

Rotary Debut

The Fair Housing Center was honored to have the opportunity to share our message with the leaders of our community at a Rotary Club of Toledo meeting. The impact of Michael Marsh's powerful presentation was evident when they recognized him with a standing ovation!

ZIP Code Matters

The presentation explored the connection between ZIP Codes and the forecast for life outcomes. People who live in high opportunity areas tend to have access to better education, jobs, and healthcare, while those who live in underserved areas make less money, have shorter lifespans, and are more likely to suffer from substance abuse, disease, and higher incarceration rates during their lifetimes. By identifying and addressing these disparities, fair housing helps to build more diverse, vibrant communities, where everyone has the chance to thrive.



Weren't able to join us? [Check out video of the presentation here.](#)

The Fair Housing Center's message was well received, hear what our community leaders are saying:

"I want to congratulate you on your 'Rotary debut!!' You did a great job on the presentation. I am very excited about the reaction of our club and their support of a very complex set of issues."

– **Sharon Skilliter, President, Rotary Club of Toledo**

"Nailed it today!"

– **Tim Harrington, Executive Director, The Ability Center**

"You did a phenomenal job sharing WHY Fair Housing exists. Folks really do not know the history of the 'unfair' housing practices in America, and you found a creative way to bring this out. Your presentation will certainly make people THINK, and I hope, ACT!"

– **Diana Patton, Speaker, Social Justice and Integrative Health Advocacy Coach, Author, and Attorney**

"The presentation was phenomenal. It depicted the true reality of what goes on in the neighborhoods and how schools are affected by the concentration of minorities in particular areas."

– **Dr. Romules Durant, Superintendent, Toledo Public Schools**

"FANTASTIC AND POWERFUL PRESENTATION!!!"

– **Demetria Simpson, President/CEO, LMHA**

"Just a quick note to say that your presentation at Rotary today was exceptional. Such an important message. Depressing to be reminded of how little has changed since 1968, but you and your work make a real and inspirational difference. Thank you!"

– **Steve Robinson, Ph.D., Interim President, Owens Community College**

"Great presentation, very well done and well received too!"

– **Alan Sattler, Vice President of Business Development, Paramount**

"It was a wonderful speech. Every time I'm at a Fair Housing event, I learn new things."

– **Lisa Kohler, Graphic Designer**

"I was at Rotary today and loved your presentation! I commend you and your staff for your advocacy and courage. I'd love to see how our agencies can work closer together."

– **Lisa McDuffie, President/CEO, YWCA**

"Outstanding presentation!"

– **Susan Jester, Retail Community Lender, First Federal Bank**

"You did an incredible job. It was a moving and informative presentation. I'm proud to call our friends at TFHC partners and excited for what we will do together in the future!"

– **Ryan Bunch, The Arts Commission**

Three National Companies Charged with Neglect of Foreclosures

The Fair Housing Center joined a national complaint against Deutsche Bank, Ocwen Financial, and Altisource, alleging continued discrimination in communities of color in 30 metropolitan areas including Toledo. New evidence filed on July 26, 2017 supports the claim that these national companies failed to perform required routine maintenance on bank-owned homes in middle- and working-class African American and Latino neighborhoods, while consistently providing routine maintenance on similar bank-owned homes in white neighborhoods.

[View photos of the neglected properties here.](#)

“We can’t expect to rebuild our community if banks don’t take responsibility for keeping their properties in decent condition,” commented Michael Marsh, President and CEO of The Fair Housing Center. “By failing to perform basic tasks like mowing the lawn or fixing broken windows, Deutsche, Ocwen, and Altisource are directly contributing to the blight and instability in our neighborhoods of color. This is what we fight for every day: to make sure all families in our community have the same opportunity to live in safe, thriving neighborhoods, and to hold banks accountable for the role they play in that.”



Poorly maintained bank-owned properties create a harmful and dangerous environment for the local community. They also drive down the property value of homes owned by neighbors – causing the overall community to be economically depressed. The practice of neglecting foreclosed properties in African American and Latino communities increases the economic divide, perpetuates segregation, and denies people within these communities the right to fair and safe housing.

Client Facing Harassment Seeks Our Help

“From the first phone call, I was reassured that I did indeed have a sexual harassment case covered under fair housing and there were no income, location, age, employment, gender or any sort of qualifications for their help. The understanding, respect, and guidance I received during the entire process was immeasurable during such a stressing time. If you’re not sure if your problem is covered or if they can help, just call and find out. You have nothing to lose.”

R.E. was unsure if we could help him when he contacted us and shared his story of enduring inappropriate comments and unwelcome advances made by his female property manager. We assured our client that all forms of harassment—including sexual harassment—are unlawful. We were able to successfully resolve this discrimination complaint, which serves as an important reminder that fair housing laws protect everyone, regardless of your identity or life circumstances.



