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Until difference no longer makes a difference....



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25 Local Heroes continued....

needs of persons with AIDS, remembering at all times, to consult them and include their perspective in his work.

Sue Siegel: Sue and her organization are fighting for our future. They are building (with Affordable Hous

ing Associates) one of the first Universal Design building in the County. They are fighting for housing that is accessible to 'EVERYONE'.

Judy Sparks: Judy is a tireless advocate for the tenants she works with at Resources for Community Development and for their right to participate in decisions that impact them and their housing directly. Judy now oversees the staff who support the tenants in housing that RCD owns.

St. Mary's Center Senior Advocates for Hope and Justice: This group of low and lowest income seniors is an inspiration to anyone who believes that knowledge is power. These advocates are educated, articulate and vocal about our 'right to housing, health care and adequate food'.

Eddie Ytuarte & Oakland Tenant's Union: Eddie is an advocate, no doubt about it. He maintain a vigilance over housing issues and steers a straight course for the rest of us who do not always know what to do and when to do it when affordable housing is at risk. OTu has remained a forum for renters who need to understand their housing rights and how to fight for them.

Alvita White: Alvita is a natural leader. She is leading subsidized

housing tenants to homeownership and improved lives. Through a non-profit founded and run my current and former Section 8 tenants they have successfully supported the Section 8 home purchase of one unit in Berkeley.

Kriss Worthington: Kriss can often be found on the street talking to and sometimes protesting with subsidized housing tenants for improved conditions or more housing. He attends meetings, makes phone calls and cheers us on as we work to bring subsidized housing tenants into the



Jeffrey Thomas (Congresswom an Barbara Lee's Office) MC and Our



Housing Rights, Inc.

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Until difference no longer makes a difference....

Different Times

Stomp Out Discrimination: 25 More Years

Join us in "stomping" out discrimination until difference no longer makes a difference in a world where every child is smiling....

- Free from hunger
- Free from harm
- Free from homelessness
- Free from hate

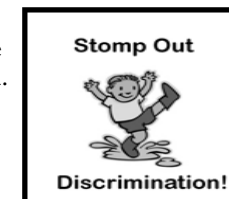
Housing Rights, Inc. was

founded in 1979 by a law student who could not find housing because she had young children. We are committed to seeing that that does not happened to others. Join us in fighting to uphold the 'housing rights' of everyone.

Our Goals

with your help, are to eliminate discrimination in housing, prevent evictions/foreclosures and encourage diversity in our

communities. We do this by assisting tenants and landlord, homeowners and housing providers to understand their rights and responsibilities and resolve problems, so that EVERYONE will have a real opportunity to live in decent, affordable housing wherever it may be located.



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25 Local Heroes.....

The Board and Staff of Housing Rights, Inc. are proud to recognize the following individuals and groups as part of our 25th Anniversary Celebration. For more information go to www.housingrights.com

Maria Alegria & Faith-Works!: In addition to being a pro-active supporter of healthy communities and access to housing as a City of Pinole City Council member, Maria is the Executive Director of

Faith Works! This organization brings together community advocates with Faith organizations and labor. Together they have taken on



St. Mary's Center people at the Celebration

some of the most challenging communities in Contra Costa County, working to improve the quality of life for everyone.

BANANAS: The Housing Rights for Children Pro

ject (which became Housing Rights, Inc. in 1987) was created at and by BANANAS in 1979. They were our first 'home' and generously launched us as an inde

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"We are for difference:

For respecting difference,

For allowing difference,

For encouraging difference,

Until difference no longer makes a difference."

-Johnetta Cole

25 Local Heroes continued....

pendent agency in 1987.

Gerald Baptiste: Gerald is an amazing advocate for people with disabilities. His gentleness and grace are contagious. Together we solve difficult problems for our clients because of that. He has been as the Center for Independent Living over 20 years.

