

# NCH . NEWS . . .

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Hello,



This is the June edition of NCH News.

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We apologize for the late arrival. We have been finalizing the Hate Crimes and Violence report. We hope you enjoy this full issue.

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The cover of the Hate Crimes report is at right.

## Hate, Violence and Death on Main Street USA

For the past six years (1999-2004), the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) has tracked and reported on a disturbing increase in crimes targeting homeless people. These violent attacks on homeless people, one of the most vulnerable populations, result in injury and in many cases death.



The well-documented affordable housing crisis is not the only crisis to affect the millions of people who are homeless every year. There is also an increasing pattern of civil rights abuses and violence directed at the homeless population. Homelessness is no longer simply an issue of the right to affordable housing but a matter of life and death. As the danger of living without a home increases, the lack of federal housing resources as well as the absence of the political will to end homelessness...[bethesdahosting.com/.../397\\_2005...](http://bethesdahosting.com/.../397_2005...)

the lack of federal housing resources as well as the absence of the political will to end homelessness becomes increasingly more shameful.

In October of 2004, three Milwaukee teens murdered a homeless man at his forest campsite. The teens hit 49-year-old Rex Baum with rocks, a flashlight and a pipe, before smearing feces on his face and covering his body with leaves and plastic.

In August of 2004, Curtis Gordon Adams, 33, beat and stabbed a disabled homeless man to death and then licked the blood from his fingers on a Denver sidewalk.

More recently, on May 28<sup>th</sup> 2005, in Holly Hill, Florida, 53-year-old Michael Roberts was beaten and punched to death with sticks and logs by a group of teenagers who admitted to beating the man just for fun, to have something to do. The autopsy report indicates that Roberts died of blunt-force trauma to the head and body, his ribs were broken, his skull was fractured, and his legs were badly injured. Defensive wounds were found on his hands. The boys returned several times to make sure the job was done.

Homelessness is an issue that affects every community in America. Homeless people lack the protection of a locked door available to homeowners, leaving them in an unprotected position where they are subjected to hate crimes and violence. Sadly, the prevalence of hate crimes and violence against homeless people has risen, as well as negative stereotypes reinforced by the media and intolerant people.

Through this report, NCH hopes to educate lawmakers, advocates, and the public about the problem of hate crimes and violence against homeless people, as well as call for a U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) study addressing this issue.

This year's report, *Hate, Violence and Death on Main Street USA: A Report on Hate Crimes and Violence Against People Experiencing Homelessness in 2004*, includes data from news reports, advocates, victims' accounts, and homeless shelters on the number of homeless victimizations that have occurred in the past six years (for the full 2004 report and previous reports, please visit <http://nationalhomeless.org/civilrights/hatecrimes.html#8>).


#### **Facts and Trends:**

- The number of homeless deaths has risen **67%** since 2002.
- The number of non-lethal attacks against homeless people has risen by **281%** since 2002.
- These crimes occurred in **140** cities in the past six years.
- These crimes occurred in **39** states, plus Puerto Rico.
- The age range of the accused/convicted ranged from **11 to 65 years of age**.
- The age range of the victims ranged from **4 months old to 74 Years of age**.
- Gender of victims: **296** male and **44** female.

U.S. Representative John Conyers (D-MI), along with the bipartisan support of 21 other members of Congress, is calling for a GAO study to assist Congress and the public in obtaining much-needed information on the extent and scope of violent acts and crimes against people experiencing homelessness. This request has been endorsed by nearly 500 local and national organizations.

**“A GAO study is urgently needed to shed light on this frightening trend of hate crimes and violence. These horrific acts threaten the lives of over 3.5 million women, men and children experiencing homelessness each year,”** said Michael Stoops, acting executive director of NCH.

## **You Can Feed the Squirrels but NOT Homeless People in Ft. Myers, FL**

 Ft. Myers, like all tourist cities, is a booming destination. Hit hard by hurricanes last year, the city is rebounding slowly but surely with growth, development and increased tourism. Homelessness is also increasing due in large part to the devastation caused by the hurricanes. Shelters routinely turn away homeless people. (Michael Stoops meeting with Fort Myers homeless residents about civil rights abuses)

The National Homeless Civil Rights Organizing Project has been monitoring civil rights violations in Ft. Myers over the past six months.

