



# NEWS FROM HOME

SUMMER 2017

2400 READING RD. CINCINNATI, OH 45202

JENIECE JONES,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Two years ago, I felt privileged to be asked to serve HOME by being on their Board, meeting and working with some of the most amazing leaders and advocates for fair housing. My fellow Board members, and the fabulous HOME staff, work tirelessly towards ending discrimination, fighting stereotypes, and educating the uninformed. So, when they asked me to be President, the words “extremely honored” just are not even close to adequate to express how I feel.

HOME is a fantastic organization that helps so many. We are approaching 50 years of fighting housing discrimination. But that is just a part of what we do. We help landlords, property owners, realtors, and others avoid lawsuits, by providing trainings and outreach. We help stabilize families and neighborhoods through our Tenant Advocacy program.

HOME does a lot, but couldn't do it without our volunteers and committed advocates. I invite you to join me as we, HOME staff and volunteers, approach our Golden Anniversary. Let's keep the good momentum going. We can only do it together.



Heather Sturgill, HOME Board of Trustees President

## CHANGES AND TRANSITIONS

HOME has experienced several changes and transitions over the past few months. HOME remains focused and committed to our mission to eliminate unlawful housing discrimination in the Greater Cincinnati area, advocate and enforce housing regulations for all protected classes, and promote stable, integrated communities.

**Dotty Hall**, former Mobility Housing Specialist, retired after 30 years of service. A celebration was held on May 11 to honor all of Dotty's contributions and the impact she had on tenants, landlords, and HOME.

**LaTonya Springs** was named HOME's new Director of Enforcement. LaTonya previously served

as HOME's Client Services Specialist for 10 years, advocating on behalf of clients who faced illegal discrimination. LaTonya's focus as Director of Enforcement is to increase the number of filings by HOME and explore new methods of finding housing discrimination in the Greater Cincinnati area.

**Ayat Bell** is HOME's new Fair Housing Case Specialist. Ayat works with clients who believe they may have been victim of illegal housing discrimination, investigates claims, and provides support and advice through the resolution of the case.

**Maria Schneider** is HOME's new Hispanic Tenant Advocate. Maria

connects with different Hispanic groups in the community to share information about tenant rights and fair housing rights. Maria advocates for Spanish-speaking tenants who face issues regarding Ohio tenant-landlord law.

**Kendra Pressley** is HOME's Fair Housing Administrative Coordinator. Kendra provides support to the Enforcement team and assists with client intake.

**Sierra Causey** is HOME's summer Law Intern from the University of Cincinnati. Sierra assists with investigating claims of discrimination, educating housing providers and government officials, and compiling research for various projects.

## SAVE THE DATE: EMERGING ISSUES IN FAIR HOUSING

HOME is hosting a two-day learning summit that will focus on fair housing issues pertaining to returning citizens and members of the LGBTQ community. Our planning committee consists of HOME staff, local advocates, housing providers, case managers, attorneys, government officials, and others.

Emerging Issues in Fair Housing will be held on October 10-11, 2017 in the American Red Cross building. This summit is free and open to all. Each day will feature different topics, activities, and discussions. Guests are welcome to attend one or both days.

The goal of this summit is to educate members of the community about new fair housing issues. Returning citizens and members of the LGBTQ community face unique barriers when trying to find quality, affordable housing. This summit will bring those issues to light—confronting the policies and procedures that create barriers for these populations and discussing ways tenants, landlords, and social service agencies can work together for a more equitable society.

Follow us on Facebook to learn more and how to register for Emerging Issues in Fair Housing.

*Save the Date...*

### EMERGING ISSUES IN FAIR HOUSING

A two-day summit focusing on fair housing issues for returning citizens and the LGBTQ community



**OCTOBER 10-11, 2017**  
**8:30AM - 3:30PM**  
 AMERICAN RED CROSS  
 2111 DANA AVENUE  
 CINCINNATI, OH 45207

This event is free and open to all

## SAVE THE DATE: HOME'S 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



In 1966, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. marched through the troubled neighborhoods of Chicago. Blocks after blocks, like many in our country at that time, were brimming with the harms of segregation—poverty, crime, lack of opportunity, and no hope.

Less than two years later, Dr. King was assassinated for his unyielding stance against injustice. A week after Dr. King's assassination, Congress honored his legacy and changed the course of history by passing the Fair Housing Act.

HOME's 50th Anniversary Celebration will take place on **April 19, 2018** in the **Renaissance Cincinnati Downtown Hotel**. We hope you will join us for the 50th Anniversary Celebration of HOME and the Fair Housing Act. Our goal is to celebrate the accomplishments of the fair housing movement, highlight HOME's future path, and raise sustaining dollars for the enduring mission of HOME.

We hope that we can count on you to join the celebration and help support our mission.

If you are interested in learning about sponsorship opportunities for HOME's 50th Anniversary, contact **Chloe Gersten** ([chloe.gersten@homecincy.org](mailto:chloe.gersten@homecincy.org)).

# 2017 FAIR HOUSING MONTH HIGHLIGHTS

Thank you to everyone who attended our 2017 Fair Housing Month keynote celebration. We had a packed room and enjoyed hearing from Derrick Braziel, a founding partner and Managing Director of MORTAR.

A special thank you to our presenting sponsor, PNC, and our community sponsors, KeyBank and Sibcy Cline Realtors.

Beyond advocating for our clients, here is a summary of our community engagement for the month:

- 5 fair housing education classes with local community groups
- 9 fair housing education classes for local landlords, realtors, and property managers
- 2 education classes for government and local officials
- 1 community-wide fair for thousands of local residents
- 4 panels and workshops where HOME staff served as fair housing policy experts
- 3 fair housing learning opportunities attended by HOME



Derrick Braziel of MORTAR delivers 2017 Fair Housing Month keynote



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