2017 ANNUAL REPORT

NO HATE IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.
2017 by the numbers...

6 Years of activities in Central Indiana

Served 874 clients recording 182 fair housing allegations

Opened 84 new fair housing investigations

Conducted over 290 fair housing tests

Filed 5 enforcement actions to address housing discrimination

Conducted 60 fair housing trainings for 2,335 persons

Participated in 42 community exhibits directly reaching 3,296 persons

Distributed over 39,500 fair housing publications

Released 29 PSAs to advance fair housing knowledge

Mentioned in over 92 Indiana news stories

Had 570,933 views and 99,047 visitors to our website

Resolved 17 cases impacting over 10,750 housing units
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: The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana has experienced another busy year, and I’m excited to share 2017’s achievements with you in this report! The FHCCI continued its promotion of fair housing education to prevent discrimination. The traditional highlight of our educational programming has been the Annual Conference in April. Indeed, 2017’s Conference did not disappoint, with a wide array of workshops, and a riveting opening keynote by Ise Lyfe.

Additionally, the FHCCI staff conducted more than 60 trainings on fair housing, or more than one training per week, in 2017! Thousands of Hoosiers have learned directly from FHCCI trainings and publications, and even more have learned of our mission and accomplishments through the almost 100 media stories in which FHCCI was featured.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE: Looking back at 2017, our FHCCI team views it as a blur! To share some accomplishments, 2017 resulted in the FHCCI filing enforcement actions to address systemic based discrimination. However, we also were successful in resolving several actions filed in previous years to stop identified allegations - impacting over 10,750 housing units!

Although our Advocacy Program remains the backbone of our work at the FHCCI, 2017 resulted in huge gains for our Education Program. Due to additional funding from HUD, we were able to expand the number and type of fair housing education and outreach programs offered. We had another highly successful Fair Housing Conference but were also able to offer additional technical trainings.

Besides our core fair housing services, we also took on the task of building the Central Indiana Alliance Against Hate. This was a huge endeavor for our team. Funding did not allow us to add additional staff but we were determined to move forward because of need. The result, we were able to offer a new conference and advance public policy. Thank you for your fair housing support!
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. As in previous years, our advocacy work identified significant barriers to fair housing choice, specifically on the bases of race/color, national origin, familial status, and disability.

CLIENT COUNSELING: The FHCCI recorded 874 housing intakes in 2017. Of those intakes, 182 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 2017, the FHCCI opened 84 new fair housing investigations (an increase of 106%). At the end of 2017, the FHCCI was conducting over 55 fair housing case investigations across Indiana. As part of its investigation work, the FHCCI conducted over 290 fair housing tests.

NEW ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS: In 2017, the FHCCI filed or assisted in the filing of five new enforcement actions to address evidence of unlawful housing discrimination. Some highlights follow:

FHCCI, et al v. Rainbow Realty Group, Empire Holding Corp., and James R. Hotka: The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) and four Indianapolis residents announced the filing of a federal class action lawsuit against Rainbow Realty Group, Empire Holding Corp., and James R. Hotka of Indianapolis, Indiana. The complaint alleges that the Defendants violated civil rights and consumer protection laws, including the federal Fair Housing Act, the federal Equal Credit Opportunity Act, the Truth in Lending Act, the Indiana Home Loan Practices Act, and Indiana landlord-tenant laws. The Defendants’ scheme involves almost 1,000 houses in Marion County, Indiana. The complaint alleges that Defendants have structured their rent-to-own scheme to saddle consumers with all of the disadvantages of renting and all of the disadvantages of buying, reserving all the benefits of both for themselves. It alleges that Defendants are fully aware of the terrible condition of their houses, but many of the serious problems cannot be discerned by prospective buyers.

In 2013, the FHCCI assisted an Indianapolis woman with disabilities in filing a complaint with the Indiana Civil Rights Commission (ICRC). The allegation was based upon the refusal by the property to allow our client to terminate her lease without penalty due to disability based reasons. The ICRC charged the complaint having found a violation of fair housing law. The complaint then moved to an Administrative Law Judge. Unfortunately, there were significant delays in receipt of a ruling; however, a ruling was finally issued in 2017 in favor of our client awarding her damages for the discrimination which occurred. The ICRC was also awarded damages for its related costs. It was a long process but a successful one. The FHCCI was there with our client every step of the way. She expressed her sincere appreciation and acknowledged that without our assistance, she may not have continued with the matter.

