



FRIENDS OF FAIR HOUSING

Vol. 9 Issue 2 • Spring 2008



Quarterly Newsletter for the Friends of Fair Housing

2008 Marks 40 Years of Federal Fair Housing Act, Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. *Toledo Fair Housing Center Commemorates with Awards Luncheon*

The year 2008 is a milestone in many ways. It marks the 40th anniversary of the passage of the Federal Fair Housing Act, which was signed into law on April 11, 1968, by President Lyndon Johnson, just one week after the tragic assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Civil Rights Act of 1968 was meant as a follow-up to the Civil Rights Act of 1964. While the Civil Rights Act of 1866 prohibited discrimination in housing, there were no federal enforcement provisions. The 1968 act expanded on previous acts and prohibited discrimination concerning the sale, rental, and financing of housing based on race, religion, national origin, sex, (and as amended in 1988) handicap and family status. It also provided protection for civil rights workers. Title VIII of the Act is also known as the Fair Housing Act (of 1968).

April is Fair Housing Month, and in recognition of these important historical events, the Toledo Fair Housing Center presented a Fair Housing Month Luncheon on April 16, 2008 at noon at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Toledo. At the ceremony, the Spirit of Fair Housing Awards were presented.

The Access Award was presented to the Ability Center of Greater Toledo's Advocacy Department. This recognized its pioneering efforts to assist tenants with disabilities to secure and sustain affordable and accessible housing opportunities.

The Reverend Chester Chambers received the Public Policy and Political/Government Action Award for his efforts to establish the Greater Toledo Housing Coalition to address systemic housing issues. In doing so, he brought together individuals from the Toledo

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From Left: Lisa Rice, VP of the National Fair Housing Alliance and recipient of the Shanna L. Smith Spirit of Fair Housing Award, Willie Edwards, Nellie Edwards, retired FHC Chief Investigator and recipient of the Enforcement/Litigation Award, Katherine Lawson Broka, FHC President & CEO, Keith Foster, FHC Director of Enforcement and Compliance, and Illinois Artist Bernard J. Kleina.

432 N. Superior St.
Toledo, OH
43604-1416
419/243-6163
Fax: 419/243-3536
TDD: 419/243-2135
(800) 248-2840
(419 area only)
www.toledofhc.org



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Postmaster: Send address changes to:
Fair Housing Center
432 N. Superior St.
Toledo, OH 43604-1416
Phone: 419/243-6163
Fax: 419/243-3536
(800) 248-2840 (419 area only)
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2008 Marks 40 Years

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Fair Housing Center, Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, religious organizations, neighborhood groups, Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments, and university researchers to advocate expanding housing options for all community members.

Retired Toledo Fair Housing Center Chief Investigator Nellie Edwards was presented with the Enforcement/Litigation Award for her 27 years of service to protect and expand equal housing opportunities.

Former Toledo Fair Housing Center President & CEO Lisa Rice received the Shanna L. Smith Spirit of Fair Housing Award. Named for the Toledo Fair Housing Center's first Executive Director, the honor is presented to an exceptional individual who has made major strides in equal housing opportunities. Ms. Rice currently serves as Vice President of the National Fair Housing Alliance in Washington, DC.

"The Board of Directors and staff are thrilled to present the Spirit of Fair Housing Awards to three extremely deserving individuals as well as one exceptional non-profit organization. All of the recipients have a long history of working to affirmatively further fair housing. The Center would not be a leader in the civil rights movement were it not for partners like the ones we are honoring today," said Katherine Lawson Broka, President and CEO of the Toledo Fair Housing Center.

Additionally, Illinois artist Bernard J. Kleina displayed his stirring photo exhibition of the Chicago Freedom Movement. The exhibition, which has been on display across the country, features Mr. Kleina's colorful photos that document the 1965-66 Freedom Movement's peaceful demonstrations' call for open housing. The exhibit celebrates the efforts of Dr. King and other civil rights leaders and will also be on view at the Toledo Museum of Art from April 25-June 22, 2008 under the title, *A Place to Call Home: Martin Luther King and the Struggle for Fair Housing*.

"We are pleased to partner with Mr. Kleina to bring his moving photos to our luncheon and also to the general public through the free exhibition at the Toledo Museum of Art," stated Michael P. Marsh, Vice President of Development and Public Relations for the Toledo Fair Housing Center.

Special Thanks to Our April Luncheon Sponsors

MAJOR SUPPORTER \$5,000
Westfield Insurance

UNDERWRITER \$2,500
Charter One Bank
Nationwide Insurance (\$3000)

BENEFACTOR \$1,500
Huntington Bank
Toledo Board of REALTORS®

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Owens Corning Foundation

SPONSOR \$500
Advocates for Basic Legal Equality/
Legal Aid of Western Ohio
Associated General Contractors of Northwest Ohio

Beth Wilson of Cooper & Walinski
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Fifth Third Bank

Key Bank
Meijer
National City Bank
National Fair Housing Alliance

Northern Ohio Investment Company
ReMax Preferred Associates
Signature Bank
William Vaughn Company

