ORCHARD PARK CHARGED

Federal Complaints Alleged Discrimination in Blocking Affordable Senior Housing

In the wake of a unanimous decision by the Orchard Park Town Board to block construction of a 43-unit affordable housing development for senior citizens, People Inc. and Housing Opportunities Made Equal have filed federal complaints charging the Town with violating the Fair Housing Act.

The parallel complaints filed with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which had previously awarded $5.3 million to build the affordable housing, allege that Town officials denied permission to re-zone a 2.1 acre undeveloped parcel between Mid-Country Drive and Auckland Avenue because of concern that residents of the complex would come not from Orchard Park (which according to the last Census is more than 98 percent White), but from more racially diverse communities. Additionally, the complainants contend that the Town has accepted federal financial support while failing to comply with its certifications that it has “affirmatively furthered fair housing”.

REVERSING POSITION

In May of 2007 the Town Board had endorsed People Inc.’s application for federal support, noting that the proposed housing would meet “a critical need for safe, affordable housing for low-income seniors.” When HUD awarded federal support, it directed People Inc. to find another site within Orchard Park because of concerns of a possible conflict of interest. After viewing more than 20 sites (many of which were proposed by the Town), all were judged unsuitable except for one.

In March of 2009 People Inc. approached the Town Board with this site, a portion of which was appropriately zoned for multi-family residential development. The balance, however, was zoned for commercial uses. A wetlands designation and a utility easement left only 2.1 acres of the commercial land usable.

The Town Board directed People Inc. to meet with immediate neighbors to elicit their views. All who attended that April 2009 meeting favored the project. People Inc. returned to the Town Board, which referred the matter to the Planning Board because of the re-zoning issue.

The Planning Board first expressed concern that the facility would over-burden emergency services in the Town. The chief of the volunteer fire department, however, disagreed and sent a communication in support of the project. People Inc. returned to the Town Board, which referred the matter to the Planning Board because of the re-zoning issue.

The Planning Board first expressed concern that the facility would over-burden emergency services in the Town. The chief of the volunteer fire department, however, disagreed and sent a communication in support of the project. Then, in July 2009, a town official sent a letter requesting the zip codes of origin of current and former residents of Carnation Housing, an affordable senior complex that People Inc. operates near the Orchard Park-West Seneca border.

According to the federal complaints, “upon information and belief this request was intended to learn whether residents of Carnation had come from more racially diverse cities of Lackawanna and Buffalo.” In a front page article published on October 21, 2009 in the Buffalo News a member of the

“We were hoping it would be for our own residents and not a lot of other people.”

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

INFORMS, ENTERTAINS & RAISES FUNDS

by Shannon M. Koehn

On April 29 nearly 300 HOME supporters gathered at the Buffalo-Niagara Convention Center to celebrate HOME’s 47th anniversary. Guests were welcomed by HOME’s youth volunteers Children for Change and Teens for Tomorrow, selling raffle tickets for gift baskets generously donated by local businesses and HOME supporters.

The Hutch Tech Jazz Band played throughout the lobby as hugs and handshakes were exchanged among friends and colleagues.

Dinner guests were greeted by the evening’s Mistress of Ceremonies, WIVB news anchor Victoria Hong. She began by explaining the evening’s theme – a pointed question that asked all supporters, “What’s Your Piece of the Puzzle?” The puzzle referenced is the quest to eradicate housing discrimination in the Buffalo-Niagara region. Each of us represents an essential piece. Other suggested puzzle pieces included ideas such as diversity, advocacy, justice, service and equality. A series of clues were given and the final answer was “Your Support Through Membership!” Guests enjoyed the process of arriving at the answer as well as the camaraderie at each table.

HOME awarded Brenda McDuffie (Continued on Page 3)(Continued on Page 3)
From the Director:

ADDITIONS TO THE HOME FAMILY

by Scott W. Gehl

Since 2007 Grace Smokowski McKenzie has been one of HOME’s more dedicated employees. In 2008 many of the HOMERS were honored to witness her marriage to Brian McKenzie, who does the important work of a teacher in the Buffalo Public Schools.

