



# MIAMI VALLEY FAIR HOUSING CENTER NEWSLETTER

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JIM MCCARTHY, PRESIDENT/CEO

## 7th Annual Waikiki Party Fundraiser Declared a Success!



On Saturday, August 20th, the Great Hall of Sinclair Community College was turned into an tropical paradise. MVFHC's annual Waikiki Party was attended by over 200 festively dressed party-goers who enjoyed an evening of Hawaiian food, live music, fun and prizes.

The event is held in August each year and is the main fund raising event for the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center.

A very special "Mahalo" (thank you) for the generous corporate sponsors and raffle prize donors who help to make the evening such a success.

Hope you see you at next years Waikiki Party!

*See more photos on page 4...*

## Miami Valley Fair Housing Center Submits 6 Grant Applications to HUD

On July 26, 2011, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released its Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP), which is the only federal funding program available to private non-profit fair housing organizations like MVFHC. Typically, the federal government provides 6-8 weeks in which to respond to such solicitations. However responses for this NOFA were due in just 33 days on August 29, 2011.

Despite this short turnaround time and a very busy schedule with other activities, a team of the Fair Housing Center staff, including Anita Schmaltz, Sara Weber, John Zimmerman, David Lauri, and Jim McCarthy, together with MVFHC intern Katrina Kittle set to work and successfully completed six (6) grant applications, requesting \$2,161,702.00 over a three year period. MVFHC applied for grants in several different components, including the Education and Outreach Initiative, the Private Enforcement Initiative, and the Fair Housing Organization Initiative.

On August 29<sup>th</sup>, HUD extended the deadline for submission to September 1, 2011 due to the weather condi-

tions created by Hurricane Irene. Funding announcements from HUD are expected by the end of October 2011.

In addition to the grants that MVFHC applied for directly to HUD, MVFHC also committed to partnering with East End Community Services on a grant application that East End submitted to HUD to help ensure access to HUD programs, services, and activities by limited English proficient (LEP) individuals. If funded, MVFHC will collaborate with East End Community Services to conduct educational sessions to individuals with Limited English Proficiency, particularly those who speak Spanish or Arabic as a first language.

MVFHC will have its various fair housing outreach materials translated and printed into appropriate languages. MVFHC will distribute fair housing brochures that clearly explain the rights and responsibilities afforded to residents under the federal Fair Housing Act, as well as state and local fair housing laws.

MVFHC's educational sessions will focus on educating consumers about fair housing, financial literacy, credit management, and how to avoid high cost loans and abusive lending practices that violate the Fair Housing Act.

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## Department Launches OLMSTEAD Section on ADA Website

On June 22, 2011, the 12th anniversary of the 1999 landmark Supreme Court decision *Olmstead v. L.C.*, the Department (of Justice) launched a new section of its ADA website, [www.ada.gov/olmstead](http://www.ada.gov/olmstead), providing information and resources about the Olmstead decision and its enforcement. In *Olmstead*, which addressed the rights of people with disabilities living in institutions, the Supreme Court held that public entities are required to provide community-based services for individuals with disabilities when such services are appropriate for an individual's needs, the individual does not oppose community-based services, and community-based services can be reasonably accommodated, taking into account the resources available to the entity and the needs of other people with disabilities.

The Olmstead web section contains a new technical assistance document describing public entities' obligations and individuals' rights under the ADA's integration mandate and explains a variety of ADA enforcement is-

ssues related to Olmstead. The section also contains links to briefs filed by the Department in Olmstead cases as well as other materials relevant to this important area of civil rights law, providing critical information to individuals with disabilities, advocates, attorneys, and state and local officials responsible for complying with the ADA.

"The Olmstead decision recognized the rights of individuals with disabilities to live the lives they choose, but its promise has not yet been fully realized. Far too many people remain segregated in institutions when they would rather be thriving in their communities," said Assistant Attorney General Thomas E. Perez. "The Justice Department is committed to making the promise a reality, and will continue to aggressively enforce Olmstead."

In June 2009, President Obama launched "The Year of Community Living," directing agencies to vigorously enforce Olmstead and the rights of individuals with disabilities. Since that time, the Department has joined or initiated Olmstead litigation in more than 25 cases in 17 states.

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## MVFHC Files Suit Against Local Landlord for Discriminatory Policies and Retaliatory Terminations



The Miami Valley Fair Housing Center (MVFHC) and two former property managers have filed a federal lawsuit alleging that local property owner and landlord A. Ray Brown engaged in a pattern and practice of discrimination against African Americans, Latinos, and families with children in violation of Fair Housing Act.

The lawsuit alleges that Brown and his management company sought to limit the number of minorities in their buildings, instructed leasing managers to reject qualified minorities who applied for apartments, ordered managers to provide false reasons for denials of rental applications to conceal his discriminatory motives, and otherwise expected or forced managers to participate in unlawful discriminatory behavior.

