



**Statement from William R. Tisdale, President and CEO
Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council
December 22, 2015**

Dear friends of fair housing,

In this season of reflection, we are called to be our best selves. We contemplate how we have fallen short of that goal in the past year, and ask ourselves how we may do better in the new one to come.

We know that, collectively, our society and our neighborhoods have sometimes failed to welcome new neighbors, to extend a hand to someone who needs help, or to stand up for those who are denied basic civil rights because of their religion, race, national origin or other characteristics. Our nation has long struggled to live up to its values of inclusivity and equal opportunity. That's true in the past, of course, and true today. Anti-immigrant, anti-refugee, racist and Islamophobic actions have no place in our communities, especially when they infringe on the legal rights of all people to live free from discrimination.

As I think on that, this quote from novelist Carlos Fuentes comes to mind:

“Recognize yourself in he and she who are not like you and me.”

No matter who “you and me” are, we are all part of the human family. And no matter how different we may be, we all share one of the same needs – a home that is safe. A home that is a refuge from the difficulties of the outside world. A home that nurtures us and gives us a launching pad from which to participate in all the opportunities that this great nation offers.

I hope that you and yours have such a home this year and next, and that all of our brothers and sisters throughout our beloved Wisconsin communities can say the same.

Together, we can make it so.