Brancart & Brancart: This is a groundbreaking law firm that has taken on very difficult and extremely important housing discrimination cases. They are also very generous with their time and expertise advising agencies like ours on how to improve our work fighting housing discrimination.

Luz Bruitrago: Luz is an inspirational advocate for some of our most marginalized neighbors: immigrants, survivors of domestic violence, limited English speaking/low income individuals. She has been at it for a couple of decades now and continues to inspire us with her dedication.

Sheila Burks: Sheila is one of our best cheerleaders. She encourages us with unflagging enthusiasm to keep up the good work on behalf of low and lowest income households. She works tirelessly to support the development of affordable housing and homeownership opportunities.

Episcopal Homes Foundation: This organization has made and carries out a commitment to house seniors of all income levels assuring the same level of service and quality in housing. They are also committed to addressing all of the needs of those they house paying special attention to providing access to quality healthy foods.

Supervisor John Gioia: Supervisor Gioia doesn't just talk about housing, he makes sure that his community is addressing the housing needs of everyone. He is an active member of several local groups/

committees who goal is to help low income people by homes or build homes or fight to better homes.

Jim Grow: Jim has dedicated years to providing support to his peers and colleagues as they fight for the rights of their clients. He is also revered by the subsidized housing tenant advocate community. He continues to provide support and analysis and the tenant community struggles to be heard by policy makers regarding the future of their housing.

Assemblywoman Loni Hancock: In addition to being a wonderful elected official who involves herself in her constituent's issues, Assemblywoman Hancock granted BANANAS/Housing Rights for Children Project our first funding in 1979! This was an ACTION grant and The Assemblywoman was working for the federal government at the time.

John Stewart Co.: This property management company prides itself on diversity and fair treatment of the residents of the properties they manage. Housing Rights, Inc. can attest to their commitment to work through problems rather than dismissing the concerns of their residents. We appreciate the relationship that we enjoy with them.

Janet Kennedy: Janet has worked on behalf of several local cities (Berkeley, Concord, San Pablo, Antioch) as their conscience, encouraging the development and support for affordable housing. There could not be a stronger and more effective advocate.

Nancy Kenyon: Nancy has been working in fair housing and fight housing discrimination for over 40 years. There is no one as dedicated and energetic about this work. She is the Executive Director of Marin Fair Housing and is a national leader in the ever changing struggle to end housing discrimination.

Lao Family Community Development Corporation: Living in a coun-

try of immigrants... most organizations fail to appreciate what this means to our schools, neighborhoods and Cities. Lao Family successfully addresses the variety of needs of refugees and immigrants that come to its doors. They have staff who speak many languages and are as diverse themselves as the community they serve.

Virginia Lizzaraga: Vicky is a one person dynamo! She has made it her mission to improve the lives of the mostly Spanish speaking individuals in the Monument Corridor community in Concord. She carries supplies in the trunk of her car to address immediate needs as she works with families to get their needs met and improve the quality of their lives.

Bonnie Milstein: Bonnie has dedicated her life to fighting for the housing rights of persons with disabilities nationally and now here in California. She is steadfast in her understanding of what needs to be done by housing providers to assure equal access to housing for persons with disabilities. And fortunately for us, she shares her understanding and supports our efforts to increase access as well.

Jim Morales: Jim is out of the fair housing game now. However, his influence remains. Jim was a major contributor to both the federal and state laws which added families with children as a protected class making it illegal to discriminate against them in housing.

Sharon Mosley (Our Founder!): What can we say, if Sharon hasn't decided to fight back against landlords that would not rent to her because of her twin daughter, we wouldn't be here today!

Tom Mosmiller: Tom has been able to juggle his responsibility as a county employee with his commitment to advocate for the housing

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For the Love of Chocolate...

Chocolate is important to us. Our founding Executive Director, Marianne Lawless would call for someone to "break out the chocolate!" when faced with a challenge. All challenges can be faced when one has taken care of themselves. And chocolate does that for many of us...helps us take care of our inner self.