This year's annual fundraiser drew the largest crowd to date! Nearly 300 attendees gathered at The Pinnacle to follow the yellow brick road to the happiest of happy hours. Guests decked out in red shoes enjoyed music provided by DJ Moni Featchurs and took part in the evening's festivities with raffle drawings and interactive games.

There's No Place Like Home is part of The Pinnacle's Twylite Thursday series, with a portion of the proceeds benefitting The Fair Housing Center. The generous support of this year's sponsors and attendees helped to raise more than \$20,000 to help ensure more people can find a place to call home.

In recognition of Michael Marsh's 20th anniversary,

Toledo's Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson honored him with a proclamation commemorating all he has accomplished for our community over two decades with The Fair Housing Center.

There's
No Place
like HOME
Thank You!



Guests have fun posing with the Wizard of Oz characters.



Party in our backyard! Donors, community leaders, and volunteers were invited to spend a relaxing evening in our courtyard to enjoy appetizers, wine, and conversation. New bricks and benches were unveiled, recognizing those in our community who are helping to pave the way to justice.

The Courtyard of Justice is a public green space located right outside our building in the heart of downtown Toledo. Individuals and local organizations have generously contributed to our mission by purchasing bricks and benches in the courtyard that are inscribed with names of supporters or special messages.



Hunt Sears, Cherie Sears, and Emory Whittington

A Look Back

Our Annual Meeting presents an opportunity to share the past year's activities and accomplishments with our community. The impact of our efforts was demonstrated through presentations on our enforcement, outreach, and development outcomes.

A new slate of board officers was elected for 2018, and awards were presented in recognition of outstanding achievement. Former board member Carla Nowak received commendation for her objective and impartial viewpoint that fostered a diplomatic environment, and current board member Patty Wise received commendation for her generous donation of in-kind legal services that helped extend our agency's capacity.



TFHC board members Keith Jordan, Cheryl Slack, Cherie Sears, Louis Escobar, Kellie Schlachter, Denise Alvarado, Ken Mackowiak, Alan Bannister, and Ernie Walker.

Recognition was also given in honor of Michael Marsh's 20-year anniversary and Jen Teschner's 40th anniversary with The Fair Housing Center. Known nationally as a leader in fair housing, Michael has presented at conferences across the country, helped to raise more than \$10 million in grants, events, and fundraising activities, and oversaw two of the agency's largest settlements. Jen's work has had an immeasurable impact on systemic discrimination, including testing methodologies that are used nationally and major settlements that helped improve access to homeownership in underserved areas.

WHO WE ARE

Here at The Fair Housing Center there are many people who put countless hours and enormous amounts of effort into the agency's mission. We would like to offer you the chance to get to know some of the determined and energetic staff and board members who work hard to keep housing fair!

GETTING TO KNOW

Staff Member Linda Skowronek - Grants Administrator & Executive Assistant

Serving at The Fair Housing Center for nearly 19 years, Linda Skowronek has played a key role as the Grants Administrator and Executive Assistant. Growing up in Walbridge, Linda wasn't aware of the social injustices in the community until joining the agency. "I didn't know that discrimination came in so many forms and affected so many people. Living in Walbridge and going to Lake High School, I had no idea of the injustices faced by persons of color or those living with a disability. Just imagine if we treated everyone like equals."

For inspiration, Linda looks to having a positive mental attitude, both for herself and those who surround her at home and at work. Her favorite social movement leader is Gandhi because "his core mission was to evaluate civil injustices through non-violent avenues."

If Linda could switch places with anybody she would choose Ellen DeGeneres, a person known for her kindness and humor who gets the chance to chat with interesting guests and make dreams come true.

Linda's advice to anyone going into nonprofit or civil rights work is to be prepared for hard work and appreciate rewards beyond the satisfaction of money. It's an ideal career "if you're looking to make a positive change to benefit all people."

Linda's Favorite Quote

"Dance like there's nobody watching and sing like there's nobody listening."

-William W. Purkey

GETTING TO KNOW Board Member Patty Wise

Although Patty recently joined the board in 2016, she has been involved with The Fair Housing Center since 2013. Her interest in civil rights began in college, when she learned "that my parents' views were not my own, and not necessarily correct (in my view)."

Patty's Favorite Quote

"None of us got where we are solely by pulling ourselves up by our bootstraps. We got here because somebody – a parent, a teacher, an Ivy League crony, or a few nuns – bent down and helped us pick up our boots." - Thurgood Marshall

One of Patty's favorite social movement leaders from the past is Thurgood Marshall, noting his remarkable passion and skill. "He took on unwinnable cases, and still made significant inroads even when he didn't (and couldn't) win". Her favorite present day leaders are John Lewis, Colin Kaepernick, and...The Fair Housing Center!

