

NCH . NEWS . . .

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This is the February issue of *NCH News*.

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Soccer 4 Social Change: You're Invited!



On behalf of Maria Cuomo-Cole, Jose Garcia and Michael Kosmides of Teatro Goldoni, Mark Ein and Ted Leonsis, and all of our participants, Street Soccer USA would like to invite you to attend a fundraiser with special guest Kenneth Cole in Washington, DC on January 27th.

Street Soccer USA is a one of a kind sport for social change program fighting to eradicate homelessness and poverty. The program has expanded to 13 projects across the country and will engage more than 1,000 homeless youth and adults in 2009. 75% of program members change their lives for the better: securing full-time employment, addressing drug and mental health issues, pursuing further education, moving off the street.

Tickets for the event are available at the \$200, \$500, and \$1,000 level. Your support will help bring sports based mentoring and assistance to the homeless in Washington, DC ahead of this summer's 2nd Street Soccer USA Cup. We hope to see you there!

Please share this invitation with other whom you believe would want to attend. Space is limited so please RSVP to event@streetsoccerusa.org

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More information at www.streetsoccerusa.org

Book Review: Homelessness Handbook **By Aaron Gaide, NCH Intern**

Homelessness Handbook, Berkshire Publishing Group, Feb. 2007, Available at <http://www.berkshirepublishing.com/brw/products/10070.asp>

After his praised Encyclopedia of Homelessness, a book that investigates one of the most sensitive social problems worldwide, David Levinson teamed up with editor and researcher Mary Ross to create the next comprehensive guide in understanding the world of homelessness. Homelessness Handbook is a multi-wave report that supplies historical analysis of homelessness as a social problem. Through personal accounts, first hand quotes and dramatic photography, an intimate sense and detailed knowledge of homeless life is eloquently captured.

Levinson and Ross explore the “psychological, social, and physical concerns of the homeless in the United states and the world.” Noting the media’s cruel relationship with those who dwell in the streets, the text goes on by investigating the actual root causes of homeless and by doing so is able to highlight many misconceptions and misunderstandings that global citizens often have. It becomes interesting how deindustrialization, deinstitutionalization and the current affordable housing crisis are forefront causes that make hard working citizens lose nearly everything.

Also featured in the Homelessness Handbook are articles that portray the projects and organizations that are currently trying to bring this social trouble to an end. It is here where the text offers different prevention approaches as well as solutions to housing problems. With personal bibliographies and stunning factual references, this book is a source of inspiration for students, professionals, activists and others to reach out, address homelessness as a serious social issue, and act to stop the hurt of those who are without.

NCH Welcomes New Interns

Joining NCH this month are interns Allison McGill, Sophia Cai, Danielle Armstrong, and Aaron Graide.

Allison, 20, majors in mathematics at Amherst College, where she’s a sophomore. Allison decided to intern at NCH in order to supplement her experience in direct service with a look at the sorts of strategies that are being developed to stop homelessness from occurring. She is currently helping to develop an organizing manual for National Homeless Persons’ Memorial Day. Eventually, she would like to practice law.

Sophia Cai, 20, is a junior neuroscience major at Amherst College. She wanted to take a break from lab work by interning at NCH, inspired in part by her previous work with Habitat for Humanity. She’s also helping develop the National Homeless Person’s Memorial Day organizing manual. She’s active on her college crew team and enjoys crossword puzzles.

Danille Armstrong, 21, is a senior at James Madison University majoring in social work. She joined NCH’s team in order to get involved in policy work and to get a chance to live in Washington, DC. She’s currently working on a report regarding the inclusion of people experiencing homelessness in the U.S. Census. In a few years, she would like to attain her MSW, in the meantime working as an in-home service provider.

Aaron Graide, 20, is a sophomore at Dartmouth College. He was attracted to NCH due to its close involvement with the community it serves. He will be conducting and compiling research on hate crimes against people experiencing homelessness. For fun, he plays soccer, reads, and watches movies.

Radiohead Featured in NCH Public Service Announcement

UK chart-toppers Radiohead have donated their song “MK 1” for use in a new NCH public service announcement.

The band, known for such albums as In Rainbows and OK Computer, is well-known for its reluctance to license its music. NCH is grateful for this new gift.
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grateful for this rare gift.

To see the new announcement, click [here](#).

NCH Receives “Sierra Socks”

By Megan Hustings, NCH Development Director



The Sierra Socks promotion got underway on November 1, 2008. A double fundraiser, for every pair of socks sold, 10% of proceeds are being donated to the Sierra Club and for each pair of socks sold, one pair would be donated to the National Coalition for the Homeless. Thanks to your purchases NCH and our member organizations have already received over 700 pairs of socks, and counting. Sierra Socks is still running its promotion with the goal of hitting 1 million pairs sold. Buy yours today at www.sierrasocks.com.

