



# Open Doors

News from the Metropolitan St. Louis  
Equal Housing and Opportunity Council

## Year in Review

Dear Partners and Friends:

EHOC had a truly wonderful, productive 2013. It could not have happened without the generous support from you, our partners in fair housing. For your participation at our events, your financial contributions, your encouraging words and support, I extend to you my most sincere thanks. Here is a look at some of what your support has allowed us to accomplish in 2013:

- We educated and trained over 1,400 individuals and community members on fair housing and tenant rights.
- We assisted over 530 people with fair housing and/or landlord tenant issues through our intake hotline.
- We filed twenty four (24) fair housing cases with administrative enforcement agencies.

EHOC's impact extends far beyond numbers. Our partnership with the St. Louis Equal Housing and Community Reinvestment Alliance (SLEHCRA) continues to flourish as we advocate for fair and equal access to banks and financial resources. In particular, SLEHCRA's efforts and various collaborations have contributed to the opening of new bank branch locations in Pagedale, Ferguson, Olivette and the city of St. Louis.

This year, EHOC made strides in combating Familial Status discrimination, which is illegal discrimination against families with minor children. Familial Status discrimination can lead to homelessness, educational deficiencies, financial hardship and stress. This particularly rings true for one-parent households. Your support helps families with children all across the region have equal access to housing.

I ask you to join me in expanding EHOC to even greater heights in 2014 and donate now to EHOC's End of the Year Campaign. No gift is too small and every gift is greatly appreciated. As famous cultural anthropologist Margaret Mead declared:

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."*

I am a living witness that small acts of generosity from our supporters can have a profound impact on individuals in need. We ask you to be a part of the small group of thoughtful, committed citizens that help change the entire St. Louis region, making it a better, more equitable place to live for everyone. You can donate by making a secured credit card donation online through Network for Good by clicking [here](#) or by check made payable to EHOC, 1027 S. Vandeventer Ave., 6th floor, St. Louis, Missouri 63110.

Thank you again for your support that will help us reach even more families in 2014.

**SAVE THE  
DATE**

**Friday,  
April 4,  
2014**

**EHOC's 17th  
Annual Regional  
Fair Housing  
Training  
Conference**

More details to  
come!

In This Issue

[Year in Review](#)

[EHOC Conference  
- April 4, 2014](#)

[Segregation and  
Health Disparities](#)

[EHOC Welcomes  
Kalila Jackson!](#)

[This American Life  
on Fair Housing](#)

[More Ways to  
Support EHOC](#)

[About EHOC](#)

[Did You Know?](#)

Quick Links

[More About Us](#)  
[Our Sponsors](#)

EHOC is supported by a grant through the U. S. Department of Housing & Urban Development and through grants from St. Louis City Community Development Administration, St. Louis County and from supporters like you.

Sincerely,

Chaplain Will Jordan, JD  
Executive Director



**Mission**

The Metropolitan St. Louis Equal Housing and Opportunity Council (EHOC) works to ensure equal access to housing and places of public accommodation through education, counseling, investigation and enforcement of fair housing laws.

**Services**

**Education** - EHOC provides education about fair housing to consumers as well as to housing providers, real estate agents, local governments, architects and others. If you are a nonprofit organization and would like to set up a workshop, please call 800-555-3951 x7016.

**Fair Housing Complaint Counseling and Investigation** - EHOC assists those who believe they have been discriminated against in housing due to their race, color, religion, national origin, gender, familial status, disability or because of sexual orientation, marital status, age (40+), ancestry, military status, source of income under applicable local laws.

**Tenant Hotline** - EHOC offers a hotline to educate people on Missouri Landlord - Tenant law and to prevent homelessness.

**Support**

EHOC receives support from the U. S. Department of

**Save the Date for EHOC's Fair Housing Conference: April 4, 2014**

The Metropolitan St. Louis Equal Housing and Opportunity Council's  
17th Annual Regional Fair Housing Training Conference

**BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS  
TO HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES:**

**A COMMUNITY WORKSHOP**

**April 4, 2014**  
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**Missouri History Museum**

More details coming soon!  
Keep updated at [www.ehocstl.org](http://www.ehocstl.org)

A workshop bringing together community members, leaders, organizations, policy makers, and advocates that will explore barriers to equal housing in the St. Louis region and create collaborative community action plans to overcome barriers and increase access to opportunities for all people. This full-day workshop will feature speakers and action-focused work sessions focusing on key topic areas affecting our neighborhoods and communities.

