

MCCR FAIR HOUSING CHILDREN'S BOOK INITIATIVE

April is Fair Housing Month and this year our goal is to take our message out of our offices and into our communities! The **Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (MCCR)** is launching an exciting new project to help Maryland children and their families start meaningful dialogues about fair housing rights and diversity.

The Commission is sponsoring a new education program using the acclaimed children's book, *The Fair Housing Five & the Haunted House*, written by the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center. The book is about a diverse group of friends who work together to keep their community open to all after they discover that a landlord in their neighborhood is discriminating.

The book has been used in many states around the country to provide young people and their families important opportunities to engage in discussion and activities related to themes from the book including discrimination, fairness, and equity. The program starts in 2015 but our vision is to give the books and teach how to facilitate meaningful book discussions so that any participating organization can continue to use the materials now and in the future!

We'd love to have your participation. Below are a few ways to get involved:

- ◆ **If you missed our free train-the-trainer WORKSHOP in March 2015 to learn how to facilitate a guided discussion** about the book with youth in 1st – 5th grades, contact us to receive book discussion materials and view a recorded version of the workshop!
- ◆ **SHARE THIS INFO** with others in your network who may be interested in the program or in attending book discussion workshops. This is ideal for educators, librarians, elementary schools, after-school programs, youth organizations, community members and civil rights advocates.
- ◆ **BRING THE BOOK TO YOUR GROUP.** If you know of a school, library, youth group or other organization that would be interested in hosting a book discussion, please contact us. We can give them the resources to lead their own book discussions and/or we can facilitate the book discussions.
- ◆ **JOIN OUR SPONSORSHIP DRIVE** by donating one or more books to the program. Books will then be donated to participating schools, classrooms, youth organizations, etc. See contact info below for more detailed info on sponsorship opportunities.

This project is sponsored in partnership with the Anne Arundel Human Relations Commission; the Baltimore Regional Fair Housing Group, a committee of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council; Baltimore Neighborhoods, Inc.; Howard County Housing; the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development; PNC Bank; and the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development.

Feel free to visit www.fairhousingfive.org to learn more about the book



For more info or partnership opportunities please contact:

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