

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fair Housing Issues in Our Community

### **Press Release: For Immediate Attention**

Montgomery County, Pa- April 3, 2004- The Fair Housing Council of Montgomery County hosted 3<sup>rd</sup> annual April is Fair Housing Month Event: "Fair Housing Issues in Our Community: Fair Housing for People with Disabilities" on Friday, April 2, 2004. The workshop ran from 8:30am-1pm at the Temple Fort Washington Campus.

This "hands-on", skill building workshop provided practical application for consumers, advocates, community based services staff, shelter and homeless providers, and those interested in learning how to successfully use the reasonable modification provisions of the law to address barriers to housing face by people with disabilities.

Our guest speaker was Michael Allen, Senior Staff Attorney at the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law in Washington, D.C.. Allen is a nationally recognized expert on fair housing laws and disability issues.

The goals of the workshop were as follows:

1. To provide consumers information about fair housing protections, with an emphasis on reasonable accommodations.
2. To provide mental health providers, social service organization and advocates with tools for dealing with opposition they may face in serving their consumers in the community.
3. To provide a knowledge base to recognize fair housing violations and provide resources to address barriers.

About Fair Housing Council of Montgomery County: The Council is a private non-profit fair housing organization. The mission of the Council is to ensure equal housing opportunities to the residents of Montgomery County. The Council is the only agency solely dedicated to providing fair housing services to Montgomery County.