Lawsuit targets local rent-to-own housing operator

An Indianapolis-based company that has purchased and rented out hundreds of houses in the city is being sued by a multi-state housing group and four former customers over what they are calling a “predatory and unlawful rent-to-own scheme.”

Rainbow Realty Group Inc. and its owner, James R. Hotka, were sued Tuesday by the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana Inc. and individuals Nelly Espinosa, Mary Ramirez, Marco Martinez, and Herrera Tygard.

The plaintiffs are seeking class-action status for their lawsuit, which was filed in U.S. District Court in Indianapolis by local law firm Cozzens & Mekhitarian and Washington, D.C.-based Salzman Davis &
customers prior to contract. Defendants nonetheless vastly and unjustifiably inflate the sales price by 300%, 400%, even 500% when they sell a house through their rent-to-own program. Defendants will purchase a rundown house for $10,000, for example, and sell it without any repairs to an unsuspecting victim for $40,000. The complaint alleges that Defendants count on customers not knowing the true condition or value of their houses before they sign a contract. In addition to inflated sales prices, Defendants strip what little wealth their customers have through exorbitant interest rates and high late fees. The complaint alleges that consumers sign contracts not just with a false impression of the quality of the house, but also with the false impression that they are entering into a typical house purchase with a typical mortgage. When they struggle to make the necessary repairs to live in their homes, Defendants offer them shoddy, overpriced repairs that are then incorporated into their monthly payments, again increasing the likelihood that the contracts will fail. The complaint also alleges that Defendants intentionally target their predatory rent-to-own scheme at Marion County’s high-minority neighborhoods and minority residents. Pending.

FHCCI v. Hamilton County and the City of Noblesville: The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) announced the filing of fair housing complaints with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) alleging that Hamilton County and the City of Noblesville violated the Fair Housing Act and/or Title VI of the Civil Rights Act over its lack of affordable housing. In order to receive federal funds, including CDBG dollars, Hamilton County must certify to HUD that federal funds are not used in a way that limits housing choice due to race, color, or national origin. The FHCCI’s complaint alleges that the County has failed to comply and has continued to fund local government and subrecipients whose ordinances and policies perpetuate racial and

Advocacy
Advocacy

ethnic segregation. The complaint against the City of Noblesville further alleges that affordable housing was blocked from development and the Respondents took efforts to limit housing opportunities for families. For example, the FHCCI investigation uncovered the passage of ordinances banning consideration of rental subsidies as well as limiting multifamily dwellings to two bedrooms or less in an effort to keep families with children out. Pending.

SETTLEMENTS/RESOLUTIONS: Some of the previously filed cases reached resolution in 2017 while other cases reached resolution outside of formal enforcement action. In 2017, the FHCCI resolved 17 fair housing cases impacting over 10,750 housing units. Some highlights from the year follow:

FHCCI, et al v. Anderson Housing Authority: The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) and two Anderson residents announced a $230,000 settlement with the Anderson Housing Authority of Anderson, Indiana to resolve allegations 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. The Authority also agreed to a number of new policies, employee training, and other forms of affirmative relief. The Anderson Housing Authority denied all material allegations in the filed complaint, except for subject matter jurisdiction. A separate complaint filed and settled between the U.S. Department of Justice and the Anderson Housing Authority was resolved for $70,000 to compensate an additional seven victims of discrimination identified by the Department.

FHCCI, et al v. Pinnacle Properties Development Group: The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) and a Jeffersonville resident announced a $62,500 settlement with Pinnacle Properties Development Group LLC of Jeffersonville, Indiana to resolve allegations the company discriminated against families with children in violation of the federal Fair Housing Act. The settlement also included a change in policies, fair housing training, and other forms of affirmative relief, along with payment of plaintiff attorney fees. Pinnacle Properties Development Group LLC made no admission of liability or wrongdoing in connection with the allegations and claims made by plaintiffs and expressly denied any liability or wrongdoing.

