

**\$1,250,000**  
Campaign Goal

**\$826,366**  
Funds Raised to Date



## Different Ways to Give

In addition to sponsoring tiles for the donor wall, FHC members and supporters are finding a variety of ways to give to the Capital Campaign. Two FHC Board Members designated funds to the Fair Housing Center through the United Way. Many supporters are making 3-year pledges to the campaign. The Grand Rapids Press is running regular ads with information about the project and opportunities to give. Many of the Center's subcontractors and suppliers have agreed to donate labor and/or supplies to the project – totaling over \$125,000 in gifts to date! Thanks to Chase, Steelcase Inc., DVK Construction, Williams Kitchen & Bath, Jones Gavan & Helmholdt, Advanced Carpeting, Superior Asphalt, Superior Glass, Taylor Electric, LPDA Inc., Advisory Plumbing Associates, Arrow Roofing & Supply, SA Morman Inc., Pitsch Companies, Concrete Central, Helms Caulking, DesignScapes, Custer, Materials Testing Consultants, Painting by Jeff and O'Leary Paint.

The FHC also has a Wish List of items needed for the new building. A few of those items include: **Technology:** LCD projector, DVD player, small TV, free-standing projector screen. **Training/Work rooms:** easels and easel pads, TV cart, audio/visual cart, window shades, paper cutter, binding machine, stackable trays, multi-slot mailbox, brochure holders, step stools. **Breakroom:** small table and chairs, mugs, silverware, toaster, dishes. **General:** artwork, plants, door stops, floor mats, vacuum cleaner, carpet cleaner, mop/bucket, broom/dustpan, cleaning supplies, soap (dishwasher, dish, hand), trash/recycle cans. **Outdoors:** shovel, rake, broom, soaker hoses

Please visit our web site at [fhcwm.org](http://fhcwm.org) to see how you can help! Thank you!



Fifth Third Bank presents a gift to the Housing Fair Housing Campaign. From L to R Liz Keegan, FHC; Patrick Lonergan, Fifth Third Bank; Regina Davis, FHC and Nancy Haynes, FHC.

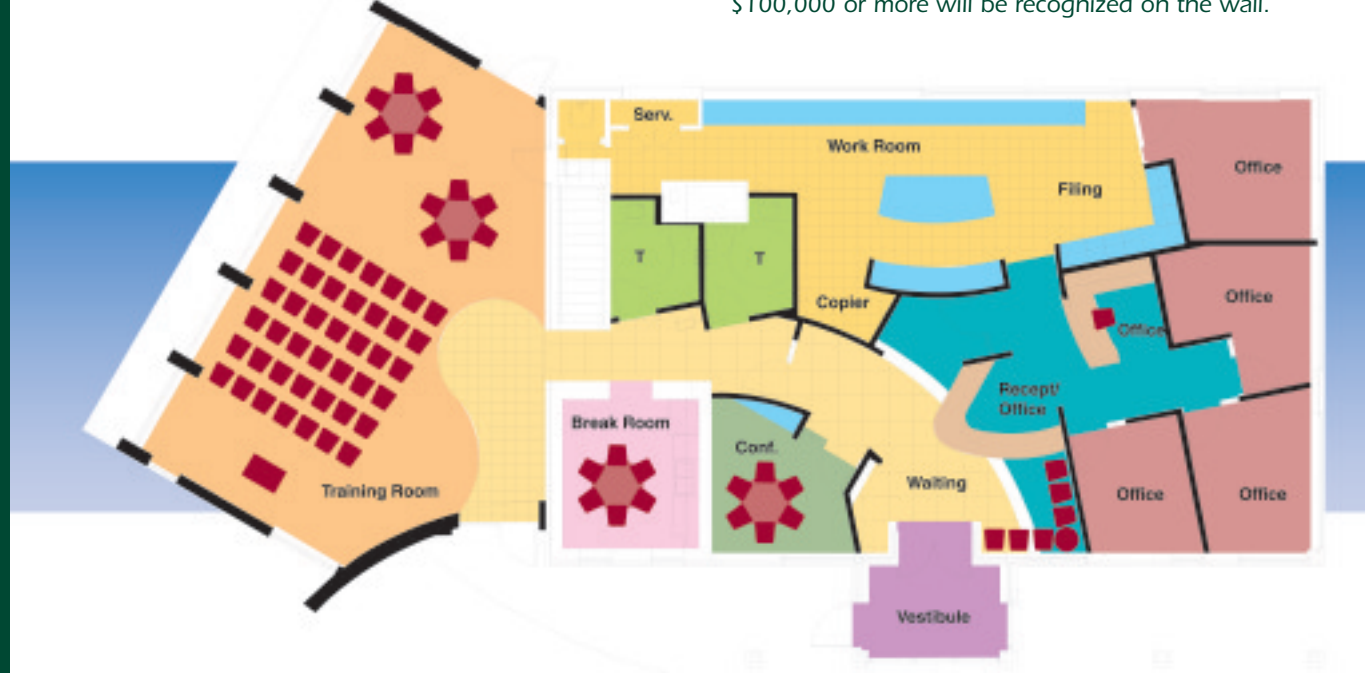


Flagstar Bank presents a gift to the Housing Fair Housing Campaign. From L to R Dan Grzywacz, Flagstar Bank; Nancy Haynes, FHC and Tim Reimink, FHC Board Member and Campaign Co-chair.



