

Community Outreach Ideas

The **MAR Diversity Awareness Committee** allows a brief amount of time at each meeting to discuss different ways to get involved in the community. Below is a partial listing of some ideas of how your Board/Association members could get involved in the community. We plan to add to this list as we receive ideas. The list will be included in the new Diversity section of the MAR web site. If the idea was contributed by a Board/Association, contact information is listed below. *(A special thank you to the Boards/Associations that have contributed ideas!)*

- Member involvement in ***Rebuilding Disaster Areas*** i.e. Habitat “Global Village” trip to the Gulf Region through Missouri Association of REALTORS® (MAR, 800-403-0101)

- REALTOR® Relief Fund*** established by the National Association of REALTORS® 2001 President, Richard Mendenhall

- Repairing Homes Restoring Hope*** is a way to remedy housing code violations by homeowners unable to make repairs on their own. Volunteers were used to support this community-based home repair program. For specific details and more information, call the St. Charles County Association of REALTORS® at 636-946-4022.

- Habitat for Humanity*** – Check your city/town on how to get involved; many Boards/Associations are already involved with Habitat

- Fair Housing Festival/Fair*** – Hold a Fair Housing poster contest where you can get the school children from the community involved

- HELPING HANDS FOR the Community*** is a volunteer organization providing minor repair for those who have the need, but not the resources. i.e. build a wheelchair ramp
For specific details and more information, call the St. Joseph Regional Association of REALTORS® at 816-233-9009.

- Multi-Cultural Fairs/Festivals/Mixers*** that provide exhibits and food samples from around the world. This is a popular event that can provide an insight into the community. Talk with your business and civic leaders in your local community to assist with this type of an event. You could include information on foreign language classes and involve the local colleges. You could provide information on language translators, etc.

- Opening Doors to Opportunity*** fundraising event to buy doors and windows for home in a Habitat for Humanity project. Lunch was offered in exchange for donations for this worthwhile project. For specific details and more information, call the Tri-Lakes Board of REALTORS® at 417-338-4555.

- Cultural Exchange/Hosting Foreign Delegates in your Community*** by helping to arrange housing, transportation, social activities and public relations. Tri-Lakes Board of REALTORS® hosted Russian delegates with much success. For specific details and more information, call the Tri-Lakes Board of REALTORS® at 417-338-4555.

•**Diversity Challenge Series** offers a free event to help educate REALTORS® and affiliates with important information that is at their disposal with various issues such as “Booming with the Baby Boomers”. Special guest speakers cover topics and the event is typically held in an “up and coming” area of the city. This event is sponsored by the St. Louis Association of REALTORS® Equal Housing/Cultural Diversity Committee. For specific details or more information, call Meggie Devereux directly at 314-590-2307 or Margie West at 314-576-0033 x317.

•**Work with Local Animal Shelters** by raising public awareness of caring for pets and adoption of pets (Check with your local Animal Shelter in your area)

REALTORS® Reaching Out is committed to improving the community in which we live and work through repair and occasional minor restoration of senior citizens’ real property. We identify, through the Care Connection, individuals who own their home and need repairs they cannot physically or financially complete on their own. For specific details or more information, call the Midwest MO Board of REALTORS® at 660-429-5518.

•**Work with organizations such as the Boy Scouts** – The Scouting organizations are very visible in the various communities. Often, Boy Scouts are working on a community project to earn their Eagle Scout rank. i.e. Cleaning up and repairing/re-doing a school playground; making a wheelchair ramp; planting flowers in a park or at a memorial

•**Area home shows or home fairs** – Talk with local Chamber of Commerce, business leaders and volunteers from your local community to help with this type of event; this type of event raises public awareness.

•**Housing Opportunities Programs or Events** – Housing Opportunities programs and events raise public awareness of financing assistance programs and different housing opportunities. Specific information can be found at www.mohomeprograms.com and www.kchomeprograms.com . Information can be disseminated at housing opportunities events or homebuyer education classes.

•**Fair Housing Month Tips** – Arrange a community event to disseminate information on Fair Housing to assist the consumer. You could provide resources, fair housing tips and checklist, and other pertinent information to assist consumers/potential home buyers. (It could be a similar event as stated previously under the multi-cultural festival/fair idea.)

Be sure to check the National Association of REALTORS® web site at www.realtor.org and the Diversity Toolkit for new programs, articles, and resources that pertain to Diversity and Fair Housing. MAR will be adding a new Diversity section to the new MAR Web site, so please watch for that resource. If you ever attend a National meeting, there are opportunities to hear good speakers and share ideas at the Equal Opportunity - Cultural Diversity Forum, Committee, classes and other special networking sessions.

If you would like to get involved on the MAR Diversity Awareness Committee, please let Nate Johnson, Chair or Sharron Lenox, Vice Chair and/or Terry Murphy, Director of Education/Staff Liaison know. The Diversity Awareness Committee meeting is open to all.

(The ideas above are listed in no particular order. Ideas will be added as we receive them.)