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# The Advocate

## eNews

### NCH Newsletter

December 21, 2011



### We Remember, We Celebrate, We Give Thanks

Dear {FIRST\_NAME|Friend},

Today marks the [22<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day](#). Each year, on or near the first day of winter and the longest night of the year, we gather in our communities to bring attention to the tragedy of homelessness and to remember our homeless friends who have paid the ultimate price for our nation's failure to end homelessness. In DC tonight, we are remembering at least 67 friends and neighbors, including [Cliff Carle](#) who enlightened us all for many year by telling his story with the [Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau](#). Click here to [find local events](#), or if your events are not listed, let us know how [you will be remembering](#) those you have lost this past year.

### Hate Crimes Legislation Introduced

On November 30, 2011, Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX) introduced the [Hate Crimes Against the Homeless Statistics Act of 2011](#). This much needed legislation would require the Attorney General to include crimes against the homeless in the crime data collected each year. The National Coalition for the Homeless has been tracking violence against people experiencing homelessness for [over twelve years](#). But having the assistance of law enforcement to track these crimes is the first step towards standardizing data and ultimately, winning much needed protection for innocent citizens victimized for being vulnerable without housing.

We are proud to congratulate the 5 additional co-sponsors of the Hate Crimes Against the Homeless Statistics Act: Rep. Steve Cohen (TN), Rep. Danny Davis (IL), Rep. Gwen Moore (WI), Rep. Grace Napolitano (CA), and Rep. Debbie Wasserman



You can also [text NCH to 85944](#) and reply YES to make a \$10 donation.

### Up Coming Events

**December 21, 2011:** Today marks the 22nd annual National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day. [Learn more](#) about how you can be involved.

### NCH in the News

**The Nation** (Dec. 14) - [The Unfathomable Cuts in Housing Aid](#) (Written by NCH Board Member Patrick Markee of the Coalition for the Homeless in New York)

**Denver Post** (Dec. 14) - [New federal homelessness stats contradict experience on Denver's streets](#)

**Special Thanks to our recent donors and**

Schultz (FL). The bill is currently being considered by the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.

## Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week Wrap-up

This year, **National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week** was a great success. From the sandy beaches of southern California and Florida to the freshly snow-blanketed streets of Alaska and Maine, more than 750 community organizations, universities, and local civic associations came together during the prior to Thanksgiving to help raise their community's awareness of hunger and homelessness.

In Philadelphia, more than fifty restaurants, community organizations, and art classes came together to hold the 13<sup>th</sup> annual "Empty Bowl" dinner, serving over 1,400 people. Community organizations across Spokane organized a city-wide awareness week, complete with a proclamation by the mayor.

In an effort to understand how effective this year's impact has been, **please let us know if your community participated in H&H week on this [brief online form](#).**

From all of us at the National Coalition for the Homeless, **thank you** for all you do and all you've done to make this year's H&H week a success. We look forward to supporting you with organizing an H&H week events in your community next year!

### News from the Field

This month, we bring you news from Jeremy Weatherly, AmeriCorps\*VISTA and Speakers' Bureau Coordinator in Macon, Georgia:

"For a First-Year-Experiential-Learning class at a local college, Caitlin and I decided to divide the class up into 4 groups of 5-6 students. Each group started from a different location downtown, which included a soup kitchen, a direct service nonprofit, the future site of a homeless day center, and a bridge that is a frequent home for those experiencing homelessness.

Each location had a person there to tell them about the specifics of that location and the importance of it (we were able to get the Executive Directors of the non-profits to give tours and talk about their organizations) and each group was assigned a "guide" (which were made up of speakers on our bureau) who was tasked with walking

### renewed members!

8BitDad, Aberdeen Foundation, Agua Fund Inc, Kimberly Allard, Gaelan Armstrong, Jon Ballew, Jeffrey Barfett, George and Mary Bittner, Gorus Bix, Oanh Bui, James Byrd, Capella University - Inspire Giving Program, Sheila Casey, Michael Chao, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, Mary Collins, Tara Collins, Columbus Foundation, Sean Cononie, Stephane Dahan, Archibald Denny, Michael DiMercurio, Ronald Encarnacion, Bob Erlenbusch, Joshua Freeman, Full Circle PR, Gateway Center, William Gefell, Caitlin Greeley, Laura Hansen (Coalition To End Homelessness), Kelly Kanada, Jung Kim, Darin Kingston & Daniel Phelan, Peri Kurshan, Justin Low, Diane McMahan, Wendy McQuiston, Jule Monnens, NACVA, Peter Orvetti, PiTe Pan, Suresh Paul, Kay Piking, John Potter, Martin & Marianne Potter, Myles Presler, Michael Rossi, Shelley Roth, Carolyn Sechler, Michael Shildmyer, Melis Solaksubasi, Susannah Spruill, Paul Sullins, Brian Tiffany, Tony and Julie Urbanski, Sam Waite, Katherine Walker, Ginger Wallace, Lewis Yelin, and Youth Service America.

them through downtown to a central location at "the fountain" which is one of the main hangouts for people experiencing homelessness.

On the walk, each guide told his/her story and spoke about their experience with homelessness while guiding them through some of the poorer parts of Macon on their way to the fountain. When they arrived at the fountain, there was a group discussion where each group spoke about what they saw and what they thought and felt about it.

The response was overwhelmingly positive; more so than any other presentation we've done before. The combination of small focused groups, each with their own speaker, and being out in the city and seeing the issue first-hand was astoundingly effective. I was blown away by the response."

NCH is offering recommendations to its readers for free and low cost resources for grant writing, technical assistance, capacity building and other useful and cost effective suggestions.

#### **Today's Recommendation...**

##### **[Sodexo Youth Grants](#)**

**Deadline:** January 17, 2012

Youth Service America will award 100 Sodexo Youth Grants of \$500 each to support youth-led service projects in the United States that address the issue of childhood hunger on Global Youth Service Day (April 20-22, 2012). Projects should engage your peers, friends, families, neighbors, Sodexo employees, and other community members in creative, youth-inspired solutions to ending childhood hunger in your community.

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