Wells Fargo Bank in 2013. The publication contained information on the major strategies employed in the 19 cities where community support grants were invested. It includes stories of grantees and families in the community and provides best practices for future community investment endeavors.



Indianapolis based projects funded by the FHCCI were highlighted throughout the report including work to rehabilitate blighted housing, creation of new affordable housing options, increasing housing accessibility for low income homeowners, creation of a Farmers Market in a food desert, and other projects.

INVESTING IN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES



In 2013, the National Fair Housing Alliance and 13 other fair housing organizations entered into an agreement with Wells Fargo Bank that provided \$27 million for investment in communities of color harmed by discrimination during the foreclosure crisis. These community relief funds were administered through grants designed to stabilize neighborhoods in 19 cities across America.



OUR IMPACT



10,001

individuals completed financial literacy or homeownership training workshops



700

families accessed homeownership for the first time



790

homeowners were able to remain in their homes because of foreclosure prevention or home repair grants



685

abandoned and blighted homes or lots were rehabbed



182

housing units were made accessible for persons with disabilities to remain in their homes

To find out more, visit:
<http://www.nationalfairhousing.org/>

Education

The Education Program of the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) provides education programs and activities to increase fair housing knowledge. We conduct trainings and conferences, distribute publications, support community events, issue e-newsletters, provide social media alerts and a website, release reports, and other activities to advance knowledge about fair housing laws. We work with consumers, the housing industry, and state and local policy makers, to name a few, to advance fair housing.

The FHCCI believes education and outreach play an integral role in the elimination of unlawful housing discrimination. Education and outreach services provide consumers with the ability to identify discrimination and assert their fair housing rights. Education also empowers those in the housing industry with knowledge of the law in order to prevent fair housing violations. In our first five years, the FHCCI has become known as a leader in quality fair housing education programs and is always seeking new ways to present its fair housing education.

FAIR HOUSING TRAININGS: In 2016, the FHCCI conducted **35 trainings for 1,106 participants** on fair housing to educate nonprofit organizations, landlords, property managers, lenders, real estate sales professionals, municipal employees, social service agencies, homeseekers, and housing consumers on fair housing laws. Specialized training events included our 4th Annual Fair Housing Conference (360 registrants) and a Fair Housing Legal Seminar (66 registrants). We were honored to have Law Professor Robert Schwemm of the University of Kentucky School of Law lead the discussion at the legal seminar.

In late 2016, the FHCCI was pleased to be notified that it has received an Education & Outreach Initiative grant



▲ FHCCI Staff Ruby Tregnago and Amy Nelson discuss fair housing at the Bridge and Tunnel post show discussion at the Indiana Repertory Theatre. Milicent Wright featured.

through the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development. This was our first time in being awarded one of these hard to obtain grants and will result in even more training opportunities in the 2017 calendar year.

COMMUNITY EXHIBITS: The FHCCI believes in supporting our fellow community nonprofits at their conferences and trainings. Through working together, we can better advance our missions. Participation in such community events also allows the FHCCI to share fair housing information and connect with individuals who we may not encounter otherwise. Many walk away now considering the impact fair housing has on their lives.

In 2016, the FHCCI hosted exhibit booths or tables at **30 community events** to promote FHCCI services, programs, and fair housing. In addition, **2,621 persons** stopped at the FHCCI booth to learn about our services and fair housing. Exhibits included the Circle City IN Pride Festival, Indiana Black Expo, Indiana Latino Expo, various disability rights conferences, IMPD community days, and many others!

The FHCCI was also excited to be selected as part of a post

An advertisement featuring a teddy bear, a basketball, a toy train, and a house. The text reads: "When it comes to housing, little things shouldn't make a difference. If you have children or are pregnant and a landlord refuses to rent to you, requires a higher security deposit, limits the use of facilities, or says you can only live in certain areas of a housing complex... that could be discrimination. And housing discrimination because of familial status is against the law. Fair Housing Is Your Right. Use It. Contact the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) at www.fhcci.org or call us at 317-644-0673 if you feel you've been a victim of housing discrimination and to find out more information." Logos for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, NFHA, and Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana are included.

Education



show discussion following a performance of *Bridge and Tunnel*, a Tony Award

winning, one-woman show that explores American diversity through a variety of characters. The discussion was held at the Indiana Repertory Theatre and featured time for the FHCCI staff to interact with theatre goers about fair housing laws and the programs of the FHCCI.