FHCCI Case No. 17-002-3156: The FHCCI was contacted by a Muncie resident whose husband with disabilities needed modifications made throughout their apartment to make it more accessible. After assistance by the FHCCI and a conversation with the property manager, an alternative request to be given a housing choice voucher to allow clients to move into a more accessible apartment was approved.

FHCCI staff participated in a March for Disability Rights.
Advocacy

FHCCI Case No. 16-047-3187: The FHCCI was contacted by an Indianapolis resident who was having problems with other tenants and alleged harassment of her needed assistive animal. The FHCCI assisted the resident in writing a letter to the management and also attended a meeting with management to discuss the resident’s concerns. There has been no other issues of note to date.

FHCCI Case No. 16-048-3246: The FHCCI was contacted by an Evansville resident with disabilities who was having difficulty getting an assigned parking spot near her apartment unit approved. The FHCCI assisted the resident in writing a reasonable accommodation request which was approved.

FHCCI Case No. 17-061-3370: The FHCCI was contacted by a Camby resident with a disability who needed an emotional support animal. After assistance by the FHCCI, the resident’s reasonable accommodation request for an emotional support dog was approved.

FHCCI Case No. 17-052-3798: The FHCCI was contacted by a New Albany resident whose husband has a disability. The married couple live in a mobile home park in which the owner would not allow the client to have his emotional support animal and threatened eviction and fees. After assistance by the FHCCI, providing educational fair housing materials, and a conversation with the owner, the reasonable accommodation request for an emotional support dog was approved.

FHCCI Case No. 17-063-3693: The FHCCI was contacted by a North Carolina resident that was moving to Indianapolis. The complex they applied for would not allow her daughter’s emotional support animal. After assistance by the FHCCI, the reasonable accommodation request for her daughter’s emotional support animal was approved.

FHCCI Case No. 17-032-3660: The FHCCI was contacted by an Indianapolis resident whose husband used a wheelchair. Their apartment complex would not allow them to build a ramp to assist with his disabilities. After assistance by the FHCCI, the apartment complex approved the client’s reasonable modification request (and to pay for the ramp).

FHCCI Case No. 17-023-3589: The FHCCI was contacted by a West Lafayette resident that needed an emotional support cat to assist with his disability; however, the apartment complex was treating the animal as a pet. After assistance by the FHCCI including education on emotional support animals, the complex approved the client’s reasonable accommodation request for his emotional support cat.

FHCCI Case No. 16-043-3164: The FHCCI was contacted by a Carmel resident that needed an assigned parking space near her apartment to assist with her disability. After assistance by the FHCCI and direct correspondence with the housing provider, the reasonable accommodation for an assigned parking space was finally approved.

FHCCI Case No. 17-078-3992: The FHCCI was contacted by an Indianapolis resident whose daughter needed a ramp to assist with her disabilities. She found a company to build the ramp; however, the property management company told her she must pay an additional security deposit before she had the ramp built. After assistance by the FHCCI, the property management company allowed the ramp to be built without an additional security deposit.

"It is hard to argue that housing is not a fundamental human need. Decent, affordable housing should be a basic right for everybody in this country. The reason is simple: without stable shelter, everything else falls apart."

Matthew Desmond, Evicted Poverty and Profit in the American City
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. The FHCCI has become known as a leader in quality fair housing education programs and is always evaluating new ways to present its fair housing education to reach broader audiences.

In 2017, the FHCCI received its first Education & Outreach Initiative grant through the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development. The grant process is highly competitive and the FHCCI was extremely appreciative of receipt of these funds which allowed us to offer additional, and new, education programs.

**FAIR HOUSING TRAININGS:** In 2017, the FHCCI conducted **60 trainings for 2,335 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. Trainings varied in size and scope as well as from the fair housing basics to more technical lending trainings. Some trainings were open to the public, while others were hosted by community partners with the FHCCI providing the speaker.

During 2017, the FHCCI offered several free fair housing rental basics trainings across Central Indiana to ensure opportunities for all to participate. Another popular training was a three-hour Fair Housing Disability Training also offered in several locations across Central Indiana. A Fair Housing Legal Seminar designed for attorneys was offered at the end of the year with continuing legal education credits. We were excited to have national fair housing expert Sara Pratt of Relman, Dane & Colfax lead the discussion at the legal seminar.

