

Affordable Housing Month—Sample Activities

Below is a sample list of activities that other organizations around the state have completed in the last two years to inform their community members, legislators and the general public about the need for affordable housing. For planning purposes, within each category sample activities are listed roughly in order of the amount of time and resources necessary for each activity.

Proclamations and Press Outreach

- ❖ Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs and Housing Oak Park obtained Affordable Housing Week/Month proclamations from their respective local governments.
- ❖ Many organizations have written letters to the editor on a local issue and/or to promote affordable housing in general.
- ❖ The Southern Illinois Coalition for the Homeless met with local newspaper editorial boards and local reporters asking them to write about the positive impact of affordable housing in the community.

Public Policy Advocacy

- ❖ Numerous groups have circulated postcards to elected officials on a specific housing issue and/or recruited HousingMatters.net members through their organizations, religious congregations, and other means.
- ❖ Catholic Charities in Joliet held an Affordable Housing Breakfast for legislators and business leaders.
- ❖ The McHenry County Continuum of Care conducted a weeklong legislative road trip meeting with their state and federal legislators.
- ❖ The DuPage Housing Action Coalition made a presentation to the DuPage County Board and held an Affordable Housing Rally.

Public Education Activities

- ❖ West Suburban PADS had an open house at their office in Maywood.
- ❖ The DeKalb County Housing Action Coalition held a forum on public-private partnerships to develop affordable housing.
- ❖ The Decatur/Macon County Homeless Council presented and discussed the documentary *Waging a Living* on hardworking low-wage earners for the general public.
- ❖ BCMW Community Services in Centralia held an Affordable Housing Fair and the Livingston County Homeless Coalition held an Home Energy and Affordable Housing Fair to promote available housing-related resources for their respective community residents.
- ❖ The Will County Continuum of Care worked with a student group to build a mobile “Model Home” public education display that was circulated among various locations throughout the month.
- ❖ Bridge Communities in Glen Ellyn held “Sleep Out Saturday” where 50 groups and 1,200 individuals braved the cold November night to help raise awareness and create empathy for homeless families in DuPage County. Through sponsorships, they raised nearly \$110,000 for Bridge Communities.

Trainings

- ❖ The Village of Round Lake Beach offered “How to Get Ready for Homeownership” seminar.
- ❖ The Kane County Continuum of Care held an Affordable Housing Finance Workshop for nonprofit board and staff members.
- ❖ Soyland Access to Independent Living offered an all-day training: on the American Disabilities Act’s accessibility standards.