PUBLICATIONS: The FHCCI distributed **32,027 fair housing publications** at trainings, conferences, and exhibits during 2016. We also created a new fact sheet, *Hate Crimes & Housing Rights in Indiana*. This increased the number of topic specific fact sheets on fair housing issues to twelve. Our publications are available in English, Spanish, Burmese, and Braille, with more being added.

PRESS RELATIONS: The FHCCI continues to expand its press list and relationships with the media. During 2016, the FHCCI distributed press releases to raise awareness of fair housing. We released **9 press releases** focusing on FHCCI case work, trainings, and days of observance or importance. The FHCCI had **48 statewide print stories** - some stories were reprints in multiple statewide papers and are not counted in the total - and **4 radio stories** about FHCCI activities. Our work was featured in the *Indianapolis Star*, *Indianapolis Recorder*, *Indianapolis Business Journal*, *The Indiana Lawyer*, and others. The FHCCI was also honored to be selected as the cover story for the *ihcda...the magazine* Spring Quarter 2016.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS: We distributed **52 FHCCI specific PSAs** on local and national issues in 2016. Some of these PSAs are highlighted throughout this report.

During 2016, we were pleased to present *The Fair Housing Watchdogs* campaign. In 2015, the FHCCI had a contest where people submitted photos of their pups and told us



what fair housing meant to them. We selected our favorites for FHCCI use in PSAs to promote fair housing education. Throughout 2016, we highlighted several "watchdogs" in this fun campaign to spread fair housing information. Each month, we had a different furry family member telling two or three fair housing facts. Thank you to all who participated. We enjoyed adding some lightness and these sweet faces to such a serious topic.

INDIVIDUAL OUTREACH: The FHCCI released **9 FHCCI e-newsletters** to the public during 2016. Each e-newsletter contained updates on trainings, Indiana and national fair housing news, and FHCCI activities. In 2016, our e-news distribution list increased by 26% from 2015. Please note



▲ Professor Robert Schwemm was the lead trainer at the Fair Housing Legal Seminar.

"It was phenomenal. The best I've been to. Something so special." -Attendee, 2016 FHCCI Fair Housing Conference

Education

that we always request approval before adding anyone to the distribution list.

WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA: Throughout the year, the FHCCI continued to update the highly reviewed Education page on the FHCCI website (www.fhcci.org) with new guidance, reports, and studies. In 2016, our website had **344,707 views and 48,846 visitors**. This was a 25% increase in views and a 36% increase in visitors from 2015. We also use the Google website translator for multiple language options.



344,707 views and 48,846 visitors. This was a 25% increase in views and a 36% increase in visitors from 2015. We also use the Google website translator for multiple language options.

We also utilized social media to alert the public to breaking news on fair housing and related issues through our Facebook page. In 2016, FHCCI **Facebook "likes" increased by 371%**! This was largely due to our post which identified discrimination against the Burmese community through a posted yard sign (see Page 4) and our follow up posts educating the public on fair housing rights.

ANTI-HATE PROGRAM: With an alarming and increasing number of reported hate crimes and hate-based incidents in 2016, the FHCCI began reviewing opportunities to fund and



increase our work to combat and address such crimes and incidents. We began the year with efforts through our Public Policy Program during the Indiana General Assembly to pass a hate crime law. We continued to expand and diversify activities throughout the remainder of the year. For instance, we created new PSAs to share information on the need for a hate crime law. These PSAs also assisted a broader education campaign to understand what the passage of a hate crime law accomplish. We were also appreciative of the Anti-Defamation League who spoke on this topic at our Annual Fair Housing Conference.

As noted previously, we also created and distributed a fact sheet on how fair housing laws can address hate based incidents occurring at homes. In late 2016, the FHCCI also sought funding for a rapid response grant through the Open Society Foundations. More on this project in next year's report.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics estimates that two-thirds of hate crimes go unreported to the police.

