



# NEWS FROM HOME

Fall 2011

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## Updates from HOME Case Files

### HOME v. Cincinnati Capital Partners

The racial discrimination case, *HOME v. Cincinnati Capital Partners*, involving Valley Woods Apartments, was charged by HUD after an investigation. The case is now pending in U.S. District Court in Cincinnati.

### United States v. Henry Bailey

The sexual harassment case *United States v. Henry Bailey* is pending in U.S. District Court. HOME referred the case to the Department of Justice, which brought the action on behalf of HOME clients and other victims. Justice also is investigating another sexual harassment case identified by HOME involving numerous low-income female tenants.

### HOME v. CMHA

*HOME v. CMHA* is an administrative fair housing complaint filed with HUD against the Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority alleging discrimination against families with children. The complaint is based on a preference for seniors in issuing Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8). The current waiting list has more than 13,000 names and the preference will deny families with children vouchers until all senior households receive the rental assistance.



### 1930s' sign resurfaces in 2011

This sign was posted at the pool of a private rental property in Cincinnati by the owner who objected when the visiting bi-racial daughter of a resident used the pool. The family moved, and HOME helped them file a racial discrimination complaint with the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, which found probable cause of illegal discrimination. The historic sign was used originally in Selma, Alabama, in the 1930s and has reappeared in Cincinnati in 2011.

## Nov. 19 Forum to Celebrate Additions to *Hidden Treasures*

A *Hidden Treasures* forum is set for Saturday morning, Nov. 19, to celebrate Hamilton County's stable, integrated communities and to share ideas for community building in diverse neighborhoods.

Recognition awards will be presented to the 28 communities in Hamilton County identified by the

2010 Census as racially integrated for at least 20 years.

Set from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Springfield Township Senior/Community Center in Finneytown, the forum is free and includes lunch. For planning purposes, participants must register in advance by contacting Myra Calder of

HOME by phone at 513-721-4663, ext. 3105, or by email at [myra.calder@homecincy.org](mailto:myra.calder@homecincy.org).

The *Hidden Treasures* forum is sponsored by HOME, PNC Bank, the City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Bridges for a Just Community and the Cincinnati Human Relations Commission.

## 2010 Census Data Shows Racial Segregation Patterns

The 2010 Census showed significant changes in patterns of racial segregation in the Cincinnati area.

Old patterns of racial change in neighborhoods no longer seem to be operating. It used to be Blacks began to move in, White flight occurred and, after some “tipping point,” the community would become almost all Black. But in Hamilton County, out of the 15 communities identified in 2000 as being integrated for more than 20 years, 11 out of the 15 did not become more Black; they became more White.

Some of this was through redevelopment, e.g. Downtown and Corryville, but several stable residential neighborhoods that are majority Black — like Kennedy Heights, Madisonville and North Avondale — increased the percentage of White residents between 2000 and 2010, ensuring continued integration.

The Census also showed a greater number of stable integrated communities. In Hamilton County, 28

communities have been racially integrated now for at least 20 years.

While the number of stable integrated communities is positive news, in 2011 we also see old patterns of almost all White neighborhoods fighting public housing based on fear that a few low-income African-Americans will “destroy the neighborhood.” Note, too, that while the Cincinnati metropolitan area is slightly less racially segregated than in 2000, it remains ranked as the 8<sup>th</sup> most racially segregated metropolitan area in the U.S. based on 2010 Census data.

In addition, the Cincinnati area’s Hispanic population is still small, considering that 16 percent of the U.S. population is Hispanic.

For details about Hamilton County’s stable integrated communities, see the research report done by Dr. Charles Casey-Leininger for HOME posted on the home page of our website: [www.homecincy.org](http://www.homecincy.org).