On April 4, 2005 the Ft. Myers City Council approved unanimously the below resolution. It was also approved/signed by the Mayor of Ft. Myers.

Resolution Number 2005—22

It reads in part (a) (4)—“The distribution of food or clothing by any organization or individual to the homeless may only be provided on private property or in an indoor facility. Homeless shall mean a person having no home or permanent place of residence.”

We were invited to speak on civil rights issues at a regional homelessness conference in Ft. Myers held on May 27. About 100 people attended and listened to a keynote address by Michael Stoops, NCH's Acting Executive Director. He also did a civil rights workshop.

While in Ft. Myers, Stoops and Emmett Keller, a civil rights intern at NCH, talked with homeless people about the impact of the no feeding resolution and a proposed “no camping” law. Homeless people complained about harassment from the police and local businesses.

We also spoke with several church groups who continued to feed homeless people in Downtown Parks in defiance of the city resolution.

Local homeless advocates, Meg Geltner of the Salvation Army, and Karen Hawes of the Lee Co. Dept. of Human Services, arranged a meeting with Mayor Jim Humphrey, Police Chief Daniels and Asst. City Attorney David Migut. The impetus for the meeting was possible litigation/civil disobedience by NCH.

We learned from the Police Chief Daniels that the resolution was not being enforced against the church groups. We later confirmed this with the several church groups who have been feeding homeless people in parks in Downtown Ft. Myers.

We asked that the resolution be repealed or at least be rewritten to take out the offensive language singling out homeless people.

The city agreed to go back to the drawing board to rework the resolution and will run a draft by both local and national homeless advocates. This had not been done the first time around.

We also discussed alternatives to the criminalization of homelessness. The city officials were open to hearing of positive examples from other cities.

All in all, it was a very productive visit and demonstrates how local and national advocates can bring all sides to the bargaining table to work on problems and solutions.  
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all sides to the bargaining table to work on problems and solutions.

The National Homeless Civil Rights Organizing Project will continue to monitor civil rights violations in Ft. Myers.

## **National Housing Policy Update**

### **Affordable Housing Fund:**

The Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, H.R. 1461 has an amendment that would create an **Affordable Housing Fund**. The fund would be established with 5% of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac's after-tax profits.

Some advocates estimate that this fund could produce \$400 – 600 million in the first few years that would be used to produce, preserve, and rehabilitate rental housing.

The original amendment states that the fund will be targeted for extremely low (30% below Area Mean Income) and very low income (50% below AMI) families. The bill was voted out of the House Financial Services Committee on May 25 on a 65-5 vote. The bill is expected to go to the House floor after the July 4<sup>th</sup> recess.

This strong bi-partisan support is encouraging for the passage of this bill, but those opposed to the amendment are attempting to prevent the bill from going to the floor. Representative Mike Pence (R-NC) wrote a letter to Majority Leader Tom DeLay (R-TX) asking Mr. DeLay to not allow the bill to go to the House floor with the **Affordable Housing Fund** amendment.

### What You Can Do:

Please call your Representative and ask them to support the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act H.R. 1461 with the **Affordable Housing Fund** amendment. The switchboard number is (202) 224-3121.

### Appropriations for Housing and Urban Development:

The House Appropriations Sub Committee for Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development and District of Columbia held a mark-up on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Highlights:**

- The committee did not agree to eliminate the Community Development Block Grant and has provided \$4.2 billion in funding.
- The committee funded homeless programs at \$1.34 billion, an increase of \$100 million. President Bush had requested an increase of \$174 million. Although this increase is much needed it falls severely short of the estimated \$1.8 billion needed to fund McKinney – Vento programs

These funding levels still must pass out of the full committee and the full House.