Source: FBI, Hate Crime Statistics, 2015



Fair Housing Conference

The 4th Annual FHCCI Fair Housing Conference was held on April 14, 2016 in Indianapolis, Indiana. With a theme of *Fair Housing: Putting the Pieces Together*, the event had 25 community sponsors and 360 registrants. Gustavo Velasquez, Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing & Equal Opportunity, at the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development opened the conference reviewing HUD's goals for achieving equal housing opportunity. There were also eight fair housing workshop breakouts of diverse fair housing topics. Beverly Gooden, creator of the #WhyIStayed viral hashtag, was the luncheon keynote speaker. Ms. Gooden described the difficulties facing domestic violence survivors. Feedback was extremely positive.



**Fair Housing:
Putting the Pieces Together
4th Annual Fair Housing Conference**

with Keynote Speaker Beverly Gooden, creator of the #WhyIStayed viral hashtag, domestic violence survivor, and victims' rights advocate and, opening the conference, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, Gustavo F. Velasquez.



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!
To register, visit: www.fhcci.org/events
April 14, 2016; 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM
at the Wyndham Indianapolis West



Inclusive Communities

The Inclusive Communities Program of the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) offers programs to assist persons, neighborhoods, and communities who have been impacted by unlawful discrimination, disinvestment, or unequal housing opportunity. We also participate in community events and support other organizations through volunteer participation by FHCCI staff and board members.

In 2016, the FHCCI's Inclusive Communities Program had four focus areas: (1) community relief grants through the Wells Fargo fair housing settlement, (2) staff community participation, (3) community volunteerism, and (4) sponsorship.

COMMUNITY RELIEF GRANTS: As the administrator of the Indianapolis portion of the Wells Fargo community relief fair housing settlement funds, the FHCCI oversaw the final



▲ FHCCI board members Tom Crishon and Deb McCarty with staff member Amy Nelson at the Caulk of the Town event.

completion of the remaining grants awarded for neighborhood stabilization and for increasing housing accessibility for persons with disabilities. We ended 2016 with the complete distribution of these funds by

having provided support to 13 nonprofit and neighborhood organizations targeting neighborhood stabilization and quality of life projects. We also assisted 52 homeowners or renters with disabilities with needed improvements to their home to increase housing accessibility.

STAFF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION: We believe collaboration is critical to ensure a strong fair housing message. In 2016, the FHCCI staff was honored to be elected to boards of the Central Indiana Realist Association, the National Fair Housing Alliance,



▲ FHCCI staff members Brady Ripperger and Ruby Tregnago with board members Tom Crishon, Caroline Richardson, and David Suzuki at Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center.

▼ 2016 Central Indiana Realist Association board of directors.



and Prosperity Indiana. We were also members of several other organizations including the Affordable Housing Association of Indiana, GIPC Race & Cultural Relations Leadership Network, Good Samaritan Network of Hamilton County, Indiana Coalition for Human Services, Indiana Latino Roundtable, Indianapolis Coalition for Neighborhood Development, NEAR East Promise Zone Vitality Committee, and others!

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERISM: The FHCCI staff and board volunteered for two community events in 2016: Caulk of the Town sponsored by the Near East Area Renewal (NEAR) and a Holiday Food Tote event at the Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center.

SPONSORSHIP: Although our funds are very limited for sponsorship, we tried to support fellow nonprofits at conferences and events which supported our work in fair housing.



▲ 2016 FHCCI staff members.

Public Policy

The Public Policy Program of the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) works to increase the awareness of policy-makers and regulators about the issues associated with fair housing. We work with local, state, and federal legislators to ensure strong fair housing laws and policies. We also collaborate with fellow organizations to strengthen fair housing laws.

During 2016, the FHCCI continued its work from previous years on specific public policy areas: (1) Advancement of a state hate crime law; (2) Passage of housing discrimination protections for LGBTQ Hoosiers; and (3) Housing policies impacting housing equality.

HATE CRIME LAW: The FHCCI was part of a coalition in 2016 working to pass a hate crime law in Indiana. Currently, Indiana remains one of only five states without a hate crime law despite repeated past efforts and documentation of need. During the 2016 Indiana General Assembly, six total bills were introduced regarding a hate crime law. Of those bills, only SB 220, a bill authored by Senators Susan Glick and Earline Rogers, received a hearing. The FHCCI was one of several organizations providing testimony in support of passage before the Senate Corrections & Criminal Law Committee. The bill was passed by the Committee with a vote of 9-0, receiving bipartisan support.