But chocolate is important for other reasons as well.

The History of Chocolate*

Christopher Columbus first brought chocolate to Europe, except he didn't know what it was. Cocoa beans were presented to him by an Aztec chieftain in 1502. Columbus discovered the beans were used to make a strong native beverage and as a medium of monetary exchange by the Aztecs. Since Columbus didn't know what to do with the beans, chocolate remained a Central American specialty until the time of Cortes. In Spain

chocolate became popular — so much so that the government taxed it heavily, keeping chocolate a beverage of the privileged classes. Over time, chocolate spread to France, Italy, Germany, Switzerland and England.

It was not until about 1755 that chocolate made its way to North America, at that time still a British colony. Americans have since caught up and are now among the world's largest consumers of chocolate.

But the popularity of candy bars really skyrocketed after World War I, when chocolate was part of every United State's soldier's rations. By 1930, there were nearly 40,000 different kinds of chocolate.

Although it's now more affordable, not everyone chooses to eat chocolate. Many Asian cultures have never really developed a taste for the sweet. In

fact, the Chinese eat only one bar of chocolate for every 1,000 consumed by the British.

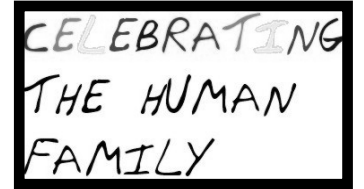
And in countries like Ghana and Ivory Coast, people rarely eat chocolate because it is worth more to them as a trade product than as a food.

The production of chocolate is tied to the struggle worldwide of workers to be recognized for their worth and their right to live a decent life.

And don't forget, in addition to the socio-economic aspects of 'chocolate'. Chocolate does contain caffeine and other stimulants.

*Taken from: The History of Chocolate, Whetstone Chocolates, St. Augustine FL. And All About Chocolate, The Field Museum

Check out our website for more tidbits...www.housingrights.org



Ask Frannie...

Dear Franny,

I live in a large apartment complex that has a small reserved parking section close to my apartment and a larger, unreserved parking lot at the back end of the complex, several hundred feet away from my apartment. My problem is that I have a mobility impairment and I can't walk farther than 50 feet without assistance. I have a handicap placard for my car, which I showed to the manager when I asked her for one of the reserved parking spaces. Her response was that the reserved spaces are available only to the people that have lived in the complex for the longest. She said that my name is on the list for a reserved space, but I might have to wait months or even years before getting one. What can I do?

Impatiently Waiting

Dear Impatient:

According to the Title VIII of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1968, as

amended in 1988, and the State Fair Employment and Housing Act, it is illegal for housing providers to discriminate against people with disabilities. These laws recognize that many people with disabilities need changes made to the housing providers normal policies and procedures so that they may have equal access and enjoyment of their housing situation. When someone identifies a policy or procedure that is hindering their ability to enjoy their unit because of their disability, they have a right to request a "Reasonable Accommodation" to that policy or procedure. As long as the requested change to the policies or procedures is "reasonable" (it is not too expensive and does not fundamentally alter the nature of the provider's operations), the housing provider has to accommodate you; in this case, by moving your name to the top of the waiting list to receive a reserved space, or by creating a new reserved space for you that suits your needs. Although you have already asked your

housing provider to be accommodated and shown him/her your placard, you should contact your local Fair Housing Agency to help you write a letter requesting a reasonable accommodation, so you can document your request. You should also talk to your doctor so s/he can write a letter verifying that you are disabled and that your requested accommodation is needed due to your disability. You need not state what your disability is, but you do need demonstrate the link between your accommodation request (reserved parking space within 50 yards of apartment) and your disability (inability to walk more than 50 yards without assistance). If your housing provider denies your request or unreasonably delays your accommodation after you have properly documented your need, you can file a discrimination complaint against your housing provider with the government or in court.

Call so we can discuss your options with you. 1800-261-2298.