In the first week of May, Grace and Brian maximized the benefits of a HOME family membership with the birth of a daughter, Kiara Noel McKenzie. Grace is spending some months at home with the lovely Kiara. Who can blame her?

Under normal circumstances Grace is in nearly perpetual motion as HOME’s education coordinator. She could not be replaced—even temporarily—by just one person.

Long-time HOME member Mark D. Evans has stepped in to serve as interim editor of both Insight and HOME’s website. Mark is a retired public library system director, who divides his time between his presidential collectibles business and administrative duties for the American Political Items Collectors. Some may recall that he served as Cash Cunningham’s associate auctioneer at our last three anniversary celebrations.

HOME has had the good fortune to hire Rayna I. Grossman as our interim community educator. A graduate of Buffalo’s Leonardo Di Vinci High School and Brandeis University, Ranya has just earned an MSW degree from the University at Buffalo.

Given her academic background Rayna has been asked to morph into the role of mobility counselor while incumbent Melissa Sommerville is on her maternity leave this summer.

For the first time since 2007, HOME has an associate director.

Shannon M. Koehn first came to HOME in 2003 as development coordinator. Four years later—after nine months away working with another not-for-profit agency—Shannon came HOME again with the unwieldy title of director of development and administration. With the loss of our valued associate director, Shannon became our de facto second-in-command. But her hybrid title always made for confusion.

Over the last three years, Shannon has grown both in expertise and in her grasp of HOME’s wider work. The title of associate director is certainly appropriate.

Shannon’s best days at HOME are still ahead.

RE/MAX NORTH CASE

Three months ago in this space, I wrote how HOME’s belief in the public’s right to know had caused our Board of Directors to reaffirm our long held policy against entering into confidential settlements. Although HOME and our client had negotiated a reasonable settlement in a federal discrimination case filed against RE/MAX North and associate broker Judith Serio, the respondents had demanded that the settlement remain confidential. We could not agree.

In the last days of May, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development returned a finding of reasonable cause in this case and filed a charge of familial status discrimination against RE/MAX North and Ms. Serio.

Respondents’ attorney told a Buffalo News reporter that the homeowner had made the decision not to rent. “The agent fulfilled her duty to both the homeowner and the applicant by letting the applicant know what the homeowner had decided.”

Under federal law, it is never permissible for a housing provider to make a discriminatory statement.

According to the New York State Human Rights Law, it is never permissible for a real estate salesperson to be party to discrimination.

The case is now headed for trial before a federal administrative law judge.

HOME OFFICERS

Gilbert R. Hernandez
Chair of the Board
Janet E. Barnes
President
Diana Cooke
Senior Vice President
Philippe P. Deterville
Vice President
Susan M. Faye
Treasurer
Deborah A. Dahlberg
Secretary

HOME STAFF

Scott W. Gehl
Executive Director
Shannon M. Koehn
Associate Director
M. DeAnna Eason
Fair Housing Coordinator
Kenneth J. Gholston
Mobility Coordinator
Margaret D. Brown
Secretary
Nichelle Brown
Senior Counselor
Mark D. Evans
Media Specialist
Rayna I. Grossman
Community Educator
Grace M. McKenzie
Education Coordinator
Jennifer J. Metzger, Esq.
Staff Attorney
Faith A. Perry
Secretary-Bookkeeper
Melissa Sommerville
Mobility Counselor
Nicole Thorn
Social Worker
Orchard Park Town Board was quoted as saying: “We were hoping it [the proposed housing] would be for our own residents and not a lot of other people.”

The Planning Board voted to recommend against re-zoning the 2.1 acres on the ground that the Town’s 2007 Comprehensive Plan had encouraged the preservation of industrial land. In fact, the Town had previously re-zoned the land as commercial.

Additionally, that same Comprehensive Plan cited also outlines the need to develop affordable housing for seniors and low-to-moderate income families.

PUBLIC HEARING
On the evening of St. Patrick’s Day 2010, the Town Board held a public hearing on the proposed re-zoning. Testifying against were two members of the Planning Board and one member of the Town’s Joint Economic Committee.

