

FLORIDA COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS



2009 SPRING UPDATE

Fair Housing Month

April is national Fair Housing Month. As a way to educate the public on fair housing practices, the Florida Commission on Human Relations facilitated several events in Tallahassee.

The festivities began with fair housing trainings at the Division of Blind Services and the Tallahassee Housing Authority. Over 70 individuals attended these events that focused on the Fair Housing Act.

Members of the Commission's Housing and Community Relations Services (CRS) Units also provided insight on fair housing to Tallahassee area elementary school students. Staff traveled to W. T. Moore, Sealey, Kate Sullivan, and Gilchrist elementary schools to teach fourth grade students about diversity and fair housing. The students read stories, learned about disabilities, and even participated in disability role play, which allowed them to see first-hand what life is like for people living with disabilities.

Each student was asked to create a poster for the Commission's Fair Housing Month poster contest which reflected the theme, "My Family's Face." The posters were judged on their substance, color, content, and clarity. An awards ceremony was held at each school to announce the winners. The students were given wonderful prizes that included a certificate, a year family membership to the Mary Brogan Museum, two tickets to the IMAX planetarium, and a \$25 savings bond.

More information about the Fair Housing Month events is available for viewing at http://fchr.state.fl.us/about_us/40th_anniversary/fair_housing_month. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the 2009 Fair Housing Month a success!



Poster contest winners. From top: W.T. Moore Elementary winner, Gilchrist Elementary winner, Sealey Elementary winner, and Kate Sullivan Elementary winner.

Commissioners

Governor Crist has appointed Loyda "Lizzette" Gamero of West Palm Beach to the Florida Commission on Human Relations. After Senate confirmation, she will serve until September 30, 2010.

Governor Crist has reappointed the following individuals to the Commission. After Senate confirmation, they will serve until September 30, 2012.

- Gayle Cannon - Lake City
- Donna Elam - Orlando
- Billy Whitefox Stall - Panama City

Congratulations to our new and returning Commissioners!

May is Older Americans Month Did you know...

- May is Older Americans Month, Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, and Elder Law Month.
- In the United States, there are 24 counties with at least one-quarter of their population over the age of 65. Florida is home to nine of the 24.
- Florida has the highest percentage of individuals over the age of 65 in the country
- In 2007, 5.8 million (16.0 %) Americans age 65 and over were in the labor force.
- The population of Floridians over the age of 85 is growing faster than any other age group.
- The percentage of employment discrimination cases based on age that were received by the Commission was higher in the 2007-2008 fiscal year than in any of the previous 8 years.

Please join the Commission during this month of celebration to fight discrimination and create a greater Florida for our elders!

Upcoming Event 2009 Elder Summit: "Dispelling the Myths of Aging"



In honor of Older Americans Month, the Florida Commission on Human Relations and the Florida Department of Elder Affairs will be hosting the 2009 Elder Summit on **Tuesday, May 26 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at the Tallahassee Senior Center (1400 North Monroe Street). The 2009 Elder Summit will address ageism and discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations for seniors and other pressing issues facing older Americans.

This event is open to the general public and will feature brief presentations from agency leaders followed by a panel discussion and a question and answer portion.

Advanced registration is required. There is a fee of \$6 for food. Checks can be made out to the Tallahassee Senior Center. For more information, please contact Janine Rogers-Harris by telephone at (850)488-6680 or via email at communities@elderaffairs.org.

Commission Blog

Stay informed of what is happening at the Commission through our blog. The blog features Commission updates, observances, articles by Commissioners and more! [Click here to view.](#)

The Florida Commission on Human Relations is the state agency which enforces the state's civil rights laws and works to prevent and eliminate discrimination through education and outreach.

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