



The Fair Housing Center is thrilled to announce the launch of our second annual "Run Discrimination Out of Town" walkathon/runathon. This event is not just a run but a significant step towards creating inclusive communities that enhance opportunities for all. We invite individuals to join us at this event, where your participation will be a powerful tool in our fight against discrimination and in promoting social justice.

The event will take place on September 28, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Side Cut Metropark. Registration is only \$20 per participant and is now live! We encourage you to secure your spot as soon as possible. Each person who registers will receive an event water bottle (while supplies last).

[Register Here](#)

Analysis of Impediments Survey

Every five years, The Fair Housing Center conducts critical research to uncover barriers to fair housing choice in our community. This research informs an Action Plan that demands progress to eliminate the barriers identified in our area. Previously identified barriers included child lead poisoning, source of income

discrimination, and access to water services for tenants. Identification of these barriers led to action to address these problems.

Why Your Participation Matters

The study aims at obtaining Toledo residents' views about their housing experiences. Your contributions and feedback will provide The Fair Housing Center and the City of Toledo with valuable insight which will inform future policies to guarantee all people in Toledo get equal chances for safe and affordable housing. By taking this survey, residents will:

- **Shape Future Housing Policies:** Your feedback will directly influence the development of policies and to remove barriers to fair housing.
- **Promote Equity and Inclusion:** Sharing your experiences helps highlight the real challenges residents face, fostering a more inclusive approach to housing.
- **Improve Your Community:** Your input helps make housing better for everyone in your neighborhood.
- **Win Money:** One individual who completes the survey will receive a \$50 Visa gift card.

The Fair Housing Center urges all Toledo residents to take a few minutes to complete the survey. Your voice is critical in helping create a community where everyone can live in a home that is safe, accessible, and free from discrimination.

[Click Here to Take the Survey](#)





Cat Colony Conundrum

Our client, who has a physical disability affecting their ability to breathe, moved into a new home with their spouse. Shortly after moving in, they discovered a group of feral cats living in the basement. Concerned about their health, the couple notified their landlord, who sealed off the basement but neglected to clean up the mess left by the cats. Despite numerous calls to the landlord requesting the basement and any other areas the cats had accessed be thoroughly cleaned, no action was taken. As time passed, the client discovered fresh cat excrement in the basement, further endangering their health.

The client's journey with The Fair Housing Center is a testament to the power of fair housing advocacy. They came to us seeking a reasonable accommodation, and we were able to make a significant difference for them. After gathering documentation and engaging with the landlord, our fair housing specialist successfully resolved the case. The client's reasonable modification request was granted, ensuring their home was safe and accessible for their condition. This success story is just one of many that inspire us to continue our work and invite you to join us in our mission.



Disrepair Nightmare

Our client, who has physical disabilities, had viewed a home they were interested in renting and noticed several issues with the property, such as an overgrown yard,

dirty interior, missing floor vents, and broken appliances in the basement. They pointed these concerns out to the landlord, who reassured them everything would be fixed before they moved into the property. Trusting the landlord, they went ahead and signed the lease.

However, when they received their keys and went to the house, they found the landlord had not made a single repair they had promised to make. Our client quickly called the landlord, who informed them that maintenance could come out and fix the persisting problems, but the client would have to cover the costs because they had already signed the lease.

Given the nature of their disabilities, our client knew they could not handle all of the maintenance by themselves. They felt it was unfair the landlord was trying to charge them for repairs that were promised to be done before they moved in. Despite these challenges, the client showed great courage and brought the evidence they had to our team at The Fair Housing Center. They worked with our fair housing specialist to submit a reasonable accommodation to be released from their lease without penalty. Their determination and our specialist's hard work paid off; their request was approved, and the client was able to find suitable housing that was not in disrepair. This story is a powerful reminder that seeking help and standing up for your rights can lead to positive change.

To learn more about how individuals with disabilities can advocate for their housing rights, please click the button below.

[**Disability Rights Brochure**](#)

In Case You Missed It

The Fair Housing Center was recently featured on WTOL's nightly news. We discussed the process of tenants putting their rent into escrow. Rent escrow is the process of depositing your rent with the courts instead of your landlord to compel them to make needed repairs. To view the whole story please click below.

[**Rent Escrow Educational Video**](#)



Pictured above from left to right: Vincent B Curry, Executive Director of Fair Housing Advocates Association; Elizabeth Risch, Executive Director of HOME Cincinnati; George Thomas CEO and General Counsel The Fair Housing Center

NFHA: Housing Equity Now

Some of our team had the opportunity to travel to Washington, DC, to attend the National Fair Housing Alliance's (NFHA): Housing Equity Now conference. Our team was excited to share that they found the conference eye-opening and motivating. They gained insights from fair housing organizations nationwide, which focused on outreach and enforcement efforts.



H.U.D. Financial and Grants Management Training Seminar

Earlier this month, we sent some of our team to H.U.D.'s Financial Management Seminar, where they focused on grant management approaches and financial management training. The seminar aimed to standardize and enhance the management practices of Fair Housing Initiative

Program (FHIP) agencies, which helps ensure robust financial management and grant governance.



Are You Ready to Be Ambassador for Justice?

Are you ready to be an Ambassador for Justice? Testing is an investigative tool using trained individuals to gather credible information about housing practices. Like mystery shoppers, testers pose as renters or buyers of real estate to determine whether unlawful housing discrimination is occurring. This work is vital to ensure equal housing opportunities in our community. The valuable experience of being a tester allows you to give back to the community and serve in the fight for justice.

The Fair Housing Center is currently recruiting testers. We are looking for diverse individuals of all backgrounds. For more information or to sign up, contact The Fair Housing Center, at 419-243-6163 or visit the link below.

[Ambassador for Justice Program](#)

[For more information visit our website](#)



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