

BGHRC QUARTERLY

“Make a career of humanity, commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make a greater person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in.” - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

OUR MISSION:

The Bowling Green Human Rights Commission is a non-profit organization committed to serving the community through advocating for the rights of the protected classes which include: race, color, religion, national origin, age (over 40), sex, disability, and *familial status (*in housing). Created by city ordinance in 1966, the commission also receives complaints and allegations of discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations. Overall its efforts focus on education, assistance, and promoting positive human relations within the community.



Bowling Green Human Rights Commission

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WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT

Annually the Bowling Green Human Rights Commission celebrates Women’s History Month by honoring local women at the “Women of Achievement Awards”. This was the 23rd celebration of the event honoring women by highlighting the national theme “Weaving the Stories of Women’s Lives.” At the event executive director Alice Waddell encouraged those in attendance to; “Please continue to weave your stories into the lives of others.” Over 30 local women were nominated for the awards, the winners are as follows. ARTS: Elise Iannuzzi, BUSINESS: Cyndi Crocker, COMMUNITY SERVICE: Kenetha Morrow Bryant, EDUCATION/ELEMENTARY: Robin Cornelius, EDUCATION/HIGH SCHOOL: Cheryl Bunton, EDUCATION/COLLEGE: Mary Ford, ENTREPRENEURSHIP: Micki Holmes, SCIENCE AND HEALTH: Bonita Paul, WOMAN OF DISTINCTION: Judy Schwank, WOMEN FIRSTS: Michele Tolbert, WOMEN REACHING HIGHER: Brandi Duvall, YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT: Andreana Bridges, NATIVE DAUGHTER(S): Jacinda Townsend (Gides) and Dr. TaKeia Anthony, WOMAN OF THE YEAR: Gail Martin, LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT: Dr. Julia Roberts and Deborah Richey, POSTHUMOUS: Elise Talmage Lieb, and Anne Blane Grubbs.



Forum Focuses on Law Enforcement, Education, and Employment.

On Tuesday, February 24, 2015, the Bowling Green Human Rights Commission, along with the Bowling Green/Warren County NAACP hosted a forum to provide a round table discussion between local community members, law enforcement officers, city officials, the chamber of commerce staff, and educators to discuss the strengths and challenges facing our community. Over 100 individuals were in attendance including representatives from the Bowling Green Police Department, both school Superintendent Rob Clayton and Joe Tinnius, and Ron Bunch, president and chief executive of the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce. Also in attendance were numerous city employees such as the city manager, city commissioners, and the mayor.

Within each discussion representatives stated they were interested in initiatives that would help them to employ more minorities and to bring more minority business owners to the city. The greatest focus of discussion centered around the public outcry for law enforcement officers to wear body cameras. Doug Hawkins, chief of Bowling Green Police Department, stated that he doesn't think body cameras are necessarily a bad idea, they do have a narrow point of view and only show a portion of what is happening during an incident. In the end, the City Commission will make the decision about the use of those kind of cameras.

Over all the night was a success, bringing many different voices under one roof. After the data has been compiled, the organizers look forward to discussing a plan to move forward.

Are you interested in learning more about what the Bowling Green Human Rights Commission does?

Like our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/bghumanrightscom>

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Gives Students an Opportunity to Learn About The Impact of Their Actions.

Each January brings a new opportunity to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This year the BG Human Rights Commission, a part of the coalition members of the Martin Luther King Jr. Planning Committee created a youth event for students in the Warren County area the night before the annual celebration.

This year's theme "What We Do Today Matters" gave youth an opportunity to think about the long lasting impact of their actions.

The program began with a game of "corn hole" played by students and local police officers. After the activity the children were divided into three groups by age level. Grades 3 - 5 focused on the actions of civil rights leaders, and how their actions as youth led them to become great leaders as adults. To demonstrate how our actions lead to future actions students planted "a seed for peace" to take home. Grades 6 -8 focused on stereotypes and the negative impacts of prejudices. The students in this age group also made signs to carry at the march the following day.

The high schoolers had a round table discussion with local police officers to discuss the recent events in Ferguson and in New York. There was also an event for parents, the local drug task force was there to answer questions parents may have about current issues facing youth today.

The event was a huge success with over 200 hundred children and adults in attendance. This was the second year for the youth event. Every student who attended received a shirt to wear at the march Monday morning. The Human Rights Commission is looking forward to participating in this event in the future and working with community youth.



BGHRC Employee, Chiquita Sparks Serves on Coalition to Help South Central Kentucky Homeless.

Chiquita Sparks, Fair Housing Outreach and Education Coordinator for the Bowling Green Human Rights Commission plays a vital role in the effort to provide shelter and food for the homeless during the cold winter shelter months. She is an active participant of the Homeless and Housing Coalition of South Central Kentucky. This year marks the 1st Annual "Room in the Inn" operation in Bowling Green/Warren County. The coalition organized, structured, and implemented the housing project based on a model from the Nashville, TN area. This project brought together a partnership between local churches, housing agencies, and the BGD. Sixteen congregations participated, 100 homeless residents were registered between Nov 17, 2014 - March 15, 2015, and a total of 800 volunteers served. The success of the winter shelter project proved to be a great service to our homeless population.