



# FAIR HOUSING MONTHLY

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Fair Housing Council of  
**METROPOLITAN MEMPHIS**

**November 2025**

*Gratitude builds community*

*because every family deserves a home they can be thankful for*



## Give Thanks, Give Fair Housing

As the year draws to a close, we're reminded that gratitude is more than a feeling — it's an action.

At the Fair Housing Council of Metropolitan Memphis, we're thankful for every resident, partner, and advocate who helps make our city a fairer place to live.

Fair housing is something to be thankful for because it ensures:

- Families can build roots where they choose.
- Neighbors of all backgrounds can belong.
- Every person has the right to safety, dignity, and stability at home.

This season, let's express our gratitude by opening doors — not closing them.

## Top News

**Book Series**

**COMING SOON**

**November is**

**National Homelessness  
Awareness Month**



If you're a student or recent graduate looking for a meaningful opportunity to make a difference, we'd love to hear from you! Email us at [info@fhcmm.org](mailto:info@fhcmm.org) to learn more.

**01/04**

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## Spotlight from Our Report: When Choice Isn't An Option

Did you know that many Memphis **neighborhoods of color** have to travel **miles** just to **reach fresh, healthy food**?

Our 2025 Fair Housing Testing Report shows that historical segregation and housing patterns continue to shape access to grocery stores in Memphis.

Neighborhoods that are predominantly Black or lower-income often have:

- Fewer full-service grocery stores nearby
- More convenience stores with mostly processed foods
- Longer travel distances — in some areas up to **8 miles** — to reach fresh produce

Meanwhile, neighborhoods that are majority White have more grocery options, closer access, and healthier food availability.

**This isn't just a food issue — it's a housing equity issue.**

Where you can afford to live often determines whether you can access nutritious food, transportation, and overall well-being.

**Interested in reading more?**

[View Report Here](#)

## November is National Homelessness Awareness Month

**What does homelessness have to do with Fair Housing?**

Homelessness doesn't happen in isolation — it's often the result of barriers to housing access, many of which are tied directly to fair housing protections. When families are denied housing because of their race, disability, family status, use of vouchers, or other protected characteristics, they face higher risks of instability, displacement, and homelessness.

In Memphis, these risks are even greater for neighborhoods already impacted by segregation, limited housing supply, food deserts, and transportation barriers. Discrimination — even when subtle — can push people into unsafe living situations, overcrowded homes, or having to rely on temporary shelters.

**Under the Fair Housing Act, housing providers cannot:**

- Refuse to rent or offer housing because someone has children.
- Deny a home to someone using disability-related accommodations.
- Reject applicants because they use vouchers or assistance programs (in many cases tied to disability or family status).
- Use screening policies that unfairly target certain groups and limit access to stable housing.

**Fair Housing is Homelessness Prevention**

When people have equal access to safe, affordable homes, they are far less likely to experience homelessness. Fair housing enforcement, education, and community awareness are essential tools that help keep families housed, supported, and connected to opportunity.

This November, we stand in solidarity with families experiencing housing instability — and recommit to our mission of ensuring every person has the right to a home where they feel safe, welcome, and treated fairly.

**Fair housing isn't just about where people live — it's about whether they can live safely at all.**

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02/04

COMING SOON!

## Desmond & Friends Book Series



As we give thanks this season, we're excited to share that Finding Home: A Story of Fair Housing is now officially the first book in our new children's series, Desmond & Friends — a growing collection of stories that help kids understand fairness, belonging, different parts of the Fair Housing Act and what it means to have a safe place to call home.

If you haven't read Book One yet, now is the perfect time to start the journey. Your purchase helps us continue creating stories that empower children and build a more equitable Memphis.

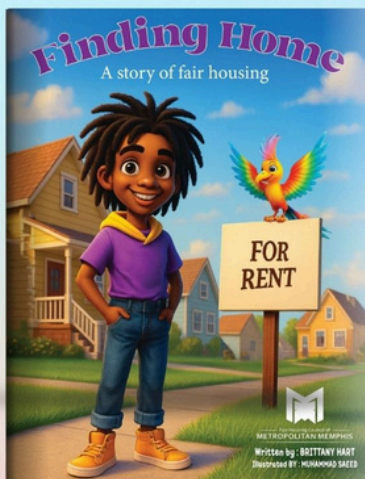
**Order Finding Home today to complete your set before Book Two arrives!**

[Click here](#) to order the books or visit

[www.fhcm.org](http://www.fhcm.org).

# CHILDREN'S BOOK NOW AVAILABLE

Order your copy TODAY!



Scan to Order



## Internship Spotlight: Grateful for Growing Minds

Our AMPLIFY Middle School Internship Program is officially underway — and we could not be more thankful. Each week, our interns meet at the Whitehaven Library, where they're diving into conversations about fair housing, community justice, and the power of knowing their rights early.

These young scholars are already asking big questions, thinking critically about the world around them, and exploring how fair housing shapes everything from where families live to the opportunities they can access.

As we reflect on this season of gratitude, we're especially thankful for the chance to pour into our next generation of leaders — and to watch them discover how their voices can create change.

# AMPLIFY Interns



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# 03/04

## Fair Housing Tip of the Month: “Kindness is Compliance”



Treating people fairly isn't just good manners – it's the law.

When landlords and housing providers act with compassion, they help create inclusive communities and prevent discrimination before it starts.

This month, let gratitude guide your interactions – and fairness follow your actions.



## Get Involved

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

**Money for the Mission:  
Become a Fair Housing Tester**

If you are interested in becoming a fair housing tester or learning more about what testing entails and how you can contribute to our mission, but can't make it to an in-person training? Scan the QR code below or call our office to register for our upcoming virtual training session!

**Money for the Mission:  
Become a Fair Housing Tester**

Wednesday, November 19, 2025  
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM  
Virtual via ZOOM

## MYTHS & FACTS

### Fair Housing Myth Buster

Each month, we'll tackle a common myth or misconception about fair housing laws.

#### This Month's Myth:

“Fair Housing doesn't apply during short-term or holiday rentals.”

#### FACT:

Fair housing laws still apply to most rental listings, including temporary or holiday stays when publicly advertised.

**Equal access isn't seasonal – it's a right.**



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**Report Discrimination** 🖱️

**04/04**

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