Patty has encouraging words for anyone considering going into nonprofit or civil rights work. "Go, go, go – we need you and the world needs you. And collect as many mentors and guides as you can along the way".

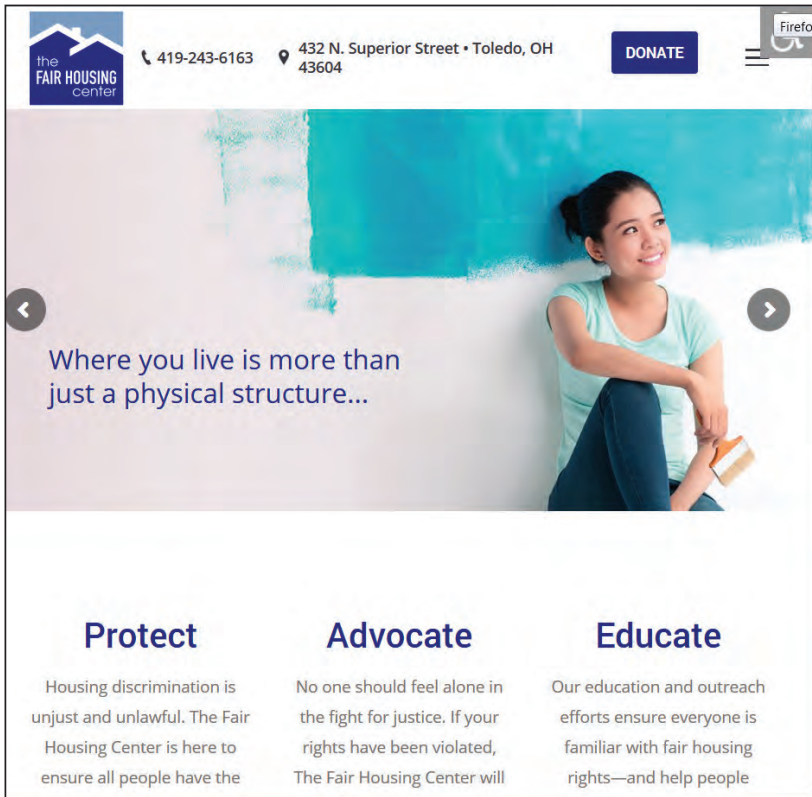


Patricia A. Wise
Attorney at Law
Spengler Nathanson P.L.L.

We Got a Makeover!

This year we unveiled our new look! Funding provided by an education and outreach grant from HUD enabled us to revamp our logo, website, and advertisements. An updated design not only keeps our look fresh and modern, but also provides an opportunity to enhance our outreach.

Check out our new logo!



toledofhc.org

Our updated website is more user-friendly, featuring online forms that enable the public to contact us easily. Striving to be more responsive to all the people we serve, it also offers specific pages dedicated to donors, volunteers, and housing professionals. Special features were also added to ensure the website is more accessible. A language selection tool enables users to translate the entire site into 100 different languages, and an accessibility tool can be used to manipulate the display of the site to accommodate people with disabilities.



“The real estate agent said we might be more comfortable living in a different neighborhood.”



419-243-6163
toledofhc.org

If you suspect you are being steered because of your race, religion, or ethnicity, contact us.

Ads were redesigned with a simpler and more relatable approach, enabling the public to better identify housing discrimination and become aware of their rights.

Michael P. Marsh, CFRE
President & CEO

Officers

Louis Escobar Chairperson
Cherie Sears Vice Chairperson
Keith Jordan Treasurer
Denise Alvarado Secretary

Directors

Alan Bannister
Diane Friedman
Ken Mackowiak
Alan Sattler
Kellie Schlachter
Cheryl Slack
Ernest Walker Jr.
Mary-Thom Williams
Patricia Wise

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VISION

The Fair Housing Center will be a leading visible force in preventing and correcting discriminatory practices.

MISSION

The Fair Housing Center is a non-profit civil rights agency dedicated to the elimination of housing discrimination, the promotion of housing choice and the creation of inclusive communities of opportunity. To achieve our mission, the Center engages in education and outreach, housing counseling, advocacy for anti-discriminatory housing policies, research and investigation and enforcement actions.



EXCELLENT RATING

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- Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchase to The Fair Housing Center



Enroll Your Kroger Card

With the Kroger Community Rewards program, you can help support the efforts of The Fair Housing Center every time you buy groceries at Kroger. Enrollment is simple and free!

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- On the Community tab, select Kroger Community Rewards
- Click Enroll Now, then Enroll
- Search by group number **97582** or the name **Fair Housing Opportunities of Northwest Ohio, Inc.**
- Click Enroll