



# MIAMI VALLEY FAIR HOUSING CENTER NEWSLETTER

Published by the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center, Inc.

WINTER 2014

JIM MCCARTHY, PRESIDENT/CEO

## HUD awards three-year grant to MVFHC

Through its Fair Housing Initiatives Program, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded a three-year private enforcement initiative grant to the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center (MVFHC). The grant will run through December 2017 and will be funded at \$325,000 per year.

The grant enables the continuation of fair housing enforcement activities provided by MVFHC in the Dayton MSA (Montgomery, Greene, Miami and Preble counties), including helping people who feel they have faced housing discrimination by investigating and filing complaints with the Dayton Human Relations Council, the Ohio Civil Rights Commission and/or HUD; documenting evidence of systemic discrimination through testing in rental, sales and accessibility design/construction; and providing education instructing people on how to recognize and report housing discrimination as well as racial or sexual harassment.

HUD has more [information about the FY2014 FHIP grants](#) on its website.



## Need a Holiday Gift Idea?



Consider giving the gift of a membership to the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center to a friend or family member. A single membership costs \$35 and is a great way to support a local non-profit organization. Join before the end of the year and you may be eligible for a tax deduction. Your membership dollars will be applied directly to the MVFHC's education and advocacy programs that operate across city/township boundaries. These programs provide comprehensive fair housing services throughout the Miami Valley and help ensure equal housing opportunity for all.

Joining is easy! You can purchase a membership on our [website](#) or fill out the membership card on the next page of this newsletter and mail it to us along with payment.



Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley at the Tot Lot Opening

## Tot Lot on Weaver Street Opens

A new playground that was partly funded by a Quality of Life grant from MVFHC's Inclusive Community Fund was officially opened in September. The "Tot Lot" in Dayton's Miami Chapel neighborhood was coordinated by the Southwest Priority Board and was the dream of neighborhood activist Pat Rickman.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony featured speakers including Mrs. Rickman, Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley, Dayton school board member Hazel Roundtree, and MVFHC's Director of Investigations and Enforcement Anita Schmalz.

Neighborhood school kids attended the ceremony and broke in the playground as soon as the ribbon was cut.

## Miami Valley Fair Housing Center receives Access to Justice Award

On November 6th the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center was presented the Access to Justice/Community Impact Award. This award recognizes an individual, government agency, or business for their efforts affecting the lives of low-income people.

Since 1993, Miami Valley Fair Housing has worked to eliminate housing discrimination and ensure equal housing opportunity for all people in our region. Last year the Center reached out to more than 49,000 people and has been a leader in helping homeowners deal with foreclosure issues.

The award is presented annually by Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Legal Aid of Western Ohio and the Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project, organizations that provide free legal assistance to low-income individuals who are victims of domestic violence, elder abuse, disability and public benefits concerns and immigration issues.



Jim McCarthy, MVFHC President/CEO accepts the award

**Join the Fair Housing Center today.  
We can overcome with your help!**

Most contributions to MVFHC are tax deductible.  
Check with your tax professional.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

**Individual Annual Memberships**

Senior/Student ..... \$10.00

Individual ..... \$35.00

Family ..... \$50.00

Life Membership ..... \$1000.00

General Donation ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Organizational Annual Memberships**  
(based on organizations annual budget)

Non-Profit ..... \$100.00

\$100,000 to \$300,000 ..... \$100.00

\$301,000 to \$500,000 ..... \$200.00

\$501,000 to \$700,000 ..... \$300.00

\$701,000 to \$1,000,000 ..... \$400.00

Over \$1,000,000 ..... \$500.00

New Member       Renewal

Make checks payable to:  
**Miami Valley Fair Housing Center, Inc.**

**MIAMI VALLEY  
FAIR HOUSING**

505 Riverside Drive  
Dayton, OH 45405-4619  
937-223-6035      www.mvfairhousing.com

## MVFHC Recognized as a Deaf-Friendly Provider

The Miami Valley Fair Housing Center was recently recognized as a deaf-friendly service provider by the Community Services of the Deaf (CSD).



Since 1978, CSD has provided a wide variety of programs and services to meet the needs of people who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing. Services are also available for family members, service providers, businesses, individuals, groups and communities. For more information, visit the [Community Services for the Deaf website](#).

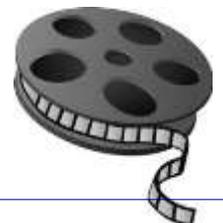
## The Movie Corner

### Fair Housing Videos for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing

The National Fair Housing Alliance, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), recently announced the creation of 12 videos in American Sign Language (ASL) with English captioning. These videos provide critical legal and practical information in a format accessible to persons who are Deaf and/or Hard-of-Hearing. The videos were produced by Disability Independence Group, NFHA and Sweetwater Media.

Topics include: *Obtaining a Fair Mortgage Loan; What is Lending Discrimination?; and Your Right to Effective Communication in Lending.*

To view the videos [click here](#).



## Online Survey about Housing Choice Obstacles Now Available at

[www.mvfairhousing.com/fhsurvey](http://www.mvfairhousing.com/fhsurvey)

Montgomery County, the City of Dayton and the City of Kettering are committed to eliminating racial and ethnic segregation, illegal physical and other barriers to persons with disabilities and other discriminatory practices in housing. As a part of that commitment, the three jurisdictions collaborated in 2008-2009 to produce the **2010 Regional Fair Housing Plan**. An update of this plan is now in progress.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides Federal funding to all three partner jurisdictions for their housing and community development programs through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the HOME Investment Partnership Program. The County, Dayton and Kettering then grant most of these funds to providers of services or housing benefiting low- and moderate-income persons. As a prerequisite to receiving these federal funds, entitlement communities, including the County, Dayton, and Kettering, must affirmatively further fair housing, which, in the context of Fair Housing Planning, means that these three local jurisdictions must prepare an analysis of impediments to fair housing, a plan to address these impediments, and maintain records of their fair housing activities. Collectively, this is known as a Fair Housing Action Plan, which becomes a part of each jurisdiction's Consolidated Plan. It is time to update that plan. The Miami Valley Fair Housing Center has been contracted to facilitate the planning process. Among the many required tasks for this process is citizen participation. To accomplish meaningful citizen participation, MVFHC will conduct an online survey, focus groups, interviews and Town Halls about obstacles to housing choice and obstacles to housing opportunity/availability.

The online survey is now available at [www.mvfairhousing.com/fhsurvey](http://www.mvfairhousing.com/fhsurvey). Information regarding the Town Halls, the interview process and focus groups will be published in January 2015. For more information, call John Zimmerman at 937-223-6035 or email him at [john.zimmerman@mvfairhousing.com](mailto:john.zimmerman@mvfairhousing.com).



### 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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