

APRIL -MAY 2008



NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL SERVICES, INC.

HOUSING HIGHLIGHTS

Fair Housing Month 2008: Fair Housing: The Pursuit of Happiness

April is Fair Housing Month! The Erie County Fair Housing Partnership, Inc. is encouraging Western New Yorkers to participate in the events commemorating National Fair Housing Month. The theme for this year's celebration is "**Fair Housing: The Pursuit of Happiness.**"

The National Fair Housing Act was passed in April 1968 one week after Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. It is one of many laws that codifies the civil rights of American citizens by prohibiting housing discrimination. Under this law, and subsequent New York State legislation, discrimination in housing based upon race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, disability, marital status, familial status, military status or sexual orientation is unlawful. Discrimination based upon lawful source of income and gender identity and expression is also illegal in some localities including the City of Buffalo. .

The Erie County Fair Housing Partnership has worked to increase commitment to fair housing through outreach, education, and community dialogue. To raise public awareness of the persistence and prevalence of housing discrimination, and to inform people of their rights under the fair housing law, the Erie County Fair Housing Partnership and its membership are promoting and participating in a series of activities this April.

This year's celebration of Fair Housing Month includes the following events:

~ Fair Housing Month Proclamations on Friday, March 28, 2008 at 1:30 pm at the Gallery at the Buffalo International Air-

port.

This is a press conference with presentations by local municipalities. For more information, contact Andrea Mujahid-Moore at 551-5755 ext 5603.

~ "Building Bridges to Affordable Housing" Conference on Wednesday, April 2, 2008 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at the Center for Tomorrow will focus on the building and maintaining of affordable housing and the impact of affordable housing on the community. Credits will be given to attorneys and real estate agents for attending. Please contact www.ecfhp.org for more information.

~ United Way and Home Front are sponsoring a Housing Fair on April 3, 2008 from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. This event is sponsored by WNLO-TV and will be held at United Way, 742 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo. Contact Denise Herkey-Jarosch at 856-2952 for more information.

~ Free landlord training session on Friday, April 4, 2008 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at Belmont Shelter Corporation, 1195 Main Street in Buffalo. This program is sponsored by Save Our Streets Task Force. Free lunch and refreshments will be provided. For more information, or to register, contact Nicole Drye at 851-5094.

~ Housing Opportunities Made Equal's (HOME) 45th annual meeting and dinner at the Buffalo Convention Center on Tuesday, April 15, 2008 at 5:30 pm. For more information, contact Shannon Koehn at 854-1400.

~ Eighth Annual Fair Housing Month **Free** Movie. Join us in viewing “**The Pursuit of Happiness**” on Friday, **April 25, 2008** at 6 pm at the **Frank L. Merriweather Library**, 1324 Jefferson Ave (at E. Utica Street), Buffalo, and on Monday, **April 28, 2008** at 6 pm at the **Joylan Theater**, 11 West Main Street, Springville. Bill O’Connell of the Homeless Alliance of Western New York will introduce each film. For more information, contact Grace Andriette at 847-0650.

For more information on reporting discrimination or to find out how fair housing laws affect you, contact HOME at 854-1400, Neighborhood Legal Services, Inc. at 847-0650, HUD at 551-5755, ext 5600, or the New York State Division of Human Rights at 847-7632.

Come celebrate Fair Housing Month and join the fight against discrimination through your participation.

**NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL SERVICES,
INC.**

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