By contrast, People Inc.’s re-zoning request was supported by 11 speakers including seniors from Carnation who spoke of the quality of life there, other seniors from Orchard Park who said they might consider moving into the proposed facility, neighbors who supported the project, and a representative of Orchard Park clergy.

Despite testimony presented at the public hearing, on April 7, 2010 the Orchard Park Town Board unanimously denied the re-zoning request—citing the need to preserve industrial land, despite the fact that the only land to be re-zoned was commercial.

HOME Executive Director Scott Gehl called this case “an opportunity for HUD to scrutinize the tactics used by some communities to block affordable housing—and to examine whether federal grantees have kept their annual promise to affirmatively furthering fair housing.”

and the Buffalo Urban League with the Sarah G. Metzger Human Rights Award to acknowledge their outstanding contributions in the arena of civil rights; HOME Vice President Philippe P. Deterville was surprised to receive the Director’s Award for his significant contributions to furthering fair housing; and David Heaton of Frontier Central High School received the Joanne Champion Granger Scholarship for his essay on discrimination.

The evening’s keynote address was delivered by Canisius College President-elect John J. Hurley. A past HOME chair and steadfast supporter of fair housing, he spoke first about the impact of segregation and concentrations of poverty on our region.

Referring to a speech to Memphis clergy only two nights before his assassination, Mr. Hurley noted the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. used the parable of the Good Samaritan, suggesting we ask ourselves not “If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?” but instead ask “If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him”.

Telling stories of Buffalo Bills star tight end Ernie Warlick who met discrimination when moving to Buffalo in 1963 and more recent acts of bias, Mr. Hurley ended with a call to action.

“Our piece of the puzzle is clear: we are called on to be dangerously unselfish in the defense of fair housing.”

Inspired by these words, guests generously supported fundraising activities including a balloon auction and live auction as well as an opportunity to fund a HOME family. Valuable certificates, gift cards and merchandise were hammered down by HOME member Mark D. Evans and Western guests, including Ken Eason, above, went home with full hands. The event raised more than $19,500 for HOME!

Save the date now for next year’s 48th anniversary bash: Thursday, April 28, 2011 at the Buffalo-Niagara Convention Center. HOME extends a very special thank you to all who supported this year’s gala celebration. Be sure to check out more photos of the event online at www.homeny.org/events/gallery.

To report discrimination, call 716-854-1400.


### Housing Opportunities Made Equal, Inc.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT**

The Board of Directors
Housing Opportunities Made Equal, Inc.
Buffalo, New York

I have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of Housing Opportunities Made Equal, Inc., as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the organization’s management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted the audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. These standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. I believe that my audits provide a reasonable basis for my opinion.

In my opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Housing Opportunities Made Equal, Inc. as of December 31, 2009 and 2008 and the changes in the net assets and cash flows for the years then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Mark J. Bellanca, CPA, P.C.

Audited by:

Mark J. Bellanca, CPA, P.C.
April 11, 2010

**HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES MADE EQUAL, INC.**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL EXPENSES**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008**

**DECEMBER 31**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Management</strong></td>
<td><strong>Provision</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Salaries</strong></td>
<td>$25,196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee fringe benefits</td>
<td>10,023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone expenses</td>
<td>237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>37,456</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Unaudited**

**Net gains on investments** | $(19,875) | $(19,875) | $43,881 |

**Total expenses** | $55,648 | $72,772 | $128,430 | $82,082

See accompanying “Independent Auditor’s Report” and Notes to the Financial Statements.

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**HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES MADE EQUAL, INC.**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL EXPENSES**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008**

**FUND BALANCES**

**DECEMBER 31**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>General fund - uncommitted and restricted</strong></td>
<td>$457,662</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Unaudited**

**Net changes in uncommitted and restricted** | $67,193 | $7,382 |

**Unrestricted** | $224,368 | $170,535 |

**Total** | $482,833 | $482,833 |

See accompanying “Independent Auditor’s Report” and Notes to the Financial Statements.

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**HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES MADE EQUAL, INC.**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash flows from operating activities</td>
<td>$82,582</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Unaudited**

**Net cash changes in uncommitted and restricted** | $(9,069) | $(7,052) |

See accompanying “Independent Auditor’s Report” and Notes to the Financial Statements.

