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The Advocate

eNews

NCH Newsletter

April 20, 2012



Special Visit, News from the Field, Job and Grant Opportunities

Dear {FIRST_NAME|Friend},

The Board of Directors of the National Coalition for the Homeless met this weekend for its bi-annual face-to-face meeting, hosting HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan for a frank and constructive sharing of ideas and concerns. Accompanying the Secretary was Deputy Assistant Secretary Mark Johnston, a long-time supporter of homeless causes from within the federal government.



The Secretary began his comments with a reference back to his time as a student intern at NCH in the 1980's. Donovan's comments continued with an update on the federal budget, a forecast of how HUD may fare through the budgetary process and he then underlined the import role of advocates and homeless stakeholders in communicating with lawmakers as funding priorities are being made.

Secretary Donovan clearly stated that although funding priorities are the difficult and often uncertain work of decision-makers from congress to local communities, one certainty that remains strong is the commitment to both affordable housing, healthcare, civil rights, jobs and the continued need for shelters as a safety net for

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Upcoming Events

April 20-22, 2012 is being marked by Global Youth Service Day (GYSD). Find out [more](#), or [register](#) your projects and events!

April 24, 2012 - Ending Homelessness in DC: Just How Close are We? [Join advocates](#) (including NCH Speaker Candi Darley) and government officials in a discussion of DC's Five Year Plan to End Homelessness.

April 26, 2012 - You Don't Need a Home to Vote Webinar: Election Activities for Healthcare for the Homeless Projects. [Register](#) today for this webinar hosted by NHCHC, featuring Michael Stoops of NCH!

those who remain un-housed.

NCH's board followed the Secretary's comments by outlining a set of priority issues that represented the common interests of NCH's membership including: increasing public and private investment in affordable housing; restoring the safety net of shelters in local communities; preserving healthcare funding and services; preventing the criminalization of homelessness; and, expanding the role of homeless people in planning and decision-making.

News From the Field

Jessica Figueroa our VISTA member at the Homeless Services Network of Central Florida (HSNCF) received the 2011-2012 "Community Partnership Award" from the Rollins College Office of Community Engagement for her efforts in coordinating many community service providers and developing the "Next Step" Advocacy Group.

From the event program:

"The Community Partnership Award is awarded annually to a non-profit organization that has been dedicated to the learning and development of Rollins students through service and engagement projects. The Homeless Services Network has promoted effective partnerships by not only allowing students to engage in service and advocacy with events such as iDignity and Project Homeless Connect, but also providing the opportunity for deep reflection and action. The organization has also demonstrated true collaboration by working with students to think critically about how Rollins can help advocate for the rights of persons experiencing homelessness, helping to create the foundation for the new student organization, Next Step: to end homelessness. "

Congrats Jessica!

NCH's VISTA Project is Hiring!

We are currently looking for candidates (people who have experienced homelessness strongly encouraged to apply!) for several Summer AmeriCorps*VISTA positions open at multiples sites along the eastern seaboard. Summer VISTA projects will include working with veterans and families to register folks for government benefits, as well as supporting Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau chapters. For more information or to apply, go to the [AmeriCorps Website](#). Learn more about our [national VISTA project](#).

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

NCH in the News

Daily Camera (March 24) - [Boulder: Heaven for the homeless, or a town that's short on services?](#)

Daily Tarheel (March 28) - [Homeless populations especially vulnerable to crime](#)

Austin Weekly News (April 11) - [Logjam in homeless shelters creating citywide problem for Chicago](#)

Associated Baptist Press (April 12) - [Plunging into poverty: Q&A with Neil Donovan](#)

Special Thanks to our recent donors and renewed members!

Aberdeen Foundation, Gaelan Armstrong, Jon Ballew, Madhu Boppana, Fred Brady, Kierei Broadus, Capella University - Inspire Giving Program, Sean Cononie, COSAC Foundation, Archibald Denny, Michael DiMercurio, Ronald Encarnacion, Harmony House Homeless Services, Hilton HHonors, Justin Low, Loretta Masterson, Wendy McQuiston, Jule Monnens, Tim Munyon, Steve O'Neil, Peter Orvetti, Suresh Paul, Plasmanet, Rosemarie Poole, Carolyn Sechler, Michael Shildmyer, Brian Tiffany, Ginger Wallace, Donald Whitehead, Robert & Karen Zupaneck

Banfield Charitable Trust

The [Banfield Charitable Trust](#) provides grants to nonprofit organizations nationwide that keep pets and their people together. Funding priorities include the following: basic veterinary care for financially-challenged companion pet owners; programs that help the homeless, seriously ill, homebound, or disabled care for their pets; companion pet food banks; education programs that directly relate to keeping companion pets and their people together; behavior modification programs to correct inappropriate behaviors so that pets may remain in the home; and disaster preparedness and response. Requests are reviewed quarterly; the upcoming application deadline is **April 30, 2012**.

Home Depot Community Impact Grants Program

The [Home Depot Community Impact Grants Program](#) provides support to nonprofit organizations, public schools, and public service agencies in the U.S. that are using the power of volunteers to improve the physical health of their communities. Proposals for the following community improvement activities will be considered: repairs, refurbishments, and modifications to low-income and/or transitional veteran's housing or community facilities (schools, community centers, senior centers, etc.); weatherizing or increasing energy efficiency of low-income and/or transitional veteran's housing or community facilities; and planting trees or community gardens and/or landscaping community facilities that serve veterans. Requests will be accepted through **August 13, 2012**.

The Mary Kay Foundation: Shelter Grant Program

The [Mary Kay Foundation](#) is committed to ending the epidemic of domestic violence by providing grants to women's shelters throughout the United States. Applying organizations must offer immediate overnight housing to women and children affected by domestic violence. The grants provided by the Foundation may be used for the operating budget of the shelter, with the exception of staff travel. The application deadline is **April 30, 2012**.

Foundation for Financial Planning

The mission of the [Foundation for Financial Planning](#) is to help people take control of their financial lives by connecting the financial planning community with people in need. The Foundation awards grants to nonprofit organizations nationwide for community outreach and pro bono activities that utilize financial planning practitioners in the delivery of services. Concept papers must be submitted by **April 30, 2012**.

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