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## City of Beloit Equal Opportunities Commission Hosting National Fair Housing Month Essay and Art Gallery

March 26, 2018 - Beloit's Equal Opportunities Commission is inviting children in grades Pre-K through 12 to submit artwork or a one-page written piece addressing the idea of "What Home Means to Me" in honor of National Fair Housing Month in April.

These projects, which could include stories, essays or poetry in addition to art pieces, will be on display in a gallery at Beloit City Hall during National Fair Housing Month. Organizations and children who participate will be invited to the April 16 City Council meeting at 7 p.m. for a special acknowledgement from the council. Entries will be collected until 5 p.m. April 13 on the third floor of City Hall.

Members of the Equal Opportunities Commission will reach out to several schools and organizations to help increase participation, including the Merrill Community Center, the Boys and Girls Club, Head Start, the YMCA Growing Tree Preschool, Even Start, LULAC, the Beloit Public Library, and after-school programs for elementary and intermediate students.

National Fair Housing Month was established to commemorate the passing of the Fair Housing Act and the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to spread awareness about fair housing rights, and to end housing discrimination.

"In April it will be 50 years since the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and, a week later, the passing of the Fair Housing Act," said Steve Howland, chairperson of the Beloit Equal Opportunities Commission. "While the Civil Rights Act of 1866 prohibited discrimination in housing, there were no federal enforcement provisions. It took our country and Congress over 100 years, until 1968, to address this inequity. The Beloit EOC recognizes that there is still work to be done in providing equal opportunity and equity in all walks of life, health care, education, employment and more. We ask the entire Beloit community - not just children grades Pre-K through 12 - to use the month of April as time to reflect on 'What Home Means to Me' and how we can work together to make Beloit the best home possible."

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