



MIAMI VALLEY FAIR HOUSING CENTER NEWSLETTER

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JIM MCCARTHY, PRESIDENT/CEO

Celebrate *THE MOVEMENT 2* is coming soon!

Celebrate *THE MOVEMENT 2*

Date: Saturday, August 24, 2019
Time: 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM
Location: Sinclair Conference Center
Cost: \$90 per person

Please join us on Saturday, August 24, 2019 for Celebrate *THE MOVEMENT 2*. Once again we will be at the Sinclair Community College Conference Center for an evening of dinner, dancing, silent auction, music by DJ Basim Blunt and other surprises.

Unlike other non-profits, the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center has only one annual fundraiser. If you are not able to attend our event, please consider making a donation to help us further our mission of eliminating housing discrimination.

Last year, the MVFHC Board of Directors asked nationally recognized artist Alice Gatewood Waddell to create an original artwork entitled Dance to *THE MOVEMENT*. We still have some limited edition prints that we are offering for purchase again this year. The cost for a signed and numbered print is \$250.

To register, make a donation or purchase a Dance to *THE MOVEMENT* print [click here](#).

Meet Your Miami Valley Fair Housing Center Board Members

Dr. Debra Brathwaite is a native New Yorker, born and raised in Brooklyn. She attended Brooklyn College and obtained bachelors, masters and professional diploma degrees in teaching and educational leadership. She served as deputy superintendent in a school district in Brooklyn before relocating to Cleveland, Ohio in 2001, to become an associate superintendent in that school system. In 2003, Debra was recruited to Dayton to become the deputy superintendent/chief academic officer in the Dayton Public School System. While working there she was instrumental in moving the district from the designation of “academic emergency” to “continuous improvement.” During her time in Dayton she attended the University of Dayton and earned her Ph.D. in educational leadership.

In 2008, Debra relocated to Columbia, South Carolina to become the deputy superintendent in Richland County School District One. She remained in Columbia for six years retiring in 2014. Upon retirement Debra returned to Dayton, happy to come back to the city that became home to her. To remain active and engaged, Debra has joined the boards of community organizations, taught at the University of Dayton and formed her own consulting company. She is also a member of the Dayton Chapter of the Links, Incorporated an international organization founded on friendship and service.

Joining the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center in 2016, was a highlight of her return to Dayton. The work that the center does to eliminate discrimination in housing and ensuring equal housing opportunity for all people resonates with her. Having moved many times during her lifetime and experiencing that there were some places, neighborhoods or housing units, where she would not be welcomed, limited her options. She strongly believes that everyone has the right to live wherever they want without fear of discrimination.

Debra has a grown daughter who resides in New York.



Debra Brathwaite
Secretary

Fair Housing Update: Recap National Fair Housing Alliance 2018 Trends Report

The Miami Valley Fair Housing Center is a member of the National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA) which has offices in Washington D.C. Annually NFHA publishes a Trends report. This report is about the prior year's cumulative national fair housing data. The report's sources include its NFHA investigations and data, investigations from its over 100 non-profit members, and data from the fair housing divisions at the Justice Department and HUD. The report can be accessed from <https://nationalfairhousing.org/2018-fair-housing-trends-report/>.

The report highlights 2017:

- More than half a million housing discrimination complaints have been processed since 1996, when NFHA first began collecting complaint data.
- Since 1991, more than 70,000 units of multi-family housing have been made accessible to persons with disabilities through litigation brought primarily by DOJ and private, nonprofit fair housing organizations.
- Since 1988, dozens of cases alleging redlining and discrimination by mortgage lenders have resulted in close to \$1 billion in compensation to victims of mortgage lending discrimination and for investment in communities.
- There were 28,843 complaints of housing discrimination in 2017.
- The three most common types of complaints in 2017 were based on disability (57 percent), race (19 percent), and family status (9 percent).
- The biggest obstacle to fair housing rights is the federal government's failure to enforce the law vigorously.

Information for the article was gathered by John Zimmerman, VP Miami Valley Fair Housing from the 2018 Fair Housing Trends Report.

Fair Housing Update: Best Fair Housing Practices for Marketing Apartments

Some Best Practices Fair Housing Advertising

Are the ads your company produces free of words, phrases, symbols, or visual aids which indicate or convey any preference, limitation, or discrimination or illegal specification based on race, color, religion, sex, mental or physical disability, national origin, familial status? Some things to think about are the following questions:

1. Do the ads use models and model graphics in a non-discriminatory way?
 - a) Are both sexes adequately represented?
 - b) Are children adequately represented? (Does not apply if housing is exempt from familial portions of the Fair Housing Act as "housing for older persons.")
 - c) Are minority populations represented in reasonable proportion to their population in the metropolitan area and are they being used in equal social settings?
 - d) Are models or model graphics of children and minorities being used for all and not just some properties advertised?
2. Are any logos and symbols used in the ads free of unlawful discriminatory preference such as using Christian, Judaic or Muslim symbols which are prohibited?
3. Are Equal Housing logos used properly? Unless it is a very small advertisement, the logo that should be used will include the words, Equal Housing Opportunity and not just the house with the equal symbol inside it. Go to HUD's site at <https://www.hud.gov/library/bookshelf11/hudgraphics/fheologo> to retrieve examples like this:
4. Is the distribution of your advertising campaign (including brochures, fliers, billboards, mailings, radio ads, newspaper ads, and publication ads) reaching the protected classes? Keep in mind that fair housing compliance is not only about actions that discriminate but also omissions. Omitting a class of residents or a geographic area based on the ethnic makeup of its residents, is considered illegal steering.



The information in this article was collected by John Zimmerman, VP Miami Valley Fair Housing Center from resources from HUD.

MVFHC awarded \$425,000 from U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development

Through its [Fair Housing Initiatives Program](#), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded a \$125,000 education & outreach grant to the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center (MVFHC). This grant will allow MVFHC to conduct educational and outreach programs through forums including government centers, schools, churches, and professional organizations such as the Greater Dayton Apartment Association and the Dayton Realtors®.

In addition, HUD also announced the funding of a 3-year private enforcement grant. The enforcement grant awarded to MVFHC is one of twenty-four awarded to FHIP agencies that are high performers and will receive multi-year funding. Multi-year funding allows groups that maintain excellent performance ratings to continue their activities without interruption. The grant to MVFHC is for \$300,000 per year for three years, for a total of \$900,000 and will enable MVFHC to implement comprehensive enforcement services, including complaint intake, investigation, and referral for alleged victims of discrimination.

The Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP) began as a pilot program under President Ronald Reagan, and was made permanent by the George H.W. Bush Administration. The Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity at HUD manages the FHIP program and provides funding to fair housing organizations and other non-profits who assist people who believe they have been victims of housing discrimination. The FHIP program is the only Federal grant program whose purpose is to support private partnerships in preventing and overcoming housing discrimination.

“These grants represent an enormous opportunity for the Fair Housing Center and to ensure stability for the vital programs we operate in the community. We are very pleased that HUD found our applications to be competitive and worthy of funding,” said Ronald Jackson, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center.



- July 8-14 [Montgomery County Fair](#)
- July 26-28 [Dayton Celtic Festival](#)
- August 17 [African American Cultural Festival](#)
- August 24 Celebrate *THE MOVEMENT 2*
- Sept 14 [Hispanic Heritage Festival](#)

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, the State of Ohio, and nationally.

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 our region, the State of Ohio, and nationally.

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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