

## 50 Years Later, the Dream Lives On

This year we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the subsequent passing of the Fair Housing Act. The Civil Rights movement of the 1960s raised national awareness of social injustices and demanded government action to establish fair and equal treatment as a basic right for all. The Fair Housing Act was the last and most difficult piece of civil rights



legislation to pass, facing both public and Congressional resistance. Dr. King's assassination on April 4, 1968 sparked a national uprising, and

protests across the country compelled Congress to pass the Fair Housing Act one week later, on April 11, 1968.

Prior to the Fair Housing Act, discriminatory practices sanctioned by the federal government prevented families of color from becoming homeowners, resulting in racially segregated, distressed urban neighborhoods. Decades later, the impact of this disinvestment is apparent in the vast disparities in wealth, rates of homeownership, quality of education, health outcomes, and access to vital resources.

Fair housing laws were passed to protect people from these unfair practices, ensuring everyone is treated equally when renting, purchasing, insuring, or financing the home they choose. It is unlawful for housing providers to deny

housing or apply differential treatment to someone because of their race, color, national origin, religion, gender, familial status, disability, military status, or sexual orientation.

50 years later, housing discrimination is not history. As we take time to honor those who bravely fought for equal rights, it's important that we continue to protect those rights. "The Fair Housing Center keeps Dr. King's dream of equality and open housing choice alive through the vital community services that we provide," stated Michael Marsh, President and CEO of The Fair Housing Center. "Our programs help to create inclusive communities of opportunity where everyone has a fair chance not only to survive, but to thrive and to live out the American Dream. We will continue to stand up for what is fair, right, and just in our community and set an example for the rest of the state and country to follow."



### Want to learn more about the history of fair housing?

**Seven Days:** Documentary chronicling the week between the assassination of Dr. King and the passage of the Fair Housing Act

**Fair Housing: A Place to Call Home:** Documentary that tells the story of The Fair Housing Center's history

**The Disturbing History of the Suburbs:** Video showing how redlining created segregated neighborhoods with unequal access to opportunities



# Looking Ahead: A Sneak Peek at 2018

**M**ark your calendars! We hope you'll join us for these upcoming events. Look for more details to come.

## Ode to the ZIP Code – April 19

Your neighborhood is more than an address, it's an identity. Unleash your creative juices and create a short five line poem inspired by your ZIP Code. This year's third annual event is in partnership with Toledo City Paper, The Arts Commission, and Toledo-Lucas County Public Library. Entries will be accepted online starting in February and winners will be awarded at a live event on 419 Day (April 19, 2018) at the Main Library.

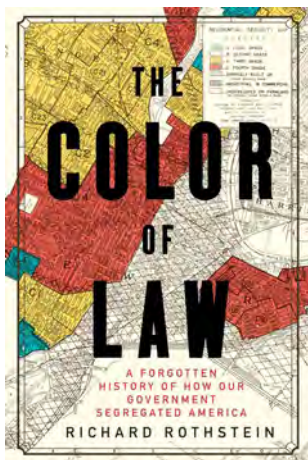
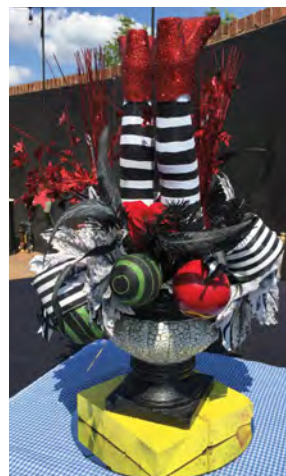
### First Place Lydia Horvath

- 4 Near Detroit and Airport
- 3 We finally settled
- 6 Family of six, crowding into rentals
- 0 (here's where I won't discuss the summer we were homeless)
- 9 But there on Somerset, my very own pink bedroom

*Winning poem from 2017*

## There's No Place Like Home August 9 • 5-8 p.m.

Polish your red shoes and follow the yellow brick road to the happiest of happy hours! You don't want to miss our signature event at the Pinnacle where you can enjoy a fun evening while helping to support equal opportunity.



## Ohio Fair Housing Summit September 21 Renaissance Hotel Toledo, OH

Stakeholders from across the state will gather to examine the state of fair housing 50 years after the Fair Housing Act. This event hosted by The Fair Housing Center and the Ohio Diversity Council will feature keynote speaker Richard Rothstein, author of "The Color of Law: The Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America." Attendees will gain insight into the barriers that block access to opportunity and explore ways to foster diverse, stable communities.

