



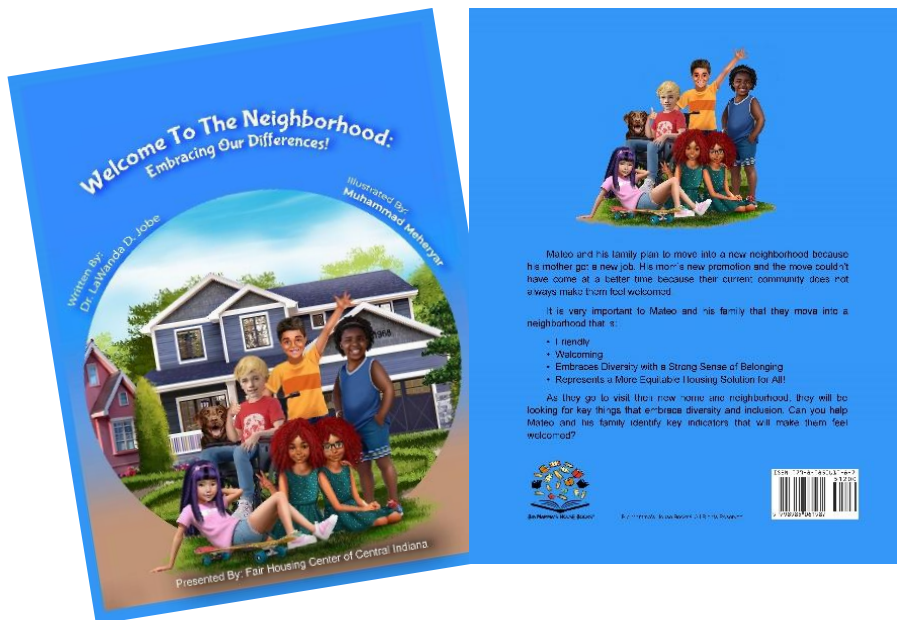
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FHCCI RELEASES CHILDREN’S BOOK WITH THEMES OF EMBRACING DIVERSITY AND THE IMPORTANCE OF INCLUSION IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – Today, the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) releases a new children’s book, [Welcome To The Neighborhood: Embracing Our Differences!](#) Written by Dr. LaWanda Jobe, an Indianapolis-based author with [Big Mama’s House Books](#), and illustrated by Muhammad Meheryar, it represents a partnership with the FHCCI.

With themes of inclusion, belonging, and embracing differences, this story centers around a biracial boy and his journey of moving from a familiar home into a new neighborhood. The story explores his feelings of uncertainty about the change, his parents’ hopes for a more inclusive and child-friendly neighborhood, and his new neighbor’s efforts to make his family feel welcomed. The book is designed for a child’s reading level of ages 8-10 but can be enjoyed by children (and adults) of any age.



As described on the book jacket:

“Mateo and his family plan to move into a new neighborhood because his mother got a new job. His mom’s new promotion and the move couldn’t have come at a better time because their current community does not always make them feel welcomed.

It is very important to Mateo and his family that they move into a neighborhood that is:

- *Friendly*
- *Welcoming*
- *Embraces Diversity with a Strong Sense of Belonging*
- *Represents a More Equitable Housing Solution for All!*

As they go to visit their new home and neighborhood, they will be looking for key things that embrace diversity and inclusion. Can you help Mateo and his family identify key indicators that will make them feel welcomed?"

"The importance of home and belonging is such a powerful part of our lives," explained Amy Nelson, Executive Director of the FHCCI. "This book is an extension of the FHCCI's mission to facilitate open housing for all and will reach families exploring the value of home and neighborhood with their children."

The FHCCI envisions the book being an important educational tool to reach the next generation of Hoosiers at a young age, to teach them about the importance of inclusion, and celebrating the things that make each of us unique.

Welcome To The Neighborhood is available in both English and Spanish. You can order a copy from the [FHCCI's Shop Page](#). There is a suggested donation of \$12 per softcover book to support the FHCCI's mission of facilitating open housing for all. Those unable to make a donation but who reside in Indiana may receive a book free-of-charge while quantities last.

If you are interested in larger quantities for your library, school, or other organization, please reach out to Erika Fotsch at efotsch@fhcci.org to inquire.



The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) is a private, nonprofit fair housing organization based in Indianapolis, Indiana. Its mission is to facilitate open housing for all people by ensuring the availability of affordable and accessible housing; promoting housing choice and homeownership; advocating for an inclusive housing market; working toward stable and equitable communities; and eradicating discrimination within Central Indiana, the State of Indiana, and nationally. For more information, visit: www.fhcci.org

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