Two rental managers formerly employed by the defendants have joined MVFHC as plaintiffs. They both allege they were terminated by the defendants after they challenged their employers' discriminatory practices and refused to participate in them.

The suit alleges that Brown and the other defendants acted intentionally and willfully, thus warranting punitive damages.

"Housing discrimination in any form is unacceptable," said Jim McCarthy, MVFHC's President and CEO. "This type of behavior not only subjects people of color to the indignities of discrimination, but it also degrades our community."

"We are passionate about our mission of eliminating

housing discrimination and ensuring equal housing opportunity for all people in our region," McCarthy continued. "Whenever we learn of this type of behavior, we will take action to address it."

The suit asks the Court to declare that the defendants have violated the federal Fair Housing Act; seeks a permanent injunction prohibiting the defendants from discrimination in the future; and seeks compensatory and punitive damages for MVFHC and the former employees, plus all attorney fees, costs and expenses.

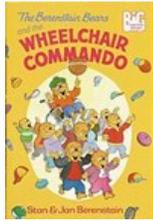
In addition to the fair housing violations, the lawsuit claims that defendant A. Ray Brown Family Investment LP is in breach of a conciliation agreement entered into with MVFHC in 2009 to settle a different housing discrimination claim.

In the Dayton area, A. Ray Brown owns Jewelstone Terrace, an apartment complex with 258 units, in Dayton and the Highland Park Apartments, a complex with 140 units, in Kettering. In greater Cincinnati, A. Ray Brown owns the Riverchase Apartments (203 units) in Newport, Kentucky, and Harborview Apartments (84 units) in Ad-dyston, Ohio.

MVFHC and the other plaintiffs are being represented by Stephen M. Dane of Relman, Dane & Colfax, a law firm specializing in representing plaintiffs in fair housing litigation, and by Saba Bireda, an attorney based in Washington, DC.

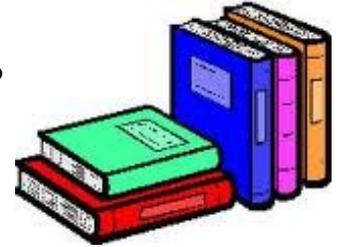
## The Book Corner

Each newsletter we will offer suggestions for relevant books or movies. This issue will focus on children's books addressing issues with disabilities.



### The Berenstain Bears and the Wheelchair Commando by Stan and Jan Berenstain

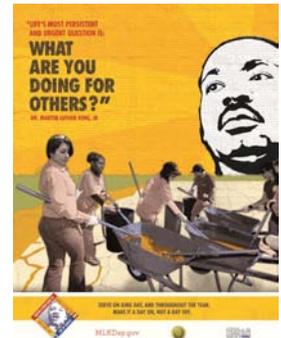
Too-Tall makes fun of Harry because Harry uses a wheelchair. But Harry can handle it. Harry challenges Too-Tall to a basketball game. Will Harry be able to show Too-Tall what he can do? Read along to find out how the game goes and to see who wins.



For more children's titles visit [Kids Corner Book Nook](#)

## Miami Valley Fair Housing Center and HomeOwnership Center of Greater Dayton to participate in [Martin Luther King Day of Service](#)

The MLK Day of Service is a call for Americans from all walks of life to work together to provide solutions to our most pressing national problems. In response, on Saturday morning, October 1st, board members and staff of the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center, along with staff from the HomeOwnership Center of Greater Dayton will be going door-to-door in the Broadmoor neighborhood of Trotwood distributing information on avoiding loan modifications scams. RTA of Dayton will be providing transportation via the "Wright Flyer."



## Mark your calendars for these UPCOMING EVENTS!



September 1 thru 5

[Montgomery County Fair](#)

September 9, 10 & 11

[Greek Festival](#) at Greek Orthodox Church

September 10

[Hispanic Festival](#) at Riverscape

September 24 and 25

[Oktoberfest](#) at the Dayton Art Institute

October 1

Martin Luther King Day of Service

### MVFHC Mission Statement

The mission of the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center (MVFHC) is to eliminate housing discrimination and ensure equal housing opportunity for all people in our region.

Specifically, the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center seeks to eliminate housing discrimination against all persons because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, familial status, or any other characteristic protected under state or local laws. In furthering this goal, MVFHC engages in activities designed to encourage fair housing practices through educational efforts; assists person who believe they have been victims of housing discrimination; identifies barriers to fair housing in order to help counteract and eliminate discriminatory housing practices; works with elected and government representatives to protect and improve fair housing laws; and takes all appropriate and necessary action to ensure that fair housing laws are properly and fairly enforced throughout the Miami Valley.

### MVFHC Vision Statement

The Miami Valley Fair Housing Center recognizes the importance of "home" as a component of the American dream. We envision 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.

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More photos from the 7th Annual Waikiki Party Fundraiser

