Million Father March - On August 10, 2015, the Evansville Commission on the Social Status of African-American Males partnered with the Black Star Project on a special day that fathers and men use to make a commitment to their children, their families, their communities and their country with their dynamic presence at school. The Million Father March was expected to attract thousands of schools across America. An estimated 1 million men, women and children participated nationwide in 525 cities in 2014. In 2015 an estimated 1,000,000 men from 600 cities were expected to participate. The Million Father March provides an excellent opportunity to engage men of all ages on their first day of school. Black Star Project Executive Director Phillip Jackson says: "Fathers are unstoppable. They are one of the best ways to improve the academic performance of children. Gang recruitment, bullying and violence against girls go down on any day when a group of men are at a school." There were over 10 at the Family Back to School and Family Night at C.K. Newsome Community Center. The Evansville Commission on the Social Status of African-American Males also arranged for a family to receive complimentary limousine service on the first day of school.

National Disability Employment Awareness (Lead the Way) - Each October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is celebrated to bring awareness and to acknowledge the economic contributions of America’s workers with disabilities. On October 22, 2015, the Evansville Advisory Board on Disability held the 2015 Disability Day at the Old National Bank. A panel hosted a discussion to focus on inclusion in the workplace for people with disabilities. Lead the Way: A Discussion On Disability In The Workplace, took place at the Old National Bank Auditorium. The panel discussion focused on how to administer online assessments without the use of assistive technology and how allowing people with disabilities an opportunity to compete for mainstream jobs. HR professionals were also available to offer resume tips.

Latino Summit - On October 23, 2015, Executive Director Diane Clements- Boyd and Randy G. Poynter, Area Director, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) Indianapolis District Office conducted community forums to discuss the Workplace, how allowing people with disabilities an opportunity to compete for mainstream jobs. HR professionals were also available to offer resume tips.

Education and Outreach 2015

Law Enforcement Transgender and Multicultural Awareness Training - On February 2, 2016, a training session was held to provide law enforcement with the tools to work and serve in diverse multicultural communities. Issues discussed included policing in the transgender community. There was also a discussion on implicit bias and improving community and law enforcement relations in multicultural communities. The training was held at Ivy Tech Community College in collaboration with Tri-State Alliance. U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service and the Human Rights Commission.

Indiana Black Barbershop Health Initiative (Statewide Kick-off) - On April 2, 2016, the Evansville Commission on the Social Status of African-American Males participated in the Annual Indiana Black Barbershop Health Initiative for the sixth year. Evansville was the first in the state to kick-off. The initiative seeks to enlighten African-American men to better understand cardiovascular diseases through screening and education. The event offered free health screenings and volunteering by local volunteer barbers. There were 116 mostly African-American men screened at the event. Mayor Lloyd Winnecke was present March 11, 2016 “Indiana Black Health Initiative Day” in Evansville. Local partners include the City of Evansville and the Evansville Commission on the Social Status of African-American Males, Community Action Program of Evansville (Monsoon Health Initiative), Ivy Tech Community College, Southwest Indiana Area Health Education Center (SW IAHEC), hosted by the University of Southern Indiana and American Medical Response (AMR).

Fell Health Month - To commemorate the passing of Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the Fair Housing Act, cities throughout the country celebrate Fair Housing Month in April. Jeffrey May, an Urban and Regional Planner with HUD, spoke in Evansville on April 21, 2016 at Ivy Tech Community College and C.K. Newsome Community Center. The 2016 Fair Housing Month in Evansville was an Opportunity in Diversity. Indiana Consortium of State and Local Human Rights Agencies and the National Association of Human Rights Workers (NAHRW) Joint Conference was held on April 22-24, 2016 at the Tropicana Executive Conference Center and the opening plenary session was titled “The Evansville Civil Rights Movement: Past, Present and Future” that featured three Evansville Community Reinvestment Coalition. John Marshall Law School. Indiana University School of Law at University of Indiana Law School, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration and Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana as well as consultants and state and local human and civil rights organizations. On June 23, at Ivy Tech Community College, Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu, an educational consultant with African-American Images, spoke on The School-to-Prison Pipeline. Thursday sessions were held at Ivy Tech Community College. There was another awards dinner on Thursday night at Hispanic Heritage and others were able to offer resume tips.

Education and Outreach 2016

2015 Commission Outputs/Statistics

2016 Commission Outputs/Statistics

Complaint Demographics

Statistics

Statistics
To the Residents of Evansville and Vanderburgh County:

Please find the annual reports for the years 2015 and 2016. It is a privilege and an honor to serve the many residents of Evansville and Vanderburgh County as the local civil rights enforcement arm for the region in addition to working with organizations and individuals on the local and national levels to address current social justice issues. As a human relations commission, we follow a long legacy of being the voice of reason while promoting harmony and equality for all people.

In 2016, the Evansville-Vanderburgh County Human Relations Commission hosted the annual conference of the Indiana Consortium of State and Local Human Rights Agencies Training Conference. As a result, the 2016 annual dinner was not held. Nevertheless, the standing conference provided local residents an opportunity to hear from concerned speakers including cultural competency educator, Dr. Jennia Kennedy and fair housing expert, Stella Adams. In spite of some gains made, past years have presented civil and human rights challenges on the national front. Voting rights are in danger since the landmark Supreme Court case Shelby County v. Holder and the historic decision ushering in marriage equality was met with opposition in Indiana on the same day with the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA).

This year we experienced the daunting reality of a heinous act of domestic terrorism in Charleston and a human display of dignity by white supremacy groups. We also grappled with the school-to-prison pipeline, human rights for immigrants and environmental justice for the people of Flint, Michigan and Standing Rock. The Human Relations Commission joined with other fair minded people and denounced all efforts to divide our community and our nation.

If asked to respond to the question of where we are headed from here, the response is we are going forward. However, bewildering the present circumstances may be and however daunting the forces arrayed against us may seem, we remain convinced that the cause of civil and human rights is and must move forward. The labor leader and civil rights activist Cesar Chavez famously said, “Once social change begins, it cannot be reversed. You cannot uneducate the person who has learned to read. You cannot humiliate the person who feels pride. You cannot oppress the people who are not afraid anymore. We have seen the future, and the future is ours.”

In closing, we would like to thank Mayor Lloyd Winnecke, the City Council, the County Commissioners, Missy Mosby, President, County Commissioners, David Kent, President, County Council, and Vanderburgh County. The Evansville-Vanderburgh County Human Relations Commission provides a neutral forum for resolving complaints of discrimination.

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