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Harford County Office of Human Relations Hosts Fair Housing Training

BEL AIR, Md., (June 17, 2015) – Fair Housing laws prohibit discrimination in the sale, rental and financing of dwellings, based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status and disability. More than 30 housing counselors, government employees, realtors, and representatives from nonprofit organizations received Fair Housing Training at the Havre de Grace Activity Center on June 2, hosted by the Harford County Office of Human Relations in partnership with the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, Harford County Department of Housing and Community Development, and Baltimore Neighborhoods Inc. (BNI).

BNI Executive Director Robert Strupp conducted the training covering the laws and history of fair housing; appropriate resources; how to recognize discriminatory advertising; federal, state and local protected classes; the impact of fair housing laws on condominium and homeowner associations, and management companies; and information on the new HUD certification requirements for housing counselors.

Artwork by students from Church Creek, Deerfield and Riverside elementary schools was on display during the training. The artwork was created by students who attend the Y of Central Maryland's before and after school care programs and participated in the Fair Housing Book Initiative sponsored by the Y, the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights and the Office of Human Relations. After reading the book "The Fair Housing Five & the Haunted House", written by the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center, the children discussed discrimination issues.

Afterwards, they designed posters depicting issues in the book and blueprints of future communities.

The Harford County Office of Human Relations administers the county's antidiscrimination legislation (Chapter 95, Harford County Code) and supports the Human Relations Commission, a group of 15 volunteer citizens dedicated to "alleviating social problems and promoting equality, understanding, and harmonious relations between the citizens of the county." Members of the commission are selected to represent all segments of the county population. The Office also supports the efforts of the Commission for Women, a group of 15 volunteer citizens dedicated to being the visible resource for Harford County women in their endeavor for social, political and economic equality.

The Harford County Department of Community Services, which includes Harford County's Office of Human Relations, Office on Aging, Office of Drug Control Policy, Office of Disability Services, Office of Children, Youth and Family, and the Office of Mediation and Volunteerism, is the premier resource for human services in the County. For more information about the Department of Community Services, the Office of Human Relations, or upcoming events please visit www.harfordcountymd.gov

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