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## Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

**Organization Background**

Housing Opportunities Made Equal, Inc. (HOME), was incorporated in 1963 as a not-for-profit counseling agency. Since it’s founding, HOME has, in accordance with federal, state and municipal fair housing laws, promoted equal opportunity in housing. The organization is exempt from federal income tax under Sections 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

### Basis of Accounting

The books and records of the organization are maintained on the accrual method of accounting and the financial statements reflect this basis. This method of accounting is consistent with other organizations that report to the same federal and state agencies.

To ensure observance of limitations and restrictions placed on the use of resources available to the company, the accounts are maintained in accordance with the principles of fund accounting. This is the procedure by which resources for various purposes are classified for accounting and reporting purposes into funds established according to their respective purposes and sources. Separate accounts are maintained for each fund. However, in the accompanying financial statements, funds that have similar characteristics have been combined into fund groups. Accordingly, all financial transactions have been reported and reflected by fund group.

### Fixed Assets

Office equipment has been capitalized at cost and is being depreciated using accelerated methods over a useful life of five to seven years. In 1983 and 1989, office equipment was acquired with funds designated for acquisition by the City of Buffalo and State of New York. This equipment was therefore expensed as purchased with a custodial equipment fund established to reflect expenditures made on the City and State’s behalf.

See accompanying “Independent Auditor’s Report.”

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## 2. Deferred Income

As of December 31, 2009, Housing Opportunities Made Equal, Inc. retained $22,021 in deferred income earned during 2009 from the John R. Olin Foundation that is to provide services in future years.

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## 4. Cash

Cash consisted of the following as of December 31, 2009 and 2008:

**December 31**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash and cash equivalents</strong></td>
<td>$72,582</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See accompanying “Independent Auditor’s Report.”
REMEMBERING . . .
LANCE FERTIG

In the first week of June 2009, the HOME family was shocked and saddened by the sudden passing of Board Secretary Lance A. Fertig.

A graduate of Bennett High School, Lance had a successful legal career in Michigan before returning home to help his parents, Eve & Norman Fertig, operate the Enchanted Forest Wildlife Sanctuary.

Rather than resume the practice of law, Lance devoted himself to public education—earning graduate degrees in history and educational administration and returning to Bennett to teach social studies. And what a teacher Mr. Fertig proved to be!

Lance was passionately committed to both his students and to social change—in order to make them a better world. His work with HOME and the NAACP was very important to him.

A year after his passing, we are still thankful for the gifts Lance gave us.

Fertig proved to be!

In July, 2009, HOME found an advertisement on www.craigslist.com that described a Buffalo apartment for rent in a “nice Irish neighborhood.” Since federal and state fair housing laws prohibit preferential or discriminatory language, HOME sent testers to investigate.

According to the complaint, property owner Abdul Aljamali asked a Black tester whether she had children (in violation of NYS Human Rights Law). A White tester was also asked about children, and was told that “there are no Coloreds here . . . hope your husband isn’t Black.”

HOME filed a discrimination complaint with HUD which referred the case to the NYS Division of Human Rights for investigation and adjudication.

In a settlement agreement which did not constitute an admission of wrongdoing, the respondent agreed to a four-figure settlement and a series of affirmative actions, which included fair housing training, record-keeping and reporting.

Please Renew Your Membership or Give the Gift of Membership to HOME. Thank you!
Save a Stamp and Join Online at www.homeny.org

CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP (check one)

_____ Children for Change (12 and Under)...Any
_____ Teens for Tomorrow (13-18 yrs) .......... $5.00
_____ Students, Limited Income ........... $10.00
_____ Individual Membership ........... $30.00
_____ Family/Household Membership $40.00
_____ Contributor ................................ $50.00
_____ Patron .................................... $100.00
_____ Sponsor .................................. $200.00
_____ Benefactor ............................. $500.00
_____ Other.........................$______

Special Corporate/Business memberships are available. Visit www.homeny.org for details.
Contributions to HOME are Tax-Deductible.