SB 220 then headed to the Senate floor where it received debate and consideration. It was an incredible moment to watch the bill clear the Senate floor 34-16, again with bipartisan support. Unfortunately, the bill then hit a significant road block in the House when the Courts & Criminal Code Committee refused to provide it with a hearing. The bill died in the House leaving Indiana without a hate crime law.

LGBTQ HOUSING DISCRIMINATION PROTECTIONS: During the 2016 Indiana General Assembly, six bills were filed that either urged advancement of LGBTQ civil rights protections or had language which would further hinder such protections. Two of these bills, SB 100 and SB 344,

received hearings before the Senate Committee on Rules & Legislative Procedure. Unfortunately, neither of these bills provided the type of protection that is needed under Indiana civil

rights and fair housing laws. Consequently, the FHCCI, with many others, provided testimony against passage of both these bills. SB 100 was tabled in Committee while SB 344 passed the Committee 7-5. SB 344 was however, never taken to the floor for a vote.

In 2016, the FHCCI also supported the work of our partners in advancing protections for our LGBTQ family, friends, and colleagues through passage of local city ordinances, or expansion thereof, to include protections for sexual orientation and gender identity/expression.

HOUSING POLICIES: The FHCCI followed and monitored several bills during the 2016 session which targeted efforts related to vacant and abandoned housing, foreclosures, and impacting affordable housing initiatives and opportunities.

Indiana ranked as the 13th state with the most active hate groups in 2016.

Source: Southern Poverty Law Center, *The Year of Hate and Extremism, 2017*

FAIR HOUSING CENTER of CENTRAL INDIANA
www.fhcci.org



Coalition still pushing after hate crime bills fail to advance

Marilyn Odendahl March 1, 2016

Despite a grassroots effort and several bills addressing the issue, hate crime legislation appears to have failed in the Indiana Statehouse.

The one bill that did pass through the upper chamber, Senate Bill 220, stalled in the House of Representatives after it did not get a hearing in the Courts and Criminal Code Committee. Authored by Sen. Susan Glick, R-Herrin, with Sen. Earline Rogers, D-Cast, added to a second author, the measure



▲ Hearing on SB 220 before the Senate Corrections & Criminal Law Committee on January 26, 2016.

2016 Supporter Thank You

The FHCCI could not succeed without the generous support of private individuals, foundations, government grants, and the public and private organizations which collaborate with us. We thank those who gave their time, support, and/or resources to the FHCCI in 2016:

FUNDERS:

National Fair Housing Alliance

U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development

SUPPORTERS & PARTNERS:

accessABILITY, Center for Independent Living

ACLU of Indiana

Affordable Housing Association of Indiana

Anti-Defamation League

Aspire Indiana

Back Home in Indiana Alliance

Bernard J. Kleina

Bruce Jones

Building Specialists, Inc.

Burmese American Community Institute

Butler University

Calvin Fletcher's Coffee Company

Central Indiana Realtist Association

Children's Bureau, Inc.

City of Indianapolis-Department of Metropolitan Development

City of Mishawaka

Circle City IN Pride Festival

Coalition for Homelessness Intervention & Prevention (CHIP)

Coburn Place Safe Haven

Columbus Human Rights Commission

Community Action of Greater Indianapolis

Concerned Clergy of Indianapolis

Connecticut Fair Housing Center

CSH

Easter Seals Crossroads, Indianapolis

Equity Institute on Race, Culture & Transformative Action (IUPUI)

Fair Housing Center of West Michigan

Fifth Third Bank

Financial Center Credit Union

Freedom Indiana

GIPC Race & Cultural Relations Leadership Network

Greater Indianapolis NAACP Branch #3053

Good Samaritan Network of Hamilton County

Hamilton County Area Neighborhood Development (HAND)

Hearts & Hands of Indiana

Home & Finance with Janis & Diana

HOPE Fair Housing Center

Immigrant Welcome Center

INARF

Indiana Black Expo

Indiana Civil Rights Commission

Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Indiana Coalition for Human Services

Indiana Consortium of State and Local Human Rights Agencies

Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities

Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority

Indiana Latino Expo

Indiana Latino Health Organization

Indiana Latino Roundtable

Indiana Legal Services

Indiana Public Health Association

Indiana Repertory Theatre

Indiana State Guardianship Association

Indiana Statewide Independent Living Council (INSILC)

Indiana University - Robert H. McKinney School of Law

Indiana University School of Social Work

Indianapolis Continuum of Care

Indianapolis Housing Agency

Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council

Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD)

Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership (INHP)

Indianapolis Public Library

IndyEast Promise Zone

John Boner Neighborhood Centers

KEY Consumer Organization

Kroger Community Rewards

La Plaza Inc.

