



## **APRIL IS FAIR HOUSING MONTH** **April 2008 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** **of the Federal Fair Housing Act!**

Join us and thousands across the United States in celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this historic piece of legislation---as we renew our commitment to fair housing and to those who continue to be illegally discriminated against because of their race, color, national origin, religion, disability, gender, or family status.

### Suggestions for marking the occasion:

- Celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act with **Facing Foreclosure In Our Own Backyard** at our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Fair Housing Reunion on Wednesday, **April 30<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:30pm** at the Wilmette Public Library, 1242 Wilmette Ave. Come **learn about the foreclosure crisis in the northern suburbs**, the disparate **impact of the crisis on older adults and people of color** – and how the problem is being addressed by the state legislation. We will be joined by **Geoff Smith**, Vice-President of the **Woodstock Institute**, and **Michael Roche**, of HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. Come learn about the crisis that has national implications. This is also a great opportunity for learning and networking about work to promote fair housing and diversity in your own community. Meet members of the Human/Community Relations Commission and Housing Commissions from across the Northern Suburbs and compare notes about their successes and struggles.
- **Pass a Fair Housing Month Resolution.** Deerfield, Highland Park, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Niles, Northbrook, Park Ridge, Skokie, Wilmette were among the many communities that underscored the value of *equal housing opportunity* last year with a proclamation. Contact Interfaith Housing Center for sample language. *Congratulations to Northbrook, Skokie, and Wilmette who have already passed resolutions this year!*
- Issue a **Press Release** or **Letter to the Editor** telling about your community's efforts to promote diversity and fair housing. Contact Interfaith for a sample letter.

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- **Make a date to host “The History of Equal Housing in the Northern Suburbs,”** a traveling exhibit that illustrates the efforts of northern suburban communities to grapple with the issues of fair housing and diversity. This exhibit has made its way to 6 northern suburban communities and is scheduled for display at the Park Ridge Public Library in April 2008.

You can view a photo of it on our website. A copy of the exhibit’s companion **Fair Housing Resource Guide** that lists books, videos, and key organizations is available upon request to further facilitate learning.

- Host an **educational workshop** or **film** to **teach about fair housing rights**. We would be happy to facilitate an educational presentation/film about the realities of housing discrimination. Consider offering this educational opportunity for seniors, disabilities advocates, social workers, and/or condo associations on the fair housing laws that safeguard against housing discrimination.
- **Promote fair housing education** through your municipal newsletter or on your village website. Direct citizens to where they might go for help in resolving discriminatory concern – including information about the complaint process. Interfaith Housing Center has completed a series of fair housing education fact sheets that you might consider adapting for inclusion in your newsletter. See Resources at [www.interfaithhousingcenter.org](http://www.interfaithhousingcenter.org)
- **Draft an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing**, as a pre-cursor to a Fair Housing Action Plan. A comprehensive guide for such a plan can be found on the National Low-Income Housing Coalition’s web site: [http://www.nlihc.org/detail/article.cfm?article\\_id=2751&id=19](http://www.nlihc.org/detail/article.cfm?article_id=2751&id=19). Naperville drafted an Analysis of Impediments last year that could also serve as inspiration: [www.naperville.il.us/emplibrary/Analysis%20of%20Impediments%20to%20Fair%20Housing%20Choice.pdf](http://www.naperville.il.us/emplibrary/Analysis%20of%20Impediments%20to%20Fair%20Housing%20Choice.pdf)

However you decide to celebrate this valuable part of our national heritage, we are happy to assist you in recognizing fair housing and diversity as a priority for your community. Give us a call at 847/501-5760 or [margaret@interfaithhousingcenter.org](mailto:margaret@interfaithhousingcenter.org) or [jasmine@interfaithhousingcenter.org](mailto:jasmine@interfaithhousingcenter.org).

**We hope you will make this 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act an April to remember in your community.**