For more information on membership contact HOME (716) 854-1400 ext.17 or www.homeny.org
Housing Opportunities Made Equal’s latest annual report may be obtained upon request from the office of the Attorney General Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, New York 10271
CONTRIBUTORS TO THE CAUSE

THANK YOU

CONTRIBUTORS FOR 2009

HOME relies upon the generosity of its members, friends and supporters to keep the cause of fair housing moving forward in Western New York. Names recorded below reflect all monetary contributions received during the calendar year of 2009.

Benefactors $5,000 +
- Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo; John & Maureen Hurley; HSBC Bank U.S.A.; M & T Charitable Foundation; Kenneth McClane & Rochelle Family Foundation; Janet B. Meiselman; The Mulroy Family Foundation; Russell Newbert; Western New York Foundation

Leaders $2,500 - $4,999
- Anne Bird; Community Preservation Corporation; Scott & Danis Gehl

Partners $1,000 - $2,499
- Janet Barnes; Belmont Management; Belmont Shelter Corporation; Rita Capezzi & Jeffrey Lowry; Elizabeth Clark; Rosalie Covial; Delta Development; Phil Deterville & Chuck Harrington; George M. Hezel & Sally Clough Hezel; Alison & Arthur Hyde; Dan D. Kohane; Lamparelli Construction Co.; Anthony Masiello; Sarah Metzger; John Phelan; Denise O’Donnell; Edward & Lillie P.W. Stephens

Patrons $500 - $999
- William Berry & Deborah Seifert; Thomas & Marion Dolan; Freed Maxick Sachs & Murphy P.C.; Kathleen M. Haggerty; Charles Hahn; Gilbert R. Hernandez; Jim & Amy Hecht; Hurwitz & Fine, P.C.; Shannon M. Koehn; Richard Lesniak; the Links, Inc., Buffalo Chapter; North Presbyterian Church; Realty USA; Patrick Richardson; Brenda & Jeffrey Stubblefield; Alana & Edward Weeks; David & Mimi Wright

Friends $250 - $499
- Grace A. Andriette; David J. Banks; Budd & Jody Bailey; Buffalo Urban League; Marcia E. Buhl; Joseph & Diane Butch; Michael & Sandra Clark; Jean Doerr; Kenneth & DeAnna Eason; Lance A. Fertig; Kenneth J. Gholston & Kristen Luppino-Gholston; Carl & Eloise Granger; Marilyn Hochfield; Jaeckle Fleishmann & Mugel, LLP; Samuel E. Loli & Donald M. Behr; Brenda McDuffie; Brian & Grace McKenzie; Arthur Musarza; James & Sandra Myers; People, Inc.; Rental Assistance Corporation; Leonard Skillr & Sharon Murphy; Chuck & Karen Thomas