Registration: \$35  
includes lunch and Open Door Award reception  
Scholarships available.

Questions?  
Contact [ensich@ehoc-stl.org](mailto:ensich@ehoc-stl.org)  
314-534-5800 ext. 7012

Sponsored by: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, St. Louis City Community Development Administration, St. Louis County, State Farm, and Missouri Commission on Human Rights.

EHOC presents our 17th Annual Regional Fair Housing Training Conference!

April 4, 2014  
8 AM to 4 PM

Missouri History Museum

**Breaking Down Barriers to Housing Opportunities:  
A Community Workshop**

A workshop bringing together community members, leaders, organizations, policy makers, and advocates that will explore barriers to equal housing in the St. Louis region and create collaborative community action plans to overcome barriers and increase access to opportunities for all people. This full-day workshop will feature speakers and action-focused work sessions focusing on key topic areas affecting our neighborhoods and communities.

Registration: \$35, includes lunch and Open Door Award reception.  
*Scholarships available.*

**Look for open registration and more details coming soon!**

Sponsored by: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, St. Louis City Community Development Administration, St. Louis County, State Farm, and the Missouri Commission on Human Rights.

If you are interested in sponsoring, please contact Elisabeth Risch at 314-534-5800 ext. 7012 or [erisch@ehoc-stl.org](mailto:erisch@ehoc-stl.org).

## Policy Brief on Segregation and Health Disparities



A report on the health and well-being of African Americans in St. Louis

[For the Sake of All](#) is a multidisciplinary study on the health and well-being of African-Americans in St. Louis. Researchers from Washington University in St. Louis and St. Louis University are collaborating to present a series of policy briefs and a comprehensive report that focus on the social determinants of health that are impacting African-Americans in St. Louis City and St. Louis County. The fourth policy brief, [Segregation: Divided Cities Lead to Differences in Health](#), was released in November 2013 and examines the effects of segregation on health.

In this brief, the researchers discuss the disparities in health and access to health care for our St. Louis communities that result from segregation. Specifically, the researchers point out the higher rates of death from heart disease and cancers that correlate with areas of high poverty and high minority population.

The [St. Louis Beacon followed up on the policy brief with an article](#) that highlights more of the implications for a community with lack of access to health care and other services. The article highlights the experience of living in a racially isolated neighborhood without a health center and without access to information about health and health services. EHOC's Executive Director, Will Jordan, is also featured in the article discussing segregated neighborhoods and the need for investment in those racially concentrated areas of poverty. [Read the St. Louis Beacon article.](#)

Additionally, St. Louis On The Air hosted an episode on December 9 discussing the brief with the researchers, Dr. Melody Goodman and Dr. Keon Gilbert, as well as EHOC's Executive Director Will Jordan and 21st Ward Alderman Antonio French. [Listen to the episode online at St. Louis Public Radio!](#)

The policy recommendations of the [For the Sake of All](#) team include strategies that promote strong and diverse neighborhoods, including increasing investment in neighborhoods, promoting development and housing choice without displacement, and highlighting the benefits of diverse communities through a fair housing message. The brief also highlights the work of EHOC as a fair housing organization working to promote integration, as well as [OneSTL](#), of which EHOC is a partner.

## EHOC welcomes Kalila Jackson!



Housing & Urban Development (HUD); St. Louis City CDA; St. Louis County Community Development and through tax-deductible contributions.