FRIENDS \$250
Blade Foundation
Knight Crockett Miller
C. Thomas McCarter

FHC April Luncheon Photos



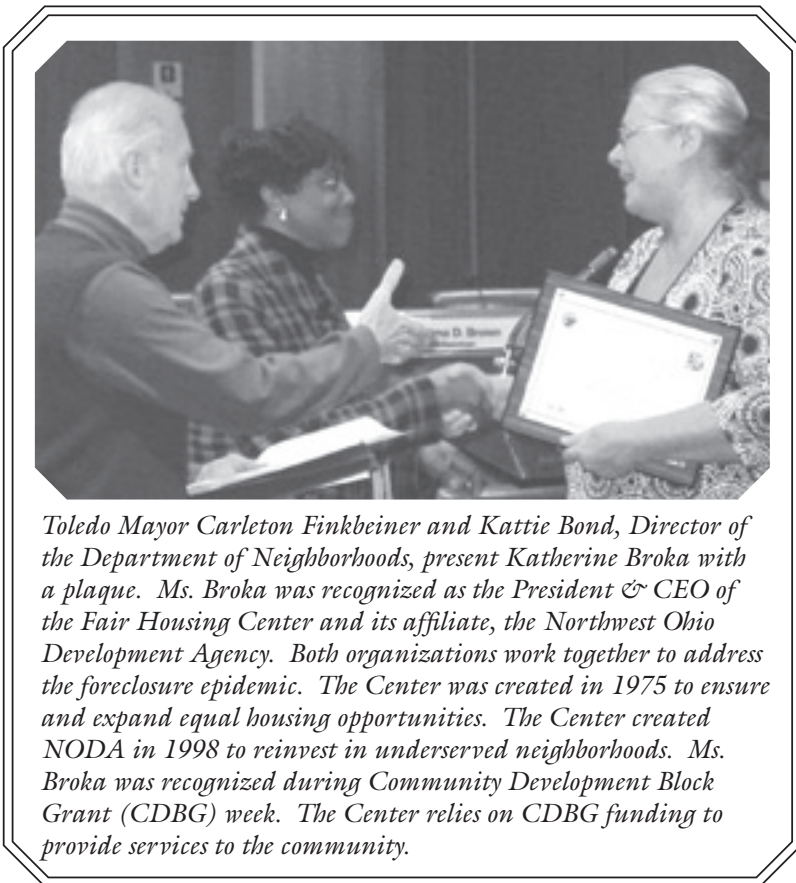
John and Jocelyn Blaufuss, son-in-law and daughter of the Rev. Chester Chambers accept the Public Policy and Political/Government Action Award on his behalf.



From Left to Right: Charles Hawk, Community Relations Manager with Westfield Insurance, John Batchelder, Assistant Corporate Secretary and Legal Compliance Manager with Westfield Insurance, Luann Canham Kornowa, formerly with Knight Crockett Miller Insurance, Katherine Lawson Broka, President & CEO of the Toledo Fair Housing Center, Terrence M. Rhodes, Midwest Personal Lines Executive with Westfield Insurance, Michael P. Marsh, Vice President of Development and Public Relations for the Toledo Fair Housing Center, Christopher P. Neeson, Sales Manager - Personal Lines/Small Business with Westfield Insurance, and Gretchen Long, Manager of Grants and Programs for Westfield Insurance. Westfield Insurance was the Major Supporter for the luncheon, donating \$5,000.



Pamela S. Pullella, Toledo Fair Housing Center Board President and Chair, with Tim Harrington, Executive Director of the Ability Center of Greater Toledo. The Ability Center of Greater Toledo received the Access Award.



Toledo Mayor Carleton Finkbeiner and Kattie Bond, Director of the Department of Neighborhoods, present Katherine Broka with a plaque. Ms. Broka was recognized as the President & CEO of the Fair Housing Center and its affiliate, the Northwest Ohio Development Agency. Both organizations work together to address the foreclosure epidemic. The Center was created in 1975 to ensure and expand equal housing opportunities. The Center created NODA in 1998 to reinvest in underserved neighborhoods. Ms. Broka was recognized during Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) week. The Center relies on CDBG funding to provide services to the community.



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Toledo, OH 43604-1416

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A MESSAGE FROM THE Ability CENTER of GREATER Toledo: Make the Disability Vote Count

The one good thing about the number of people in Ohio who have disabilities is that numbers equal power. The disability community is large enough to affect how elections come out, if everyone gets involved. But many people with disabilities don't even vote. To make politicians pay attention to our rights, and to the services and programs we need, we have to show them that we care enough to vote and to get involved.

The Ability Center of Greater Toledo, as part of a larger state effort, is registering people to vote and offering opportunities to learn about the candidates and the issues. People with disabilities will even have the opportunity to ask the Presidential candidates questions directly at a forum in Columbus this summer.

If you need help getting registered; want to attend the forum; want information about candidates or issues; or even want to help get other people involved, please get in touch with Jessica Weinberg at the Ability Center by phone at 419-885-5733, by mail at 5605 Monroe

Street, Sylvania, OH 43560, or by email at jweinberg@abilitycenter.org

Restoring the Dream **PREDATORY LENDING REMEDIATION PROGRAM UPDATE**

- 49 Loans remediated through March 31, 2008
- 26 Loan modifications with current lenders
- 23 Loans refinanced with local lending partners and/or Northwest Ohio Development Agency (NODA)
- Over \$2.66 million in monetary benefits to consumers (average = \$54,326)
- Average reduction in monthly payment = \$234.87

FOFH NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to Our New Friends

Cheryl Tyler-Folsom - Student \$25

Linda Koss - Individual \$45