## Artistic Addition to the New Center

The FHC is pleased to announce that Mary Kuilema, a local ceramic and tile artist, has designed a beautiful tile wall for the Center's new home at 20 Hall SE. The tile wall will have an abstract, three dimensional quality with floating architectural elements and Escher-like structures and angles. The design both acknowledges donors to the capital campaign and celebrates the work of the Center through the incorporation of the new 'open door' logo. The tiles will be permanently installed in the reception area of the new building. Gifts from \$100 to \$100,000 or more will be recognized on the wall.



The Housing Fair Housing campaign will provide a new home for the Fair Housing Center and enable it to:

- Expand services to 10 counties surrounding Kent County
- Work with over 1,000 housing industry personnel annually
- Train hundreds of service agency staff and community members
- Respond to over 2,000 telephone calls and referrals per year
- Investigate over 150 housing discrimination cases each year
- Accommodate two more full-time staff members

## Renovations Will Create Accessible and Welcoming Environment

Situated at the corner of Hall and Division streets, the new Fair Housing Center will offer greater visibility and improved accessibility. It will also provide increased capacity to deliver fair housing outreach, education, and enforcement. The new facility is more than three times larger than current quarters allowing for the addition of two more staff members and space to store historical archives. One of the features staff members are most excited about is the state-of-the-art training room with capacity for over 45 people. The training room will be next to a kitchen area and accessible restrooms. This space will be put to good use as the FHC conducts training sessions for hundreds of people each year. The meeting space will also be available to community partners for meetings and special events, with ample onsite parking. Outdoors, a landscaped patio area is planned which can also be used for informal gatherings. The building will be surrounded by rain gardens, which are designed to absorb storm-water runoff from the roof and parking lot. The gardens include perennial native plants and help reduce pollution in our streams, rivers and lakes.

Architect for the project is Isaac Norris, of Isaac V. Norris & Associates and the contractor is DVK Construction. The project is incorporating "green design"—features that reduce the negative environmental impacts of the building and improve occupant health and well being.

## Kent County Seniors Twice as Likely to Experience Housing Discrimination

In response to a growing demand for services from the senior community, the Fair Housing Center made seniors the focus of a special project this summer. The Center conducted a small pilot project which involved testing various housing options for seniors for discrimination based upon race. The results were startling. The Fair Housing Center found differences in service and treatment, price and availability between white and African American testers twice as often as the Center usually finds when testing the general population. As such, the Fair Housing Center sought and tentatively received Senior Millage funding from Kent County to address this issue through determining the extent of the problems faced by seniors, building awareness about discrimination within the senior community and developing materials to educate the community about the issues.

Senior involvement is key to the success of this project. The Fair Housing Center is looking for seniors willing to volunteer. We have opportunities for seniors to serve as fair housing testers and/or perform more administrative functions.

If interested, please contact the FHC at 451-2980 or 1-866-389-FAIR.

### Building Facts at a Glance:

- 4,000 square feet
- Workspace for five to seven professional staff
- 900 sq. ft. Training Room with capacity for 45+ people
- Onsite historical archive and data
- Accessible and welcoming environment
- "Green" design elements
- Landscaped patio area and surrounding rain gardens



# Branching Out & Reaching Further

## Capital Campaign Facilitates Service Expansion

Since 1980, the Fair Housing Center of West Michigan (FHC) has built a reputation as the community's primary resource in the field of fair housing. Its reach has expanded beyond Grand Rapids to include ten counties surrounding Kent County. This service expansion includes a merger with the Lakeshore Fair Housing Center of Holland, Michigan. Coinciding with this service expansion has been the adoption of a new name – the Fair Housing Center of West Michigan – and the launch of a capital campaign. The gift of the building and subsequent campaign come at a critical point in the growth of the Fair Housing Center. The move into larger quarters will strengthen and expand the ability of the FHC to deliver crucial fair housing services across the region, including education, outreach, and enforcement of fair housing law.