Our most popular yearly event was the Fair Housing Conference. The FHCCI’s 5th Annual Fair Housing Conference & Anniversary Celebration was held on April 6, 2017 in Indianapo-

**Example of a smaller fair housing rental basics class offered by FHCCI for free.**

**Showing No Hate, Just Love,** members of the FHCCI team celebrate Constitution Day with a “founding father.”

**FHCCI Staff Ruby Tregnago takes a moment at an exhibit to distribute fair housing publications and answer attendee questions.**
The conference theme was *No Hate in Our Neighborhood: How Fair Housing Laws Combat Hate and Promote Inclusion*. The event had 25 community sponsors and 365 registrants. Ise Lyfe opened the conference with a riveting presentation on confronting bias. Julian Jackson of the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) was our luncheon keynote speaker with a presentation titled: *SPLC: Fighting Hate, Teaching Tolerance, Seeking Justice*. The conference featured ten fair housing topic specific workshop options for attendees choice including such topics as: Fair Housing 101 (two parts); Fair Housing Disability Case Law Update (two parts); How Immigration, Refugee, and Religious Bias Impacts Fair Housing Choice; Ensuring Fair Lending; Fair Housing and Criminal History Challenges; Lending Hot Topics; Housing Bias Impacting Gender and LGBTQ; Fair Housing Hot Topics; and more. The conference was also approved for continuing education for attorneys, social workers, and real estate. Attendee evaluations were phenomenal including several comments that the conference rivaled national events.

**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. We are also able to answer questions one-on-one.

In 2017, the FHCCI hosted exhibit booths or tables at 42 community events to promote FHCCI services, programs, and fair housing. In addition, 3,296 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!

**PUBLICATIONS:** The FHCCI distributed 39,755 fair housing publications at trainings, conferences, exhibits, and other forms of outreach during 2017. We also created six new fact sheets to educate the public on fair housing topics. This increased the number of FHCCI fact sheets on fair housing issues to 18. Our fact sheet series consistently receives positive reviews. Most FHCCI publications are also available in seven additional languages to English and are posted online.

**PRESS RELATIONS:** The FHCCI continues to expand its press list and relationships with the media. During 2017, the FHCCI distributed press releases to raise awareness of fair housing. We released 15 press releases focusing on FHCCI case work, trainings,


PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS: We distributed **29 FHCCI specific PSAs** on local and national issues in 2017. Some of these PSAs were adapted from national campaigns while others were created by the FHCCI to meet local needs. Some of these PSAs are highlighted throughout this report. During 2017, the FHCCI team also created and distributed PSAs through topic specific campaigns around hate crimes, affordable housing myths, and rent-to-own housing transactions. Through the work of the Central Indiana Alliance Against Hate (see Pages 13 & 16), we also launched the *No Hate, Just Love* campaign to combat hate crimes and hate-related incidents.

INDIVIDUAL OUTREACH: The FHCCI released **12 monthly e-newsletters** to the public during 2017. Each e-newsletter contained updates on trainings, Indiana and national fair housing news, partner events, and summaries of FHCCI activities. Please note that we always request approval before adding anyone to the e-news 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 across many topic specific areas for ease of use. Our website receives national attention for the information contained. In 2017, our website had **570,933 views and 99,047 visitors.** This was a **165% increase in views and a 203% increase in visitors** from 2016. We also utilized social media to alert the public to breaking news on fair housing and related issues through our Facebook page. In 2017, the FHCCI Facebook “likes” increased by **36%**.

AWARDS: The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana was honored with two awards in 2017 for our work. In August, the Indiana Consortium of State and Local Human Rights Agencies presented the FHCCI its *President’s Award of Excellence* for our fair housing advocacy. In November, the Muslim Alliance of Indiana presented us with their *Honorable Judge David Shaheed Access to Justice Award* for our work in organizing the Central Indiana Alliance Against Hate. Both these organizations are also valuable partners to our work and the FHCCI sincerely appreciates their support.
The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana presented its 5th Annual Fair Housing Conference & Anniversary Celebration on April 6, 2017 in Indianapolis. A huge thank you to our sponsors. Without their support, we could not put on a conference of this quality at such affordable registration rates. Some photos from the day are below.

