

FAIR HOUSING MONTHLY

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Fair Housing Council of
METROPOLITAN MEMPHIS

July 2025



Top News

First Year
Accomplishments

*Finding Home: A Story
of Fair Housing Book
Release*

Our Organization's Growth & Success in ONE YEAR!

On June 1st, the Fair Housing Council of Metropolitan Memphis celebrated its one-year anniversary as a voice for housing justice in our region. In just 12 months, we've gone from startup to powerhouse — building trust, delivering education, and enforcing the Fair Housing Act.



01/03

New Partnerships Formed

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New Release: *Finding Home — A Story of Fair Housing*

We're thrilled to announce the release of *Finding Home*, a brand-new children's storybook written by our Education & Outreach Coordinator, Brittany Hart.

This beautifully illustrated book follows a young boy named Desmond as he and his family navigate the challenges of housing discrimination. Guided by a magical bird named Maya, Desmond learns about the importance of fair housing, civil rights, and what it means to find a place to truly call home.

Designed for readers in grades K-5, *Finding Home* is already making its way into schools, libraries, and community spaces across the country. It's more than a book – it's a tool for sparking powerful conversations about equity, empathy, and the right to safe, inclusive housing. [Click here](https://www.fhcmm.org) to order the book or visit www.fhcmm.org.

Here's What We've Accomplished in our FIRST YEAR:

- Over **272,000** individuals reached through outreach and community events
- **750** outreach activities
- **170** contacts screened for fair housing issues
- over **75** fair housing tests conducted to uncover potential discrimination
- Over **4,600** youth and families engaged through "My Happy Home" coloring book
- Countless partnerships built across the Mid-South
- over **160,000** advertising impressions, including our advertisement campaign with Action news 5 and monthly campaigns on NextDoor
- Over **75,000** pieces of fair housing literature and information distributed into the community.
- **40** trainings conducted

Fair Housing Spotlight: A Caregiver's Right to Stay



When Mya moved in with her mother to provide full-time care, their housing security was suddenly threatened. Despite Mya's role as a 24/7 caregiver, her mother was told she could face eviction for having her daughter live with her. That's when they reached out to FHCMM.

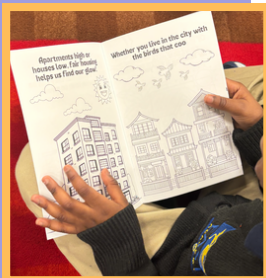
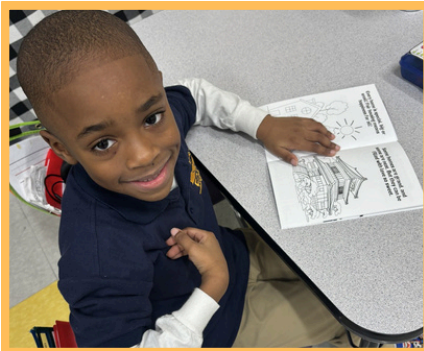
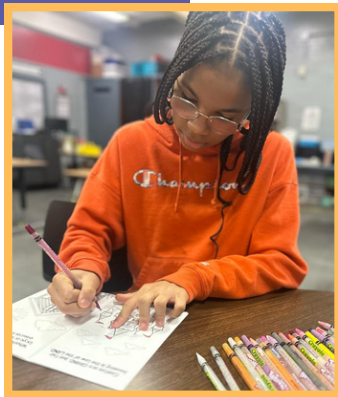
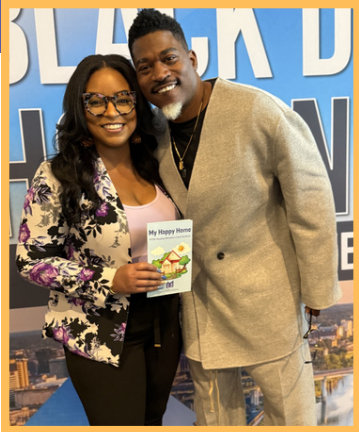
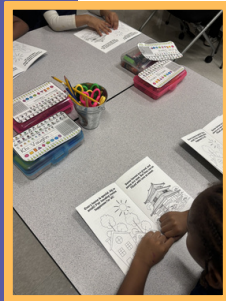
With our support, a reasonable accommodation request was filed on her mother's behalf—asserting her right to live with a caregiver due to her health needs. The request was approved, giving Mya and her mother peace of mind and the freedom to remain together.

In Mya's words:

"FHCMM made it possible for me to be there for my mom when she needed me most. Being her 24/7 caregiver was a gift, and your support made that possible."

02/03

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Coloring Outside the Lines: How *My Happy Home* Is Reaching Families Nationwide

What began as a creative project—designing simple coloring pages about Fair Housing—grew into a full coloring storybook created by Brittany Hart to help children understand their housing rights in a fun, accessible way.

Since its release, *My Happy Home: A Fair Housing Adventure Coloring Book* has traveled far beyond Memphis, making its way into classrooms, museums, libraries, and homes across the country. From Washington, D.C. to Arizona, California, North Carolina, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Mississippi, and cities throughout Tennessee, this book has sparked meaningful conversations about fairness, inclusion, and every child's right to a safe, welcoming home.

We're excited to share these photos of children engaging with the book—whether at home or in their classrooms—learning about their rights and the importance of fair housing.

If you would like to request a copy or copies of *My Happy Home*, please visit our website: www.fhcmm.org



Fair Housing Tip of the Month: Adverstising Matters

When advertising housing, avoid language that could exclude certain groups — even unintentionally. Phrases like “perfect for a single professional” or “ideal for couples without kids” can be considered discriminatory if they discourage people with children or from protected classes from applying. Inclusive language = inclusive housing.



Policy Pulse: Know Your Rights — Fair Housing & Source of Income Discrimination

Did you know that source of income is one of the most commonly reported forms of housing discrimination — even though it's not protected under federal law? Many states and cities have passed local laws to protect renters who use housing vouchers, disability benefits, or other non-traditional income sources.

Fair housing advocates across the country continue to push for stronger protections to ensure families aren't denied housing simply because of how they pay their rent. Understanding these evolving local and state policies helps renters, landlords, and communities create more inclusive housing opportunities for all.



Get Involved

Volunteer with us, host a training, or become a [Fair Housing Tester](#). Learn more at www.fhcmm.org/events

Upcoming Events & Trainings

- Fair Housing 101 Training – July 30th @ 5:30PM | Bartlett Library
- Know Your Rights to Fair Housing – July 31st @ 1PM | Bartlett Library



Summit Success: Leading the Conversation on Fair Housing

FHCMM was honored to play a key role in the Tennessee Human Rights Commission's 2025 Fair Housing Summit, where our very own Brittany Hart served on the event's planning committee and moderated the keynote panel discussion. The panel, titled “Where You Live Matters: The Impact of Housing on Children's Wellbeing,” brought together dynamic voices from across the state to explore the intersection of housing, equity, and youth outcomes.

The session drew outstanding feedback from attendees, who praised it as one of the most powerful and thought-provoking segments of the day. We are proud to have helped shape such a meaningful and engaging conversation, and look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts to advance fair housing across Tennessee.



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04/04

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