

Fair Housing Educational Program and Poster Contest

Press Release: For Immediate Release

Montgomery County, Pa- April 28, 2004- The Fair Housing Council of Montgomery County has just wrapped up its 2004 Fair Housing Educational Program and Poster Contest. For the past several years, the Council has conducted outreach to numerous elementary and middle schools in the Montgomery County area in recognition of April being Fair Housing Month. This year the Council has expanded its program by including 5 new schools in the Norristown area. The primary goal of the program is to educate children at an early age about housing discrimination and how it affects are neighborhoods.

The program consists of 50 minute class discussions on topics such as cultures in the United States, understanding the definition and practice of "respect", and what it means to treat everyone equally. Following the discussion, the children watched a video of skits that demonstrated what housing discrimination may look like and the damaging effects it has on families and neighborhoods.

At the close of the class workshop, the children were encouraged to design a poster illustrating their concept of Fair Housing. This year, more than 150 students created posters, all of which were displayed their individual schools and are currently on display at the Human Services Building in Norristown during the month of April.

In addition, three posters were selected from each participating program and were displayed at the Fair Housing Council's annual event entitled "Fair Housing Issues in Our Community". The attendees of the workshop, which included consumers, social service agencies, case workers, and housing advocates from throughout the County, voted on their favorite poster.

The Council recognized those students whose posters were selected at their township school board meetings.

About Fair Housing Council of Montgomery County: The Council is a private non-profit fair housing organization started in 1990. The mission of the Council is to ensure equal housing opportunities to the residents of Montgomery County. The Council is the only agency solely dedicated to providing fair housing services to Montgomery County.