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The Advocate

NCH Newsletter

April 30, 2013



30th Anniversary, @home, Homeless Bill of Rights, Highlights from the Field & Grant Opportunities

Dear Friend,

Recently, we had a special event in Washington, DC, to launch the 30th Anniversary of the National Coalition for the Homeless.

(see pictures above: L to R - past NCH interns Tony Taylor and Erik Frenkil, Board Member Laura Hansen with Speaker and Executive Director of CCNV Rico Harris, past NCH ED Fred Karnas and audience)

The gathering brought together a special group of friends from throughout our history. Those in attendance shared how much they appreciated hearing representatives from our past and present staff, board, Speakers Bureau and friends.

As each group of speakers shared their thoughts and reflections, it became increasingly apparent that NCH's work is and has been remarkable, but has yet to be completed:

- Michael Stoops spoke about the ongoing importance of organizing communities to respond both effectively and affirmatively to a host of new funding challenges.
- Pastor Jeff Krehbiel described the ongoing importance of NCH's dedication to the teachings and actions of social justice.
- Dr. Fred Karnas described the importance of NCH, as an organization which brings together homeless & housed people alike.
- Steve Thomas shared his own personal story of past struggles and now as part of NCH's Speakers Bureau how his life has developed into a story of recovery and rebuilding.

Thank you for believing and investing in our mission, programs and advocacy. Over the coming year, NCH will be holding intimate gatherings and events to honor NCH's anniversary and the important work of our mission going forward.

Connect with NCH



Upcoming Events

November 2-5, 2013 - NAEHCY Annual Conference

Registration is now open for the 25th Annual National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) Conference. [Register for the conference](#) or [learn more](#).

NCH in the News

The Dallas Weekly (April 2) - [Protecting the Homeless](#)

Dayton Daily News (April 17) - [2 area Xavier students make service trips](#)

NorthJersey.com (April 18) - [To raise awareness for homelessness, Wayne teen spends night outside](#)

Huffington Post (April 29) - [Twitter Saved My Life and Helps Me Help Others](#)

Special Thanks to our

As we look towards a future free of homelessness, we know that this journey will require a renewed commitment from all of us. We want and need you to be part of this important year.

With this in mind, we ask that you renew your pledge to support NCH's mission, beginning now with a [financial contribution](#).

Thank you and together with you, we can Bring America Home once and for all.

Sincerely,



Neil J. Donovan
Executive Director
National Coalition for the Homeless

@home: Tackling Homelessness Online, and on the Ground

Every day, our work centers around not only addressing the immediate needs of homeless individuals, but building a grassroots movement of citizens demanding systemic change. A big part of that work happens online.

New media is helping us tell the stories of homeless men and women, giving them a platform where they can share their experiences. That's why the National Coalition for the Homeless is partnering with [Kindling Group](#), a social issue documentary company, on the [@home campaign](#), an online and offline project to heighten awareness of homelessness at the local and national levels.

[@home](#) is inspired by formerly homeless activist Mark Horvath (aka [@hardlynormal](#)), and seeks to tackle homelessness through documentary film, social media, and social-conscience gaming.

Watch this [@home campaign clip](#) to hear from the Coalition's executive director, Neil Donovan, about how online organizing will play a key role in solving homelessness — then [chip in to support this unique project](#).

Update on Homeless Bill of Rights Initiatives

Due in part to the work of the Western Regional Advocacy Project and other California homeless advocates, [California's Homeless Person's Bill of Rights and Fairness Act](#) (AB5) has passed its first step towards becoming law.

Advocates experiencing homelessness from across California spoke in favor of the bill, before it was passed by the California

recent donors, and new and renewed members!