“This conference is affordable, and well attended. I have never been disappointed by the content of the conference or presentations.” - Attendee

“Glad that light was shed upon blighted conditions of America & its citizens. Hopeful because a program such as yours & like yours that helps our community + citizens. Hate is a learned condition, taught by parents and others.” - Attendee
In 2017, the FHCCI’s Inclusive Communities Program had four focus areas: (1) staff community participation, (2) community volunteerism, (3) sponsorship, and (4) activities of the Central Indiana Alliance Against Hate.

**STAFF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION:** We believe collaboration is critical to ensure a strong fair housing message. In 2017, the FHCCI staff participated on the board of directors of the Central Indiana Realtist Association, the National Fair Housing Alliance, and Prosperity Indiana. FHCCI staff were also active on several committees as part of these boards. The FHCCI is also a member of several other organizations including the GIPC Race & Cultural Relations Leadership Network, Good Samaritan Network of Hamilton County, Indiana Coalition for Human Services, Indiana Latino Roundtable, Indy East Promise Zone Vitality Committee, and others!

**COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERISM:** As an organization, we believe in being active in the neighborhoods we serve and giving back. Members of the FHCCI staff and board volunteered at two community events in 2017: Crooked Creek Food Pantry and a Holiday Food Tote event at the Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center. This is the fourth year that the FHCCI team has volunteered at Mary Rigg.

**SPONSORSHIP:** In 2017, we were also honored to be selected by Calvin Fletcher’s Coffee Company (CFCC) in Indianapolis as their nonprofit of the month! During August, tips received at the CFCC were donated to the FHCCI to advance our mission. This type of support is truly amazing—and CFCC is the FHCCI’s fave coffee spot!

Although our funds were very limited for sponsorship of others in 2017, we tried to support fellow nonprofits at conferences and events as best as possible.

**CENTRAL INDIANA ALLIANCE AGAINST HATE:** The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) has worked since 2014 as part of a loosely based coalition to advance a
Inclusive Communities

In 2016, following yet another defeat of a hate crime bill, the FHCCI recognized a need for a more organized, broad-based effort to bring attention to the need of a hate crime law and dispel mistruths. In March 2017, the FHCCI launched the Central Indiana Alliance Against Hate with a mission to reduce the occurrence and combat the consequences of hate crimes and hate-based incidents occurring in Central Indiana. We began with a Community Forum to discuss what was needed in our region to meet the Alliance’s mission. Out of that forum came the formation of four working groups to address identified impediments.

Next, we created a design contest to gather artwork for use in promotional items. After selection of several pieces of artwork with a theme of “No Hate, Just Love,” the FHCCI staff created a yard sign, a two-sided poster (translated into 18 languages), publications, t-shirts, caps, bookmarks, and a bumper sticker, all with the intent for people to show that all were welcome. We recruited 90+ organization, business, and religious groups from across the state as Alliance members. We also partnered on six training and outreach projects to combat hate.

Activities through August 2017 were primarily funded through a grant from the Open Society Foundations. When the grant ended, we continued to conduct activities at the FHCCI’s expense to keep the Alliance’s needed work moving forward while we sought new funding.
The Inaugural Indiana Response to Hate Conference was held on August 17, 2017 in Indianapolis. The keynote speaker was Judy Shepard, Anti-Hate Crimes Activist and Mother of Matthew Shepard. Other speakers included: Miriam Zeidman of the Anti-Defamation League; Jeannine Bell, Author and Richard S. Melvin Professor of Law at Indiana University; Lydia X. Z. Brown, Disability Rights Advocate; Hilary Shelton of the NAACP-Washington DC Bureau; Pardeep Kaleka of Serve 2 Unite; and several local advocates working to combat hate.

"The timing of this event was on point with what happened in Virginia last weekend, such an eye opener. The stories told by the speakers are awesome and gave us an inside glimpse of the pain that’s inflicted by hate." - Attendee

"This conference exceeded my expectations BY FAR. I am proud to have taken part in it and I cannot wait to attend next year.” - Attendee

"Really wonderful moving and well organized event. I can only hope that this is a continuing conference that will also evolve into frequent meetings.” - Attendee

New database to track hate based-incidents and crimes

By Abraham Hurt
TheGoshenNews.com
INDIANAPOLIS — A project has been launched to create a database to track hate crimes and hate-based incidents across Indiana.

