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FAIR HOUSING FIVE CHILDREN'S BOOK PROJECT LANDS IN OUR SCHOOLS **Project Educates Children & Families on Fair Housing Matters**

Baltimore, MD – Fair Housing Month continues! On April 17 and 24 the Y of Central Maryland, in partnership with the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (MCCR) and others, is conducting book discussions for the *Fair Housing Five* children's book project at 6 elementary schools where the Y offers its Before & After School Enrichment Programs. These schools are Johnnycake Elementary School (Catonsville), Richard Henry Lee Elementary School (Glen Burnie), Riverside Elementary School (Joppa), Deerfield Elementary School (Edgewood), and Church Creek Elementary School (Belcamp). Robert Moton Elementary School (Westminster) hosted their discussions on April 16 and 17. Overall, approximately 160 children grades 3 through 5 will learn about their rights under the Fair Housing Act.

To maximize the project's educational value, the discussions are broken up into two parts. April 17 was devoted to a book discussion with students facilitated by Y program staff. April 24 will be a re-cap of the book discussion and the students will participate in an art activity related to the book. The art activity is designing and creating their own Fair Housing Poster.

Written by the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center (GNOFHAC), *The Fair Housing Five & the Haunted House* is a children's story that allows youth and their families to explore and understand fair housing matters in our society. More information on *Fair Housing Five* is available at www.fairhousingfive.org.

To make this possible, MCCR is teaming up with the Anne Arundel Community College Legal Studies Institute; Baltimore Neighborhoods, Inc.; Howard County Housing; the Maryland Association of Realtors®; PNC Bank; the Anne Arundel County Human Relations Commission; the Baltimore Regional Fair Housing Group, a committee of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council; the Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development; the U. S. Department of Housing & Urban Development; the Y of Central Maryland; and the Harford County Human Relations Commission.

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Tara Taylor, Director of MCCR's Education & Outreach Unit, is available to answer any and all questions about *Fair Housing Five* workshops, as well as how MCCR can bring this exciting program to your community. Ms. Taylor can be reached at 410-767-6459 or by email at tara.taylor@maryland.gov.

MCCR represents the interest of the State to ensure equal opportunity for all through enforcement of Title 20 of the State Government Article and Title 19 of the State Finance & Procurement Article, Annotated Code of Maryland. MCCR investigates complaints of discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations and state contracts filed by members of protected classes under federal and state law. For additional information, please contact Spencer Dove at 410-767-8576 or by email at spencer.dove@maryland.gov.

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