© Photograph Bernard J. Kleina

### Addressing discrimination through training.

Training seminars are provided on a regular basis to individuals, groups, and organizations working in the housing industry. These workshops focus on best practices in housing sales, housing rental, lending, insurance, and advertising relating to the sale or rental of a dwelling and reach over 500 people each year. The new training facility will enable the FHC to offer more trainings than ever before.

### Education and advocacy.

Each year, FHC staff provides information and referral services to over 2,000 people with housing-related issues. Some inquires are related to fair housing laws, many are not. An important component of this service, says Nancy Haynes, Executive Director of the FHC, is discerning the real issue and directing people to the right source for further assistance. "Every call and drop-in visit is an opportunity to provide information about the protections provided by fair housing laws." The Center is expecting an increase in the volume of walk-in traffic and calls as a result of a more visible and active presence in a redeveloping downtown neighborhood.

### Changing practices through enforcement.

The FHC promotes compliance with fair housing law by assisting home seekers in the investigation and resolution of complaints of housing discrimination. Each year, the Center investigates an average of 150 complaints and conducts over 500 tests relating to: home sales and rentals, financing, insurance, and even advertisements for homes and developments. "Complaint investigations are very involved," explains Haynes. "More than 125 volunteers help in the process of conducting research, interviews, and comparison testing in order to reach resolution. With the additional workspace planned, the Center is better able to recruit and train testers."

Haynes says there are a growing variety of housing options in West Michigan. "Revitalized areas of the inner city and renovated downtown buildings are joining suburban centers and rural settings to create a wide range of possibilities. Fair housing law gives people the right to choose among these options to determine where and how they live. Yet everyday," continues Haynes, "people face obstacles—both intentional and unintentional—in making this choice. Housing discrimination divides our neighborhoods and denies access to the services and resources people need to improve their lives. Our new home will help open doors to housing choice."



# Fair Housing News

Opening Doors to Housing Choice



PRODUCED BY THE FAIR HOUSING CENTER OF WEST MICHIGAN

## Housing Fair Housing Campaign Nearing Goal

**Housing Fair Housing** is a 1.25 million dollar capital campaign undertaken by the Fair Housing Center of West Michigan to convert a former bank branch into a permanent home for the non-profit organization. To date, the Fair Housing Center (FHC) garnered support from individuals, organizations and members totaling over \$140,000. These contributions, in addition to the donated building and grants, put the campaign at over 65 percent of its goal. Over the next few months, as it strives for 100 percent, the FHC will be seeking additional financial gifts from housing industry partners and community members.

Nancy Haynes, Executive Director of Fair Housing Center, says the initial response has been tremendous giving her confidence the Center will achieve its goal. "We want to start this next phase of our campaign by publicly acknowledging the individuals and organizations that have helped launch this campaign in a very successful way. Our goal is within reach thanks to the foresight and generosity of several lead donors who have set the pace for this campaign."

The building itself – a former bank branch located at the corner of Hall and Division streets—was donated by Chase (previously Bank One) of Grand Raids. The Dyer-Ives Foundation, Frey Foundation Grand Rapids Community Foundation and Steelcase Foundation have made contributions totaling almost \$200,000. Lead gifts have also been received from the Kate and Richard Wolters Foundation, the Grand Rapids Association of Realtors, Bob & Alecia Woodrick, the James & Jane Welch Foundation, Comerica Charitable Foundation, Fifth Third Foundation, Flagstar Bank, Mercantile Bank, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Chemical Bank West, Women's Council of Realtors and Heartland Builders.

Haynes says a committee of community leaders assembled earlier this year has been instrumental



Nancy Haynes, Executive Director (L) and Doretha Ardoin, Board President (R) of FHC at the press conference announcing the Housing Fair Housing campaign.

in the development and implementation of the campaign. "We invited several members of the community to sit on a campaign committee to provide guidance and fundraising assistance. Their involvement and support has been invaluable. They have devoted countless hours to this campaign. We are grateful for their vision, leadership, and practical advice."

In addition to covering renovation, furnishing and relocation costs, the Housing Fair Housing Campaign will fund a building maintenance reserve that will generate enough interest annually to maintain the physical property and any additional expenses outside of operating costs.

When completed, the new facility will offer increased visibility in a prime location in a redeveloping city neighborhood. It is more than three times larger than the current leased space offering increased capacity to deliver fair housing outreach, education, and enforcement. The Fair Housing Center plans to be operating from the new building in early 2007.

### Fair Housing Center of West Michigan Capital Campaign Committee

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Honorary Committee Chair  
Former Mayor, City of Grand Rapids

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FHC Board Member  
Coldwell Banker Schmidt Realtors

Ron Eberhardt,  
FHC Board Member  
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Kevin Stotts  
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### Fair Housing Center of West Michigan Board of Directors

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