Latino Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Mapleton-Fall Creek Development Corporation

Marian University

Marion County Prosecutor's Office

Mexican Consulate

Miami Valley Fair Housing Center

Muslim Alliance of Indiana

NAMI Greater Indianapolis

Nate Lichti

National Association of Social Workers - Indiana Chapter

Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic

NeighborLink Indianapolis

Noble

Northside Partners Network

Open for Service

Peace Learning Center

Phillip Smith

Prevent Child Abuse Indiana

Print Resources

Prosperity Indiana

Radio Latina 107.1 FM

Rajeevalochana Rangeswamy

Rebuilding Together Indianapolis

Ryan White Planning Council

Servants at Work (SAWs)

Shalom Health Care Center

Shepherd Community Center

South Suburban Fair Housing Center

Southern Poverty Law Center

Telemundo Indy

Terri Jett

The Damien Center

The National Bank of Indianapolis

Toby Miller

U.S. Department of Justice

Yelp Indy

COOPERATING ATTORNEYS:

Brancart & Brancart

Goodin Abernathy

Indiana Disability Rights

Relman, Dane & Colfax PLLC

Fair Housing Testers: A special thank you to our Fair Housing Testers (we can't thank you by name but you know who you are!)

WE'VE MOVED!

445 N. Pennsylvania St., Suite 811
Indianapolis, IN 46204



2016 Financials

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2016

REVENUES AND SUPPORT:

Contributions and Grants	\$468,407
Program Services	54,340
Investment Income	30
Other Revenue	<u>10,968</u>
TOTAL REVENUE.....	\$533,745

EXPENSES:

Grants Paid.....	\$20,000
Salaries, Compensation, Benefits	311,122
Other Program Expenses	<u>247,326</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$578,448

REVENUE LESS EXPENSES:.....(\$44,703)*

TOTAL ASSETS: \$22,815

TOTAL LIABILITIES: 19,285

NET ASSETS:..... \$3,530

**Loss due to distribution of Wells Fargo community relief grants in which funding was received in previous years.*

ACCORDING TO A 2016 STUDY PERFORMED BY STANFORD UNIVERSITY, "LOW INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT (LIHTC) DEVELOPMENT REVITALIZES LOW-INCOME NEIGHBORHOODS, INCREASING HOUSING PRICES 6.5%, LOWERING CRIME RATES, AND ATTRACTING RACIALLY AND INCOME DIVERSE POPULATIONS."

Source: "Who Wants Affordable Housing in their Backyard? An Equilibrium Analysis of Low Income Property Development," January 2016. http://web.stanford.edu/~diamondr/LIHTC_spillovers.pdf



2016 FHCCI BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Caroline Richardson, Chair
 Thomas Crishon, Vice Chair
 Emily Munson, Secretary
 Chase Haller, Treasurer
 Denise Abdul-Rahman
 Evan Bever
 Andrew Crecelius
 Ryan Gardner
 Francesca (Anna) Hail
 Zaida Maldonado-Prather
 Deborah McCarty
 Amber O'Haver
 Lun Kham Pieper
 David Suzuki

FHCCI STAFF:

Amy Nelson, Executive Director
 Andrea Kirschling, Test Coordinator
 Brady Ripperger, Fair Housing Projects
 Coordinator
 Noe Rojas, Neighborhood Projects
 Coordinator
 Ruby Tregnago, Office Operations
 Coordinator
 Patricia Ziegler-Lopez, Test Coordinator

The FHCCI fights housing discrimination not only because it is unlawful, but also because it is a divisive force that perpetuates poverty, segregation, ignorance, fear, and hatred.

Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana**445 N. Pennsylvania Street, Suite 811****Indianapolis, IN 46204****Phone: 317-644-0673****Fax: 317-245-0322****Email: info@fhcci.org****Web: www.fhcci.org**

Work on this publication was funded in part by a grant with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The substance and findings of the work are dedicated to the public. The author and publisher are solely responsible for the accuracy of the statements and interpretations contained in this publication. Such interpretations do not necessarily reflect the views of the Federal Government.