Advocates $100 - $249
- Anne M. Allen; Lorna Arrington; Bernice & George Baeuumer; Baker Victory Services, Ronald & Rene Bellamy; Pamela Berger; Anne & Robert Bertholf; Barry Besmanoff; George Boger; Joan & John Bozer; Jacqueline Braswell; Hank Bromley & Susan Jenkins; Margaret & Marcus Brown; Maurice Brown; Nichelle E. Brown; Buffalo Teachers Federation; Kathleen Butler; Marta A. Clark; Wesley & Jessie Carter; Cash Cunningham; Catholic Charities; Child & Family Services; Community Services of Developmentally Disabled; Diana Cooke; Ercel & Dorothy Cooke; John Corcoran; Gary F. Dargush; Tina M. Destro; George & Adele DeTitia; Bradley & Patricia Dossinger; Eleanor Drury; Deborah Ebel; Arthur O. & Constance B. Eve; Everywoman Opportunity Center; Excelus Health Plan; Eugene M. Fahey; J. Michael & Loretta Fitzpatrick; Susan M. Fayle, Getsemane Full Gospel Church; Mary Jo Giambellicia; Alicia Givens; Charles J. Glover; Grant Golden & Deborah Goldman; Leisha Gordon; Betty Jean Grant; Paulette Hammond; Minnie Harris; Mary J. Hayes; Jeri Hill; Brenda Hull; Elizabeth Huckabone; Juanita Hunter; Elizabeth Hutchenson; Eunice Jackson; Rev. James Joyce; Ken-Vil Associates; Maura Kelly; Local Initiatives Support Corp.; John LaFalce; Norma Jean Lamb; Richard Leimbach; Richard & Rita Lipsitz; Flora & Joseph Luppino; Yvonne Lewis; Charles & Izzatia Martin; Elaine Meier & Kathy O’Brien; Nathaniell & Leah Mervine-Merritt; Gregory & Marguerite Metzger; James & Judy Metzger; Jennifer J. Metzger; John & Andrea Mujahid-Moore; Marjorie Morley; Minority Bar Association; NAACP; Neighborhood Legal Services, Inc.; Carl Nightingale; Sanford Nobel; Robert & Nancy North, Jr.; E. Jeanette Ogden; Mary Ostrowski; Faith A. Perry; R & P Oak Hill Development LLC; Gregory P. Rabb; Religious Society of Friends; Bonnie Russell; Brenda Shetton; St. Matthias Church; Dan Symonick; Antoine M. Thompson; Trinity Towers; U.C. Coaching Company; Susan & David Udin; WNY Independent Living Center; Gregory Wadsworth; Garnet Wallace; John Williams; Sandra Lee Wirth; Martin & Charlotte Wolpin; Kathleen Rizzo-Young; Amy Zeckhauser

Supporters up to $99
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Gamma Phi Omega Chapter; Joan Baizer; Marian Bass; Martin Bates; Donald Becker, Jr.; Miriam Becker; Mark J. Bellanca, CPA; Reva B_eth; Bette & Greg Blosat; Barbara & Douglas Bunker; Sandra Bunkley; Eleanor Cain; Enya Candelaria; Tanya Hernandez Canderlaria; Janice Champion; Linda Chiarezza; Frank & Wilma Cipolla; Pauline Clay; Robert & Sylvia Coles; Marjorie Connors; James & Deborah Dahlberg; Denise Dellamora; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Buffalo Chapter; Rene Desai, Roberta Diramio; Anthony Draffin; Ruth Irene Dwiggins; Rivona Ehrenreich & George Levine; Edward & Ann Eisenlord; Robert Elardo; C. Morgan Epes; Murray & Peppe Ettinger; Mark & Patricia Evans; James Folan; Sheila Flavin; Mark & Linda Foley; Elizabeth Fox-Solomon; David Galbo; Ramona Gallagher; Collin S. Gehl; Catherine Goldman; Barbara Ganis & Kathleen Darcy; Karla Gadley; Jessie Givens; Susan Grechowiak; B. Gawendolyn Greene; William & Esther Greene; Richard & Jane Griffin; John & Ellen Grimaldi; Margaret & Robert Guthrie; John Hackney; Ralph & Harriet Halpern; Claudia Hamilton; Elder & Mrs. Theodore Hamilton; Nancy Hargo; Bernadette Harlan; Cynthia Harmon; William Hawkes; Robert & Kathleen Heffner; Alvin Haven; Leon & Cecelia Henderson; Amalia Hill; William T. Horohoe; George & Wilma Iggers; Integrity Distribution; Stephen & Ellen Lazarus; Frank Levin; Sarah Lewis; Peter Leyonmark; Living Opportunities of DePaul; Rosemary Joniertz; Leeland A. Jones, Jr.; Barbara Kagle; Michael Kearns; Anthony Keller; Tim & Ellen Kennedy; Carolyn Korsmeyer & David Gerber; Susan Krantz; Helen Kregg; Robert & Mary Kresse; Anne T. Krieger; Danielle LaMarre; Carol Tynes Lee; Donald Licht; Clifford Mahler; James & Audrey Mang; Horace Mann; W. Donn McCarthy; Dennis McGrath; Barbara & Larry Mervine; Frank & Ulrica Mesiah; Paula Minkle; Ned Mollica;Terrance & Tasha Moore; Michael & Sylvia Moran; Pamela Murphy; Louise Myska; Christine Naples; Hortense & Jesse Nash; Nora Norman; Susan Nusbaum; Chris Ollinick; Juanita Otero; Debra & Toney Palmer; Kelly Patterson & Robert Silverman; Robert Petersen; King & Janie Peterson; George & Elizabeth Philips; Martin & Ellen Pine; Thomas Potts; Judith Nolan Powell; Jack Printzenhoff; Bob Quinn; Clarine Radt; Jerry & Glinda Raiken; Mary Randolph; Marilyn Reeves; Gary & Anna Marie Richmond; Michael & Tracy Riegel; David & Joanne Roberson; Howard & Valerie Rosenhoehn; Royal Printing Co.; Janet Sciolino; Madeline O. Scott; Edward Smietana; Oscar Smukler; Melissa Sommerville; Jacob Steinhardt; Avrom Stemman; Deborah Stewart; Ruth Kahn Stovroff; Mildred Swados; Austin & Marilyn Swanson; Alpina Taylor; The Ground Up; Nancy Thompson; Nicole Thor; William & Pat Townsend; Helen Urban; Yvette Veira; William & Elizabeth Webster; Sherry Weems; Claude Welch; West Side NHS; James Whalen; Wayne Wisbaum; Denis Woods & Eileen Dooley; Lois Wright; Paul & Virginia Ziebarth