## Keys to Opportunity Sculpture

Kick off your spring cleaning by getting rid of old keys cluttering your drawers! Beginning in April, thousands of keys will be collected across the community to create a unique outdoor sculpture. Designed by Dane Turpening of Toledo Twisted Iron, the "Keys to Opportunity" sculpture will represent the role that housing plays in opening the door to the vital resources that enable us to thrive. Drop off your keys at The Fair Housing Center and then join us in October to witness the public unveiling of the artwork in our Courtyard of Justice.



# Your Rights are Our Mission

Seeking housing that would be better suited for his medical needs, our client asked to be moved from an apartment with a shared entrance to one with a private entrance. Even though this request would help accommodate his mental disability, and he provided documentation verifying his condition, the housing provider refused. Knowing he had rights to accessible housing, he reached out to The Fair Housing Center. We stood by him during a lengthy process that lasted more than two years, eventually reaching a settlement agreement. Our client received monetary damages as a result of this distressing experience, and the housing provider improved their policies for handling reasonable accommodation requests. The Fair Housing Center will provide fair housing education to the housing provider and monitor activities over the next three years, opening the door for others with disabilities to enjoy homes that meet their needs.



Our client, an African American single mother, found a home to rent after experiencing homelessness. She was relieved to find a safe, stable place to stay for her and her daughter, until she called management to make a maintenance request. When our client asked for necessary repairs to be made, the property manager responded by yelling at her, saying she could “take it or leave it” and also telling her “you are lucky we even rented to you.” Knowing she was being treated unfairly, our client voiced concerns to the manager regarding her discriminatory behavior, but the manager reacted by telling her, “you don’t seem like the kind of person who could get an attorney.” That’s when she knew she needed to contact us for help. Standing up for our client’s rights, we were able to recover monetary damages for the mistreatment she endured. In addition, The Fair Housing Center will provide fair housing training for the property management staff, to help ensure someone else does not have to go through this same painful experience.



# WHO WE ARE

Get to know some of the passionate people who help us keep housing fair!



## GETTING TO KNOW Donor Subrina Bennett-Long

**S**ubrina first became involved with The Fair Housing Center by serving on a planning committee for There's No Place Like Home, an annual fundraising event. After learning about the agency's work, she decided to donate to what she felt was a worthwhile cause and treasure of Toledo. Subrina views TFHC as a watchdog, protecting those who could be taken advantage of or have unfair practices used against them.

Subrina's biggest passion? People. "Every day I meet different people, we talk and I hear about their life stories. I think it helps me become more compassionate to a fellow man's position in life and it motivates me to help if I can." One person in particular is her biggest source of inspiration: her special needs sister. "Even with her disabilities she never gives up." She also thinks the best thing about our community is the people who live in it.

The one thing she knows about TFHC that she wishes other people knew is "the number of people they have helped! It's the best kept secret in Toledo!" If given the opportunity to serve as Mayor for the day, she would "talk to individuals who may not necessarily think, look, or act like me, and try to get us to come together for a common unity in our city."

## GETTING TO KNOW Board Member Alan Bannister

**A** native Toledoan, Alan enjoys his position on The Fair Housing Center's Board, serving nearly two years. Although Alan received his degree in public administration, his passion for civil rights has always played a central role in his life. "I have always been a person who wants to help our community. I am a friend to folks in need." He draws inspiration from his natural urge to help other people, stating "when someone succeeds because I helped them in some way, it makes my heart beat."

### Alan's Favorite Quote

"Friendship is essential to the soul."  
– Omega Psi Phi Fraternity

Alan's favorite social movement leader is his father, who served as pastor of his church and professor of education at UT. His father led educational movements throughout the community and participated in countless civic events. His father's words left an impression on Alan, because "when he spoke it was usually profound and meaningful."



If Alan could trade places with anyone, he would choose a principal, relishing the chance to "inspire youth to be leaders and show them how they can lead." If you're thinking about pursuing nonprofit or civil rights work, Alan's advice is "get ready to work hard, bring your talents—all of them, and be ready to give."

Michael P. Marsh, CFRE  
President & CEO

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#### VISION

The Fair Housing Center will be a leading visible force in preventing and correcting discriminatory practices.

#### MISSION

The Fair Housing Center is a non-profit civil rights agency dedicated to the elimination of housing discrimination, the promotion of housing choice and the creation of inclusive communities of opportunity. To achieve our mission, the Center engages in education and outreach, housing counseling, advocacy for anti-discriminatory housing policies, research and investigation and enforcement actions.



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