

# Right Now!

Supplement to the Summer 2009 Human Rights Report Newsletter

## KENTUCKY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

### Outreach Showcase

### 29<sup>th</sup> Annual West Louisville Appreciation Celebration

July 25 and 26, 2009

Several thousand people turned out at Shawnee Park on Saturday and Sunday, July 25 and 26, 2009, for the West Louisville Appreciation Celebration, a festival that includes a 5K run, family reunions, exhibits, church picnics, a dominos and checkers tournament and music from gospel to Christian hip hop. The Louisville Defender newspaper hosted the event held in the city's well-known and largely African American neighborhood. The park was covered with tents where festival-goers shared handshakes over smoky grills and serving tables. After Saturday's rain, temperatures on Sunday were warm in the park, which abuts the Ohio River.

The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights took advantage of the splendid opportunity to pitch a tent and reach out to minority adults and children, alike, in order to chat about every person's right to equality and the commission's job to enforce civil rights. Visitors filed in, playing games, making music, talking to commission representatives, watching civil rights videos and picking up brochures about the commission's work. Sharing the tent were guests the commission invited from partner organizations. They provided information about issues affecting people protected by civil rights laws. We are proud to have been a part of this festival that celebrates community pride.



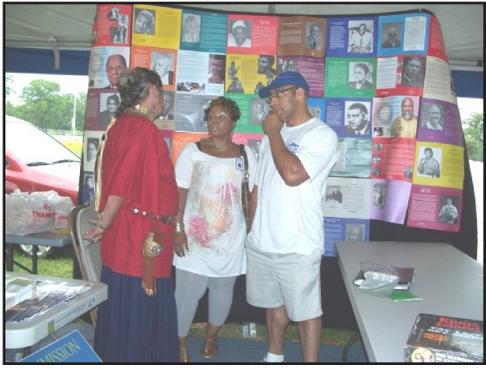
The National Guard loaned the large tent and tables, and Lowe's and Best Buy contributed plants, carpeting and other items. We gave away hundreds of brochures that explain civil rights laws and the commission's work. Soon after this photo was taken, people swarmed the park, many stopping by the tent. We hosted the AARP, Southern Poverty Law Center, Center for Women and Children, Louisville Human Relations Commission and the Fairness Campaign who gave out other civil rights related information. We were proud to host members of ORNAIC, the Ohio River Native American Intertribal Community who came from all over Kentucky to promote state recognition for American Indians.

With photos numbered from left to right, 1: Michael Dunn, John Johnson, executive director of the Kentucky Human Rights Commission, Momfeather Erickson, Frederick Douglass Re-enactor Michael Crutcher, and Dean Erickson. Dunn and the Ericksons are members of ORNAIC, the Ohio River Native American Intertribal Community. Photo by Ron Burgis. 2: Young people wanted their photos made with Frederick Douglass. They liked the live video camera set up that allowed them to tape their own comments about current civil rights issues.

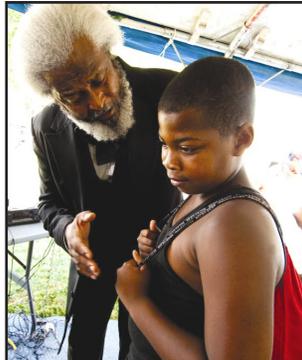


3: Children were eager to be part of the action. They played games and checked out the Gallery of Great Black Kentuckians display. 4: A group of teens played a computer game that helped them play guitar, drums, and make their own music.





Left: Elaine Johnson of ORNAIC, the Ohio River Native American Intertribal Community, Aneeka Ferrell, enforcement officer of the commission, and Cameron McNair of Lowe's chatted in front of the Gallery of Great Black Kentuckians display, the commission poster series that takes Kentucky African American history into libraries and classrooms. Right: Teens listened while people talked about what it means to have civil rights.



Left: Staff and volunteers from the commission and its partners dedicated their weekend to teach people about the Kentucky Civil Rights Act, fair housing, and other issues. The space was frequently filled with visitors. Center: Michael Crutcher took on his role of Frederick Douglass to engage folks like this young boy in a lively conversation about African American history. Photo by Ron Burgis. Right: Commission Title VI Program Coordinator Glenda Green and Enforcement Branch Manager Sherita Davis greeted guests with smiles and civil rights literature.



From left to right, and standing in front of the sign that read Kentucky Commission on Human Rights Outreach Center are John Johnson, commission executive director, her granddaughter along with Yvonne Coleman Bach, editor of the Louisville Defender Newspaper, members of ORNAIC, the Ohio River Native American Intertribal Community, and at far right is commission Northern Field Supervisor John Fisher.



Above, Michael Crutcher as Frederick Douglass talks to Carolyn Tandy, district director for U.S. Congressman John Yarmuth, and her husband David Tandy, president of the Louisville Metro Council.



At left, a man asks for information about the commission's work investigating discrimination claims.

At right, a group of young commission volunteers take a break from organizing literature.



## Kentucky Commission on Human Rights

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