Grateful thanks to all who gave!
KNOW YOUR HOME BOARD MEMBERS

HOME operates with the valuable input of a large and diverse Board of Directors, bringing a wide range of community contacts, in-depth knowledge and experience.

HOME OFFICERS 2010-11

Chair of the Board Gilbert R. Hernandez is retired from the New York State Department of Social Services. He is a board member of Hispanic United of Buffalo and Alianza and serves as Treasurer at St. Paul’s Episcopal Cathedral.

President Janet E. Barnes is the former principal of Poplar Academy, now on assignment to the Buffalo Public High Schools Music Department. She is a member of Erie County Links and plays leadership roles in the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women’s Clubs.

Senior Vice President Diana Cooke teaches special education at Bennett High School. She has her Masters of Science in special education From D’Youville College. She chairs HOME’s Membership Committee.

Vice President Philippe P. Deterville is the Vice President of Community Development at HSBC Bank. He has served on the Boards of the Erie County Fair Housing Partnership and HomeFront, Inc.

Secretary Deborah A. Dalhberg is a long-time member of HOME. She also carries the distinction of having served as HOME’s first Fair Housing Initiatives Program Coordinator.

Treasurer Susan M. Faye is Executive Director of Trinity Tower Apartments of Buffalo, Inc. She has worn many hats for HOME, having also served as Chair of the Board from 2002-2004.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Christina L. Akers earned her Masters in Urban Planning from the University at Buffalo. She volunteers with the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, Allentown Association, Elmwood Village Association, Stonewall Democrats and HOME’s Membership Committee.

Daleylah D. Al-Haqq holds a Masters of Urban Planning from the University at Buffalo, is a Housing Development Specialist with Heart of the City Neighborhoods, Inc. She divides her time between grant research/writing and project management. She also sits on the boards of Urban Roots, West Side Housing Partnership and Erie County Fair Housing Partnership. In addition she represents the Ellicott District as a Housing Court Liaison.

Joelle Ruettimann is the HMIS coordinator for the Homeless Alliance of Western New York. She volunteers with the West Side Housing Partnership and the Elmwood Village Association. Joining the Membership Committee, she marched behind the HOME banner in this year’s Juneteenth Parade.

CONTINUING BOARD MEMBERS

Grace A. Andriette, Esq. is supervising attorney for the housing unit of Neighborhood Legal Services, Inc. She was a contributor to A Guide to Landlord Rights and is vice president of the Erie County Fair Housing Partnership.

William W. Berry, Esq. served as co-chair of the Inclusion Task Force. He is currently Supervising Attorney at Legal Services for the Elderly, Disabled and Disadvantaged where he specializes in Medicare, Medicaid, health insurance and disability discrimination issues.

