



Celebrating Fair Housing Month

Fair Housing Month—nationally recognized in April—is a time to renew and strengthen the commitment made through the Fair Housing Act to promote equality, diversity, and inclusion in housing. In this past month, we reflected on the progress made and the work ahead to ensure that everyone can access safe, decent, and affordable housing free from discrimination.

Here is a recap of just a few of The Fair Housing Center's events and activities in April.

Strike Out Discrimination

The Student Bar Association at The University of Toledo held its third annual Strike Out Discrimination bowling fundraiser that benefitted The Fair Housing Center. We want to thank the SBA for their continued support!



419 Lead Out

April is Healthy Homes Month. The Fair Housing Center, working with the Junction Coalition, presented at the 419 Lead Out event on April 6. The Fair Housing Center has identified lead poisoning as a significant barrier to fair housing choice in the Toledo area.



Northwest Ohio Realtors Fair Housing Month Kick-Off Breakfast!

We celebrated Fair Housing Month with a breakfast event held by the Northwest Ohio Realtors (NOR), which featured a keynote address from Candice Harrison, Corporate Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for SSOE



Ode to the ZIP Code

This year's contest had over 200 submissions, and we were blown away by the creativity and passion demonstrated by all participants. At our in-person event, we had over 25 finalists come out and share their odes with a captivated audience, from heartfelt tributes to their neighborhoods to odes highlighting the struggles that so many of our communities still face. The event showcased what makes our neighborhoods unique, and the finalists' work truly captured what it means to be a part of a community.

We look forward to seeing all the wonderful submissions again next year.

Here are this year's top Ode's from each age category:

1st Place Youth

LINCOLN MOCKENSTURM

4 Classmates can be annoying,
3 With chatting issues,
5 With blaming other innocent
classmates,
3 With angered classmates
7 And with lots of not necessary
arguments.

1st Place Young Adult

JORDIN HARRIS

4 We planted ourselves here,
3 deep under cement
6 and pollution, and learned to grow.
0 (Though we were set up to fail)
7 We grew between the cracks and
flourished.



1st Place Adult

JUSTIN LONGACRE

4 The sidewalk on Grantwood
3 gently curves around
6 the trunk of an old tree.
1 |
3 too must bend.



Homes and Dreams

What an incredible night at our Homes and Dreams Fundraiser! We are so thankful to every person who came out to support our mission, and our awardees, Rob Pasker, Suzette Cowell, Nick Komives, and Noah Woods, for their efforts and commitment to advancing the fair housing movement! We also want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our sponsors, volunteers, and staff who made this event possible.

Together, we're striving to ensure everyone has access to safe and fair housing. Let's continue to build brighter futures and make dreams of home a reality for all.



**Justice
for the
People**





Bed Bug Blame Game

The client found themselves in a distressing predicament when faced with a nearly \$1000 bill to eradicate bed bugs infesting her apartment. Despite other units in the building harboring similar infestations, management squarely pointed the finger at the client as the culprit. However, Ohio law mandates that landlords maintain pest-free premises unless they can demonstrate tenant responsibility. Feeling unjustly targeted, the client came to The Fair Housing Center to seek help from our Housing Conditions Attorney.

The client navigated the rent escrow process with our attorney's guidance, successfully avoiding the hefty extermination fee. Had it not been for this intervention, the client might have faced eviction and the loss of her housing choice voucher. Fortunately, the attorney's advocacy didn't stop there. They assisted the client in securing a Reasonable Accommodation to break her lease, enabling her to relocate to more accessible housing. Despite encountering hurdles with the local housing authority during the voucher transfer, persistent advocacy ensured the client's smooth transition to her new home. Through the advocacy of The Fair Housing Center, the client not only dodged an unjust financial burden but also secured a brighter housing future.



Bed Bug Blame Game

Our client had called this place home for seven years, navigating the ups and downs of a month-to-month lease. Yet, as time passed, the once manageable issues became major problems, exacerbated by the recent tornado. The porch was in disrepair and became a major safety hazard for the tenant and visitors. The property owner fixed it by placing caution tape around it. The client made diligent efforts to communicate the dire state of affairs, but the landlord remained indifferent, only replacing braces while the front door became unusable. Meanwhile, the bathroom floor in her home started to decay, and the bedroom wall began to split.

The client came to The Fair Housing Center with their unresolved grievances. Our housing conditions attorney was able to put her rent into escrow until meaningful repairs were made. This started the process of the property owner making repairs, but it was not smooth. The owner would not always give proper notice to the client about when contractors were going to show up. The contractors would leave the client's property a mess while working on it and even removed the back staircase, leading to a considerable safety hazard. After the repairs and court hearings were finished, the client received half of their rent escrow back while the other half was given back to the property owner.

To access more information regarding the rent escrow process, please click the button below to explore our brochure on rent escrow.

[Rent Escrow Information](#)

TFHC Board Member Ernest Walker Attends Honor Flight



We are delighted to share some heartwarming news about one of our esteemed board members, Ernest Walker. Recently, Ernest had the incredible opportunity to participate in the Flag City Hon Honor Flight, a program dedicated to honoring America's veterans and allowing them to visit the memorials dedicated to their service and sacrifices.



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. Our tester trainings are scheduled for:

Tuesday, June 11, 2024, from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 27, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m

All trainings are held at The Fair Housing Center, 326 N. Erie St. Toledo, Ohio 43604. For more information or to sign up, contact The Fair Housing Center, at 419-243-6163.

Check Out Our 2023 Annual Report

We are excited to announce that our 2023 Annual Report is now available! This comprehensive report provides a detailed overview of our accomplishments, financial performance, and the impact we've made over the past year. We invite you to explore the report to see how your support has helped us achieve our mission and set the stage for future growth.

You can view the 2023 Annual Report on our website here. Thank you for your continued commitment to our cause and for helping make our communities more inclusive for all!

[2023 Annual Report](#)

[For more information visit our website](#)



Fair Housing Center | 326 N Erie St | Toledo, OH 43604 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!