The Aberdeen Foundation, Kimberly Allard, Barbara Anderson, Gaelan Armstrong, Jon Ballew, Gorus Bix, Brad Bolander, Oanh Bui, Capella University - Inspire Giving Program, Brian Carome, Barbara Cheeks, Coalition for the Homeless (NY), Sean Cononie, Stephane Dahan, Ronald Encarnacion, Michael Giuffrida, Jeremy Haile, Hilton HHonors, It's A Wrap Ideas, Amanda Jones, Maureen Knipschild, Will Lerner, Loretta Masterson, Metro Saint Louis Coalition for the Homeless, Jule Monnens, Wendy Neikrie, Phoebe Nelson, Peter Orvetti, John Parvensky, Suresh Paul, Rosemarie Poole, Evan Rogers, Carolyn Sechler, Rob Stack, Gary Tyree, Bradley Wells, Kathleen Yasuda, Lowre Young

Assembly Judiciary Committee with an astounding 7 votes.

The first statewide [Homeless Bill of Rights](#) was passed in Puerto Rico, followed by Rhode Island in 2012. NCH is now providing support to advocates working with their state legislatures in [California](#), [Connecticut](#), [Missouri](#), [Oregon](#), [Vermont](#), and now in [Delaware](#)!

Highlights from the Field

Read about the great work our AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers have been up to:

- This month I established a partnership with the downtown Marriott that will allow graduates of our job readiness program to explore that career path once they graduate. Our students will receive training materials, and be given tours and shadow positions they might be interested in. – Devon Williams, Atlanta, GA
- I personally got to meet and talk to Congressman Joe Garcia, tell him my story, how the Florida Keys Outreach Coalition (FKOC) has been a great influence in my life, and why I became an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer. – Alisa Bazo, Key West, FL
- I compiled information which allowed me to create three new courses for our Fair Housing University. I also helped plan and organize 6 major events for Fair Housing Month with our office. This included the Fair Housing Accessibility Training targeting attorneys and architects and discusses technical requirements and laws concerning modifications and accommodations under the Fair Housing Act. I arranged to have HUD Deputy Assistant Sara Pratt and former DOJ attorney Scott Moore Present at the training. – Stephanie Sheeley, New Orleans, LA
- I believe my greatest recent accomplishment was hosting 9 students from Kennesaw State University for two days. I connected the group to two great volunteer experiences and participated with them in one. Also, they heard from four of our speakers. It was particularly nice, because my experiences on an alternative spring break in DC that focused on homelessness was a very large influence on me applying to be a VISTA volunteer! – Rachel Reed, Greenville, SC
- I started coordination this month for the next Orlando and Osceola Stand Downs. We are expecting 100 Veterans, and 40-50 Service Providers. – Sean Gibbs, Orlando, FL
- A highlight of the last month was being part of a

community conversation about building capacity in the current Emergency Shelter system. I also worked to create a blue print of the food distribution system in Volusia / Flagler County, and a presentation of the upward trend of median house prices compared to wages with the intention of red flagging this trend for affordable housing. – Linda White, Daytona Beach, FL

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

[Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People](#)

The Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People participates in the empowerment of economically poor, oppressed, and disadvantaged people who are seeking to change the structures that perpetuate poverty, oppression, and injustice. Supported projects must be presented, owned, and controlled by the groups of people who will directly benefit from them and must address long-term corrections of the conditions that keep people bound by poverty and oppression. Grants of up to \$20,000 are provided. Applications may be submitted throughout the year.

[BI-LO Winn-Dixie Foundation](#)

The BI-LO Winn-Dixie Foundation is dedicated to enhancing the well-being of people in the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. The Foundation's primary focus is on providing funding to organizations that address hunger. The application deadline is June 30, 2013.

[USA Funds: Key Transitions in Postsecondary Education](#)

Key Transitions in Postsecondary Education, an initiative of USA Funds, is directed towards programs that provide educational support services benefiting low-income students, first-generation students, students of color, foster youth, and adult learners in an effort to increase their persistence to complete college. Three grants ranging between \$400,000 and \$800,000 for two to three years will be provided. The application deadline is May 24, 2013.

[State Farm Good Neighbor Student Achievement Grants](#)

Youth Service America and State Farm are working to increase academic achievement, workplace readiness, and stronger communities during the 2013-2014 school year with a \$1,500 grant. Educators from all fifty US states and D.C., and the Canadian provinces of Ontario, New Brunswick, and Alberta are invited to apply. Each teacher awarded a grant will also receive a one-day professional development training in one of five cities around the country. Deadline: June 14.

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