



# MIAMI VALLEY FAIR HOUSING CENTER NEWSLETTER

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JIM MCCARTHY, PRESIDENT/CEO

## 9th Annual Waikiki Party Another Success!

Miami Valley Fair Housing Center's 9th Annual Waikiki Party Fundraiser was held on Saturday, August 17th at Sinclair Community College. Over 200 attendees were treated to an evening of Hawaiian food, live music, line dancing and prizes.

This event would not be possible without the generous support of the corporate sponsors and raffle prize donors.

We hope to see you next year at the 10th Annual Waikiki Party!

*Photos from the 9th Annual Waikiki Party....*



## National Fair Housing Alliance Report Calls for Modernizing Fair Housing Act

The National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA) recently released “Modernizing the Fair Housing Act for the 21st Century,” its 2013 Fair Housing Trends Report.

The report finds a rise in the number of housing discrimination complaints filed by individuals and families with a marked spike in harassment complaints. Harassment complaints were up 35% from last year’s numbers and include complaints because of race, national origin, disability, sex, and having children in the home. Included in the report are harassment and other complaints from Louisiana, New York, Ohio, Texas, and other states.

This year’s report highlights the spike in complaints by people not protected under federal fair housing law but do have protections under state and local laws. The following show the percent rise in reporting of discrimination based on protected classes that are seen in the Ohio area:

- sexual orientation up 43%
- marital status up 63%
- gender identity and expression complaints reported for the first time

A total of 28,519 complaints were investigated in 2012 by private non-profit fair housing organizations, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Department of Justice, and state and local government agencies such as state civil rights commissions. HUD estimates that this already high number represents less than one percent of the approximately four million acts of housing discrimination each year against current populations protected by federal law.

To read NFHA’s 2013 Trends Report and view graphics including U.S. maps with state law information, please go to [www.nationalfairhousing.org](http://www.nationalfairhousing.org).

## Service Animal Policy Update from the Department of Housing and Urban Development

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) issued a Notice reaffirming that housing providers must provide reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities who require assistance animals on April 25, 2013. The “Notice on Service Animals and Assistance Animals for People with Disabilities in Housing and HUD-Funded Programs” discusses how the Fair Housing Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) intersect regarding the use of service or assistance animals by persons with disabilities.

Pet restrictions cannot be used to deny or limit housing to people with disabilities who require the use of an assistance animal because of their disability. Housing providers must grant reasonable accommodations in such instances, in accordance with the law. The guidance also describes the Department of Justice’s revised definition of “service animal” under the ADA, as well as housing providers’ obligations when multiple nondiscrimination laws apply.

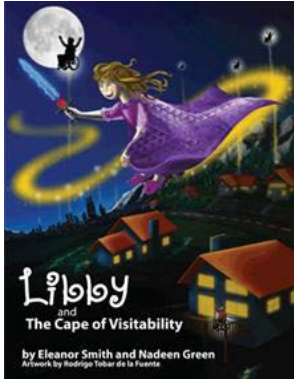
The Americans with Disabilities Act requires equal access for people with disabilities using trained service dogs in public accommodations and government facilities. Under the Fair Housing Act, housing providers have a further obligation to accommodate people with disabilities who, because of their disability, require trained service dogs or other types of assistance animals to perform tasks, provide emotional support, or alleviate the effects of their disabilities



*More photos from the  
9th Annual Waikiki Party*



## The Book Corner



### Libby and the Cape of Visitability

By Eleanor Smith and Nadeen Green

Libby, Aria and Benjamin have been best friends since they were babies. But now Aria has moved to a new house and Libby, who uses a wheelchair, doesn't get invited to Aria's birthday party because the house has barriers. Written for children ages 8-13, this book raises

awareness of the exclusion created when houses are not built with simple features that allow wheelchair users to visit or live in them.

This book has been recommended by the National Fair Housing Alliance and is available from [AuthorHouse®](http://AuthorHouse.com)

## An Easy and Fun Way to Support the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center

Please consider having lunch or dinner at T.G.I. Friday's near the Dayton Mall on October 22nd to support the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center.

Bring in this COUPON & T.G.I. Friday's

**WILL DONATE 20% OF YOUR CHECK TOTAL**

to:

**Miami Valley Fair Housing Center**

on: **October 22, 2013**

At TGIFriday's in Centerville, Dayton, Ohio



Mark your calendars for these UPCOMING EVENTS!



- September 16 Fair Housing Fair from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Held at the New Hope Church, 536 Xenia Avenue and hosted by the [City of Dayton Human Relations Council](#)
- September 27-29 [Oktoberfest](#) at the Dayton Art Institute
- October 11-13 [Dayton LGBT Film Festival](#) at The Neon
- October 22 MVFHC Fundraiser at TGI Friday (Dayton Mall)
- November 14 Annual Landlord Seminar, 7:00 p.m. at the Kettering Government Center, 3600 Shroyer Road
- December 11 MVFHC Annual Meeting and Luncheon at the DABR

### 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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