	African-American 2000	African-American 2010	Hispanic 2000	Hispanic 2010
Hamilton County, Ohio	23.4 percent	25.7 percent	1.1 percent	2.6 percent
Warren County, Ohio	2.7 percent	3.3 percent	1.0 percent	2.2 percent
Butler County, Ohio	5.3 percent	7.3 percent	1.4 percent	4.0 percent
Clermont County, Ohio	< 1 percent	1.2 percent	< 1 percent	1.5 percent
Campbell County, Ky.	1.6 percent	2.5 percent	< 1 percent	1.7 percent
Boone County, Ky.	1.5 percent	2.5 percent	2 percent	3.5 percent
Kenton County, Ky.	3.8 percent	4.6 percent	1.1 percent	2.6 percent
Dearborn County, Ind.	< 1 percent	< 1 percent	< 1 percent	1.0 percent



### HOME Staff Transition

Ruth Abdullah, left, has retired after serving 25 years with HOME, most recently as coordinator of Testing & Investigations. Chad Siekman, right, a former tester with HOME, has been named the new Testing & Investigations Coordinator.

If you are interested in doing some “secret shopping” for housing, give Chad a call and see if you qualify to be a HOME tester.



## Book Review: The New Jim Crow



**By Matthew Barnes**  
UC Law student and  
HOME summer intern

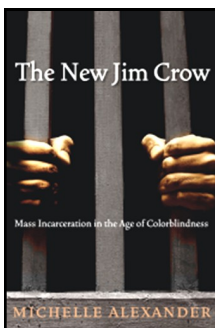
Michelle Alexander's book, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, takes on the controversial issue of why, more than forty years after the Civil Rights movement, black men are jailed in such highly disproportionate numbers. Alexander's theory is that the American criminal justice system has become the new Jim Crow, effectively disenfranchising millions of minorities of their rights.

Alexander points out that people with criminal records can be discriminated against legally, just like blacks used to be legally discriminated against under Jim Crow. Former felons have a hard time finding housing or employment because of this legal discrimination and often do not qualify for government assistance. The stigma that accompanies a felony record can follow people for the rest of their lives and even take away their right to vote in some states.

Alexander postulates that with the end of Jim Crow in the 1960s and 1970s, institutional racism had to adapt to the new political environment in America in order to survive. Blatant racism and discrimination were no longer acceptable, so the new Jim Crow was wrapped in generalities and code words by politi-

cians, such as "law and order," and infiltrated the criminal justice system.

Alexander explains how the "Southern Strategy," the political tactic used by Republicans to appeal to white Democrats who opposed integration, led to the opening of the War on Drugs and the fear and hysteria surrounding crime in the 1980s.



Criminality and minority were often subtly conflated by politicians with code words to their constituents, and Alexander says it was no coincidence that the War on Drugs took place primarily in inner-city minority neighborhoods, despite drug sales and use in white communities being at the same rate or higher than in black communities.

Alexander concludes that the War on Drugs and harsh sentencing guidelines have caused the American prison population to boom from 300,000 to more than 2,000,000 in the span of a couple decades to become the largest prison population in the world. The vast majority of this growth can be attributed to the continued policy of the justice system cracking down harshly on drug use primarily in minority communities, she says, and many of the new inmates are the minority groups that legalized discrimination of the Jim Crow era sought to disenfranchise in much the same way.



HOME Board President Harold Jones, left, presented the Theodore M. Berry Humanitarian Award to Simón Soletto of PNC Bank at the Annual Meeting.

## Awards Presented at Annual Meeting

HOME hosted the agency's 43rd Annual Meeting Friday, Sept. 23, at the Cincinnati Museum Center.

This year's recipient of the Theodore M. Berry Humanitarian Award was Simón Soletto of PNC Bank. As the Vice President and Community Development Consultant for the Cincinnati - Northern Kentucky - Lexington region,

Soletto assists with financing for projects and organizations serving low- and middle-income neighborhoods.

Receiving the 2011 Founders Award was John Schrider, the director of the Legal Aid Society of Southwest Ohio. For decades, Schrider has successfully represented low-income tenants in major litigation involving fair housing rights.

**Housing Opportunities Made Equal**  
Your United Way Agency Partner  
2400 Reading Road, Ste. 118  
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