### Staff

Will Jordan,  
Executive Director

Karla Dozier,  
Assistant Director /  
Senior Staff  
Attorney

Zachary Schmook,  
Managing Attorney

Katina Combs,  
Director of Testing /  
Fair Lending  
Specialist

Elisabeth Risch,  
Director of  
Research and  
Education

Valerie Leslie,  
Test Coordinator /  
Fair Housing  
Specialist Assistant

Kalila Jackson,  
Staff Attorney

Alexia Anderson,  
Accountant

Deborah Grieder,  
General Counsel

### Board

Nate Johnson,  
President

Ann Lever, Vice  
President

Cynthia Jordan,  
Treasurer

Hedy Epstein,  
Secretary

Sonja McClendon  
Valerie Bell  
Steve Gunn  
Dennis Lavallee  
Eric Madkins  
Miriam Mahan  
Cathy Contarino

### Website

[www.ehocstl.org](http://www.ehocstl.org)



EHOC is happy to welcome Kalila Jackson, Esq. as a full-time staff member! Kalila is EHOC's Staff Attorney. She began working with EHOC part-time in the fall of 2011 and we are thrilled to have her join us full-time.

Kalila J. Jackson is a native of St. Louis. She received her undergraduate degree from Saint Louis University in 2004

and received her law degree from Washington University School of Law in 2009. Kalila worked as an Associate Attorney at a civil litigation firm, where she represented individuals and businesses in a diverse range of civil litigation matters, including employment and housing discrimination. Kalila is also a member of the Board of Directors of Catholic Family Services.

## NPR's This American Life Highlights Fair Housing

NPR's popular show [This American Life](#) recently featured an episode about housing discrimination and the Fair Housing Act. The episode, entitled House Rules, aired on November 22, 2013.

[Click here to listen to the episode!](#)

The episode features the housing discrimination testing of the Fair Housing Justice Center, based in New York City. We hear the stories from testers inquiring about availability in apartment buildings and the different answers given to each the white tester and the black tester.

The episode also tells about the history of the Fair Housing Act. It focuses on detailing the struggle of HUD secretary George Romney in enforcing the obligation to overcome segregation and affirmatively further fair housing.

Much of the information in the episode is from ProPublica's series on housing discrimination in America, [Living Apart: Fair Housing in America](#).

## More Ways to Support Fair Housing

Have you considered putting the Metropolitan St. Louis Equal Housing & Opportunity in your will? If you are interested in making a bequest to EHOC to support future fair housing work, please contact Will Jordan at 314-534-5800 ext. 7018

The Metropolitan St. Louis Equal Housing & Opportunity Council offers four easy ways to support fair housing. Supporters can make a secure credit card donation to EHOC through [Network for Good](#) by clicking [here](#).

Supporters can also mail in a contribution to Alexia Anderson, EHOC, 1027 South Vandeventer Ave., 6th Floor, Saint Louis, MO 63110.

Supporters can also use [Good Search](#) as your Search Engine and select the Metropolitan St. Louis Equal Housing & Opportunity Council as the recipient.

You can also contribute to EHOC by shopping online through [iGive.com](#) and select Metropolitan St. Louis Equal Housing & Opportunity Council as the recipient.

## Did you know?

The [This American Life episode](#)

highlights the fair housing testing done by the Fair Housing Justice Center, a non-profit fair housing organization. As many of you know, EHOC also conducts fair housing testing in the rental, sales, and lending markets in the St. Louis metro area and beyond.

Testing is an investigative tool that we use to gather evidence about housing experiences. Testing can reveal evidence of differential treatment because of a protected class. For example, a race test might send an African-American tester and a white tester to inquire about an apartment.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Havens Realty Corp. v. Coleman* (456 U.S. 363 (1982)) that testers are an important and legitimate way of enforcing fair housing. The Supreme Court's ruling defines testers as "individuals, who, without an intent to rent or purchase a home or apartment, post as renters or purchasers for the purpose of collecting evidence of unlawful steering practices." The Court's decision in the *Havens* case ruled that testers have standing to sue under the Fair Housing Act.

Since discrimination is much more subtle

We are grateful for your support!

and hard to detect, testing is one of the most important tools in fighting illegal housing discrimination.

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to erisch@ehoc-stl.org by [erisch@ehoc-stl.org](mailto:erisch@ehoc-stl.org) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



Metropolitan St. Louis Equal Housing & Opportunity Council | 1027 South Vandeventer Ave., 6th Floor | Saint Louis | MO | 63110