The Central Indiana Alliance Against Hate announced the new Tracking Hate Database on Thursday morning at the inaugural Indiana Response to Hate Conference.

The event, attended by around 200 people, focused on confronting and addressing hate crimes and incidents that occur nationally and locally. Speakers ranged from Jeannine Bell, an author and law professor at Indiana University, to Judy Shepard, the mother of Matthew Shepard, a gay man murdered in Wyoming in 1998 because of his sexual orientation.

Though the event had been planned for months, the violence in Charlottesville, Virginia last weekend brought urgency to the gathering at the Indianapolis Marriott East.

“This is unacceptable that we came so far in the Obama administration to now be tethered back even further than Bush, which I thought I would never say, and will be in the company of the 50’s with Jim Crow,” Shepard said of Charlottesville and its aftermath.

In Indiana, the new database will allow people to report hate-based incidents, such as racist or
The FHCCI continued its work from previous years on specific public policy areas: housing policies impacting housing equality; and advancement of a state hate crime law.

**HOUSING POLICIES:** The FHCCI followed and monitored several bills during the 2017 session which targeted legislation related to vacant and abandoned housing, foreclosures, predatory lending, and impacting affordable housing initiatives and opportunities. However, most of our attention on housing related policies was focused on SB 558.

SB 558 raised two major concerns for the FHCCI related to fair housing: (1) overly restrictive occupancy standards impacting families with children, and (2) an inclusionary zoning ban limiting the options of municipalities in advancing affordable housing opportunities.

To address the concerns, the FHCCI met with legislators to voice areas of fair housing importance. We also assisted in the recruitment of people to testify at committee hearings, provided action alerts, issued press releases and fact sheets to expand knowledge of problem areas, provided testimony, and responded to questions and inquiries.

SB 558 passed the Senate Civil Law Committee and the Senate floor but included amendments which better addressed the FHCCI’s concerns related to restrictive occupancy. However, the bill that went to the House side of the General Assembly still contained harmful language impacting inclusionary zoning policies. Unfortunately, despite a lengthy hearing before the House Judiciary Committee with over a dozen persons testifying against the bill, the legislation passed out of Committee without sufficient amendments and then passed the House floor. The FHCCI further coordinated an effort to encourage the Governor to veto the bill.

To our disappointment, on the last day the bill could be signed by the Governor, it was signed putting it into effect immediately due to an emergency clause.

The changes to the bill’s original language and the applicability of federal guidance in this area, meant that there should be no impact upon families with children as it relates to the bill’s original occupancy standard restrictions. However, the passage of the legislation still including a ban on inclusionary zoning is likely to negatively impact Indiana cities in need of affordable housing for years to come.

The FHCCI wants to thank everyone who worked in partner-
ship with us in testifying and raising attention to the harmful impacts of this legislation.

HATE CRIME LAW: 2017 General Assembly - SB 439:
At the start of the 2017 General Assembly, Indiana was one of only five states without a comprehensive hate crime law. Six total bills were introduced during the session regarding a hate crime law. Of those bills, only SB 439, a bill authored by Senators Susan Glick and John Ruckelshaus, 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 out of Committee in bipartisan support. Unfortunately, SB 439 progressed no further when it was not taken to the Senate floor for a vote.

The FHCCI, with several other support-

ers, held a press conference following SB 439’s defeat. Throughout 2017, the FHCCI received reports of increasing numbers of hate crimes and hate-related incidents. As discussed on Page 13 of this report, the FHCCI sought funding to launch the Central Indiana Alliance Against Hate in response. One of the identified community needs of the Alliance was to work on passage of a hate crime law.

Ahead of the 2018 General Assembly, the FHCCI, through the work of the Alliance, created a fact sheet to dispel inaccuracies and mistruths regarding why a state hate crime law was needed. We worked through social
Public Policy

media, recruited Alliance members, and launched a database for reporting hate. Then, the horrific events of Charlottesville, Virginia occurred and the national spotlight focused on the increasing numbers of hate crimes occurring across our country. During the Inaugural Indiana Response to Hate Conference scheduled in the week following Charlottesville, we provided speakers to bring attention to the need of a hate crime law (as well as addressed other topics). We were also invited to speak on WFYI’s No Limits, INFocus, WTLC’s Unity in the Community, among others, and were interviewed as part of numerous press stories on this topic. In November 2017 during the General Assembly’s Organization Day, the Alliance coordinated a press conference to raise even more attention to the need of a hate crime law.

