

## **FOR YOUR BULLETINS/NEWSLETTERS**

### **MYTH: "THE ONLY COLOR THAT MATTERS IS GREEN"**

#### **Support Fair Housing in the Northern Suburbs**

April is National Fair Housing Month. 2005 marks the 37th anniversary of the Federal Fair Housing Act. **Fair housing means** no one can take your race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or presence of children into account in renting or selling you housing. In Illinois, you are also protected on the basis of age, marital status, ancestry, or military discharge status. If you are seeking housing in Cook County, you are additionally protected on the basis of sexual orientation, source of income, or housing status.

Discrimination persists in the northern suburbs of Chicago, across the economic spectrum, especially for homeseekers of color, those with children, or families with members with disabilities.

The Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs and [MUNICIPALITY/ CONGREGATION/ORGANIZATION] want you to know what you can do to support fair housing in your community. To find out what you can do, contact the Interfaith Housing Center at (847) 501-5760, [www.interfaithhousingcenter.org](http://www.interfaithhousingcenter.org).

### **AFFORDABLE HOUSING BENEFITS ALL**

"For too many Illinois residents, a quality home is simply not affordable," stated Governor Blagojevich in his introduction to the Illinois Comprehensive Affordable Housing Plan, released in January 2005. The State gave the following populations top priority:

1. Very low-income households and families;
2. Low-income senior citizens;
3. Low-income people with disabilities;
4. Homeless people and families and those at-risk of becoming homeless;
5. Low and moderate-income families and people unable to find affordable housing near employment or transportation; and
6. Low-income families and people living in existing affordable housing that is in danger of becoming unaffordable.

We support the perspective of affordable housing as an investment in the growth and stability of our families and communities, not as an expense. Adequate affordable housing contributes to [OUR COMMUNITY] by promoting strong families and individual success; building local communities -- not just businesses, but also schools, parks and playgrounds, charities and places of worship; and contributing to the growth and well-being of our local and regional economy.

For more information, contact [OUR COMMUNITY] at [CONTACT INFO].