Upcoming Speaking Engagements

Where to Catch the Faces of Homelessness Speakers Bureau:

January 23rd The Pilgrimage in Washington, DC
 January 23rd National Premiere Hotel in Arlington, VA
 January 30th Sheraton National Premiere Hotel in Arlington, VA
 January 31st The Pilgrimage in Washington, DC
 February 4th Lancaster Country Day School in Lancaster, PA
 February 6th NCH office in Washington, DC
 February 7th The Pilgrimage in Washington, DC
 February 7th The Pilgrimage in Washington, DC
 February 9th Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville, MD
 February 9th The Pilgrimage in Washington, DC
 February 12th Loyola College Grad Campus in Timonium, MD
 February 15th at NCH office in Washington, DC
 February 15th Churchill Hotel in Washington, DC
 February 15th Bethesda North Marriott in Bethesda, MD
 February 15th Holiday Inn Central in Washington, DC

NCH Public Policy Update

As the presidential and Congressional transitions continue to unfold, NCH and other homeless advocates remain optimistic about the possibilities for the coming years. The Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee held a confirmation hearing for HUD Secretary-designate Shaun Donovan on January 13, to the tune of much enthusiastic support from Committee Democrats and Republicans alike. At the same time, Congress, the Administration, and advocates are working to blunt the ill effects of a staggering economy and a prolonged foreclosure crisis. NCH and 41 other organizations sent a letter to Congress urging the inclusion of \$45 ...bethesdahosting.com/.../397_2009...

economy and a prolonged foreclosure crisis. NCH and 41 other organizations sent a letter to Congress urging the inclusion of \$45 billion for housing and homelessness prevention programs in the economic recovery package. However, an early draft bill from the House of Representatives, released in mid-January, includes only about one-third of that amount. While the total in the legislation is nonetheless a significant amount of new funding, many key proposals to increase the supply of affordable housing and assist Americans on the brink of homelessness recommended by advocates are absent from the bill. NCH and others continue to work with Congress and the Administration to improve its contents.

National Housing Trust Fund

Included in the joint letter to Congress from NCH and other low-income housing advocates was a proposal to include \$10 billion for the National Housing Trust Fund, funding sufficient for rehabilitating or building 100,000 rental homes for the lowest-income households. Unfortunately, the first draft of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, introduced in the House last week, does not contain any funds for the NHTF. Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI) is circulating a "Dear Colleague" letter in support of the inclusion of this provision and other provisions related to homelessness prevention, including funds for Housing Choice vouchers and the Emergency Shelter Grants program, into the economic recovery package.

Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program

Likewise, the joint letter to Congress from NCH and other low-income housing advocates also sought the inclusion of \$3.6 billion for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program, which would authorize 400,000 new vouchers over two years to provide the lowest-income households with rental assistance. This provision was not included in the House-drafted American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. However, NCH and others continue to work with partners in Congress and the Administration to have this proposal injected into the bill.

Foreclosure and Homelessness Prevention

An early draft of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act includes \$1.5 billion in funding for the Emergency Shelter Grants program, to be used specifically for homelessness prevention purposes. Those funds could be used to help about 300,000 families from becoming homeless by providing them with "short-term or medium-term" rental assistance, utility payments, rental assistance for a final month at a location, and housing relocation and stabilization services. NCH and others advocate boosting the funding level to \$2 billion. A "Dear Colleague" letter from Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI) to that effect is circulating in the House. Additionally, NCH and others have expressed to Congress their support for a provision in the Troubled Asset Recovery Program (TARP) Reform and Accountability Act, H.R. 384, ensuring renters of foreclosed properties a 90-day notice prior to eviction, and strengthening their rights to remain in their homes.

HUD McKinney-Vento Programs

NCH anticipates that the new 111th Congress will eventually turn its attention to reauthorizing HUD's McKinney-Vento homeless assistance programs. It is expected they will model their efforts on the reauthorization work already done in the previous Congress. NCH's concerns about the House-passed bill from the previous Congress remain. NCH will continue to work with the current Congress to address those concerns. Meanwhile, in the House of Representatives, Representatives Judy Biggert (R-IL), Andre Carson (D-IN), Ruben Hinojosa (T-X) and Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY) have introduced a bill (H.R. 29) to expand the definition of homelessness under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to include certain homeless children and youth defined as homeless under other federal statutes. While this proposal still would not broaden the definition to include all individuals classified as homeless by other federal laws, NCH considers H.R. 29 a step in the right direction. Ultimately, the definition should be expanded to include all persons living in shared housing or in motels due to the loss of housing or economic hardship, regardless of the length of stay in such living arrangements. For a full list of NCH's recommendations for reauthorization, view a side-by-side description and analysis of the legislation at http://www.nationalhomeless.org/housing/7221_Side-by-Side.pdf.

NCH Speaker Attends Inaugural Ball
By Megan Hustings, NCH Development Director



JoAnn Jackson, a Speaker and former staff member of NCH, represented NCH at the Western Inaugural Ball that took place on the evening of January 20, 2009. JoAnn was stunning in her black gown and had a wonderful night. Despite crowds and cold, JoAnn was able to catch a glimpse of President Barack Obama's hand as he and First Lady Michelle made a quick appearance at the Western Ball. JoAnn's make up and hair were done by loving neighbors and her gown and accessories were provided courtesy of Filene's Basement on Connecticut Street, NW.

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