Looking ahead to the 2018 General Assembly, there was still a difficult road ahead for passage of a hate crime law; however, through the work of the Alliance, we felt we had significant advances in raising awareness as to why it was so important that Indiana not remain one of only five states without a comprehensive hate crime law.

The Alliance coordinated a press conference in November 2017 during the General Assembly’s Organization Day.
The FHCCI could not succeed without the generous support of private individuals, foundations, government grants, and the public and private organizations that collaborate with us. We thank those who gave their time, support, donations, and/or resources to advance the FHCCI’s mission in 2017:

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AARP Indiana
accessABILITY, Center for Independent Living
ACLU of Indiana
Affordable Housing Association of Indiana
American Planners Association - Indiana Chapter
Anti-Defamation League
Aspire Indiana
Back Home in Indiana Alliance
Bernard J. Kleina
Beverly Thornburg
Big Car Media, Inc.
Calvin Fletcher’s Coffee Company
Caroline Richardson
Central Indiana Realist Association
Children’s Bureau, Inc.
Circle City IN Pride Festival
Coalition for Homelessness Intervention & Prevention (CHIP)
Coburn Place Safe Haven
Columbus Human Rights Commission
Community Action of Greater Indianapolis
Community Alliance of the Far Eastside (CAFE)
Concerned Clergy of Indianapolis
Connecticut Fair Housing Center
CSH
Diane Cetrino
Equity Institute on Race, Culture & Transformative Action (IUPUI)
Erin Macey
Fair Housing Center of West Michigan
Family Voices Indiana
Fifth Third Bank
GIPC Race & Cultural Relations Leadership Network
Greater Indianapolis NAACP Branch #3053
Grounded Solutions Network
Good Samaritan Network of Hamilton County
Hamilton County Area Neighborhood Development (HAND)
Health & Hospital Corporation of Marion County
Home & Finance Show 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 (ICHS)
Indiana Consortium of State and Local Human Rights Agencies
Indiana Governor’s Council for People with Disabilities
Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority
Indiana Institute for Working Families
Indiana Latino Expo
Indiana Latino Health Organization
Indiana Latino Institute
Indiana Latino Roundtable
Indiana Legal Services
Indiana Statewide Independent Living Council (INSILC)
Indianapolis University - Robert H. McKinney School of Law
Indiana University School of Social Work
Indianapolis Department of Business & Neighborhood Services
Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council
Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD)
Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership (INHP)
Indiana Public Library
IndyEast Promise Zone
Ise Lyfe
Janine Betsy
John Boner Neighborhood Centers
KEY Consumer Organization
Kroger Community Rewards
La Plaza Inc.
Linda Wurtz
Liz Keegan
Marion County Health Department
Marion County Prosecutor’s Office
Martin Luther King Multi-Service Center
Mexican Consulate
Miami Valley Fair Housing Center
MIBOR Realtor Association
Miami Valley Fair Housing Center
MIBOR Realtor Association
MICR Realtor Association
M엶

Special Thank You:

Central Indiana Alliance Against Hate Member Organizations: A big thank you to the 90+ organizations who are members of the Alliance
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!)
## 2017 Financials

### Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

**Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2017**

**REVENUES AND SUPPORT:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and Grants</td>
<td>$633,857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td>$10,648</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>$49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>$62,216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE</strong></td>
<td><strong>$706,770</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EXPENSES:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants Paid</td>
<td>$18,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries, Compensation, Benefits</td>
<td>$320,988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Program Expenses</td>
<td>$333,039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$672,027</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REVENUE LESS EXPENSES:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>$34,743</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL ASSETS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>$39,197</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL LIABILITIES:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>$924</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NET ASSETS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>$38,273</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

▲ Members of the FHCCI Board of Directors and Staff at our 2017 Annual Fair Housing Conference.
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.