Nancy M. Blaschak has been Executive Director of the American Red Cross Greater Buffalo Chapter for 18 years. She earned a BS in Business Administration with honors from the University at Buffalo, a MBA from Canisius College and completed post graduate studies at the Hauser Center for Not-for-Profit Organizations at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Nancy is currently vice chair of the board of Gilda’s Club, Western New York.

Maurice Brown is a Political & Community Organizer for 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East. He recently won the “Men Moving Forward Award”.

Rosalie Covial has been a member of HOME since 1965. She is a retired administrator for the Buffalo public school system where she served as Director of Special Education. She volunteers for the West Side Task Force for Children in Poverty, the African Educational Task Force and is a 25-year member of the Links, Inc., Buffalo Chapter.

Tina M. Destro works as an Assistant Private Banker with M&T Bank. She holds a Master’s Degree in Professional Leadership from St. Bonaventure University.

Thomas J. Dolan is a distinguished former reporter for the Buffalo News. His honors include the Nieman Fellowship (Harvard University), and Distinguished Urban Journalism Award (National Urban Coalition).

Elizabeth Fox-Solomon, Esq. is the confidential law clerk to a NYS associate supreme court justice. A graduate of the University at Buffalo Law School, she was an active participant in the Affordable Housing Clinic and served as executive editor of the Buffalo Public Interest Law Journal.

Mary Jo Giambelluca is skilled in community education, advocacy, legislative issues, personnel management, program development and evaluation, and grant writing. She was a founding member of the Erie County Commission on Homelessness, and has held leadership positions at the Network in Aging, and Benedict House.

Kathleen M. Haggerty is a Senior Property Manager with the Related Companies, working at the Marina Vista Apartments. She is a licensed Real Estate Salesperson with Nothnagle Property Center.

Dan D. Kohane, Esq., a senior partner at Hurwitz & Fine, P.C., has served on the board since 1986 and now is counsel to the board. He was awarded the Director’s Award for Distinguished Service in 1989, the James Crawford Award in 1993 and the Sarah G. Metzger Human Rights Award in 2000.

Samuel E. Lother is professor emeritus of Sociology at Niagara County Community College. He is a member of the Anti-Discrimination Task Force of WNY, NYS Coordinator for United Church of Christ Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns, and chair of the national UCC Affirmative Action Council.

Janet Meiselman is President of Oxford Consulting Inc., a board member of Erie County Fair Housing Partnership, Homeless Alliance of Western New York and Massachusetts Avenue Project. A member of the Program Operations and Planning Committee, she has spearheaded HOME’s MainFerry Project. She was the 2002 recipient of the James Crawford Award.

Hon. E. Jeanette Ogden is a judge in Erie County’s Family Court System. Her community memberships include Black Leadership Forum, Erie County Chapter of Links, Inc., the NAACP, and Mt. Olive Development Corp. At HOME, she has served on the Program Operations and Planning Committee.

Scott W. Gehl, Executive Director, is an ex-officio member of HOME’s board. A former community organizer and Buffalo Councilman, he received the first Sarah G. Metzger Human Rights Award and HUD’s 2004 Pioneer of Fair Housing Award.
HOME GOES TO THE BACK OF THE BUS
BUT IN A GOOD WAY!

By Mark D. Evans

In 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, civil rights heroine Rosa Parks refused a bus driver’s order to go to the back of the bus to make room for a White passenger. That act of defiance was a milestone in the civil rights movement.

Ms. Parks, however, would likely approve of this 2010 development which sends HOME’s promotional message to “the back of the bus”... right in the line-of-sight for thousands of motorists and public transit passengers.

Thanks to a federal Housing and Urban Development grant, HOME staff worked with Normal Advertising and the Niagara Frontier Transit Authority to design, schedule and place dozens of large, colorful posters in area bus shelters, on subway platforms, and yes, on the backs of Metro buses.

The posters feature a silhouette of a family looking hopefully at the home of their dreams. The message is “Don’t let discrimination come between you and your dream.” HOME’s familiar logo and contact information are prominently displayed.

The posters will appear throughout the summer, rotating among 18 bus shelter locations, on the backs of buses and on back-lit frames on subway platforms. They give tremendous public exposure to both HOME and to the continuing need to challenge housing discrimination. Rosa Parks would be pleased!