The following information is from the official press release and represents the funding levels for Housing Needs:

- Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (Section 8 vouchers) is funded at \$15.53 billion, \$765 million over last year and \$314 million below the request. Funding for the renewal of vouchers is significantly increased by \$735 million to restore the reduction mandated last year

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vouchers is significantly increased by \$735 million to restore the reduction mandated last year and fund all anticipated increases in the costs. The costs of this program alone is now approaching 50% of HUD's total budget.

- Project-Based Rental Assistance (project-based contracts) is funded at \$5.10 billion, \$210 million below last year and \$16 million above the request. This fully funds all contracts including inflation and expands the use of inspectors to ensure that tenants live in decent affordable housing.
- Public and Indian Housing programs are funded at \$6.8 billion an increase of \$1.6 billion over last year and \$466 million over the requested level. This implements a newly negotiated formula for distributing operating subsidies. This program also includes \$600 million for the Native American Housing Block Grants, \$17 million above the request.
- This provides \$4.2 billion for the Community Development Block Grant of which \$3.86 billion in the formula funds entitlement communities and states, a reduction of \$250 million from the amount for the formula last year. The Committee did not agree to the proposal to eliminate this program, consolidate its functions and transfer the implementation to the Department of Commerce.
- HOME Investments Partnership is level funded at \$1.9 billion, \$41 million below the request, but increases the amount for the formula to participating jurisdictions by \$60 million above the requested amount.
- This includes \$1.34 billion for homeless programs, an increase of \$100 million over last year, \$285 million for Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), \$741 million for Elderly Housing, and \$238 million for Housing for Persons with Disabilities. The Committee did not agree to cut funding for assistance to victims of HIV/AIDS or eliminate funding for the construction of facilities for low income disabled persons, as requested.
- This eliminates several lower priority programs, as requested, in order to help meet the rapidly increasing costs of rental assistance in Section 8 and public housing and stay within the Committees allocation.
- This provides the requested level for the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight of \$60 million.

#### **Senate Appropriation Subcommittee Allocations:**

Transportation, Treasury, the Judiciary, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (in billions).

President's Request: \$63,140

Budget Authority: \$65,373

It is yet to be determined how this allocation will be divided between the various programs.

## **Homeless Tobacco Users at Higher Risk**

**By Amy Warnick, NCH Intern from Allegheny College '06**

Even though smoking is the major cause of ill health and premature death among the homeless, many of those working with people experiencing homelessness do not see tobacco cessation as a priority. Many alcohol, drug facilities, and mental health programs ignore tobacco use among clients. Other diseases and addictions are seen as more pressing.

It is a common myth that the dual recovery of alcohol/drugs and tobacco reduces recovery success and increases the chances of relapse.[\[1\]](#)

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Moreover, there is a perception that funds are better used for after school programs, housing, etc. Thus, few efforts are funded for prevention and cessation among homeless people.

According to the National Network on Tobacco Prevention and Poverty, 430,000 people die a year from tobacco use. Tobacco kills more people than AIDS, alcohol, heroin, crack, suicide, murder and car accidents COMBINED.[\[2\]](#)

Every pack of cigarettes takes two hours off a person's life. Smoking is not only deadly, but also expensive. If one pack a day smoker quits smoking, he or she would save about \$1,500 a year. Tobacco companies intentionally target minorities, women, youth, and the poor. They reach targets through direct and indirect advertising, community outreach and sponsorships. Unfortunately, tobacco companies have had more success at reaching out to certain populations than tobacco education and cessation programs.

An alarming number of homeless people use tobacco. One study estimates that the prevalence of smoking among homeless people is as high as 60 to 75%.[\[3\]](#)

High smoking rates alone put people at risk of death and disease. However, a combination of factors place homeless tobacco users at an even higher risk. Bad nutrition and adverse environmental conditions lead to poor health that is exacerbated by smoking.

Moreover, homeless people tend to misuse tobacco products that increase the intake of toxic substances and infectious agents. The most common high risk practices are cigarette sharing and smoking discarded cigarette butts.

Thus, it is not surprising that homeless smokers suffer from higher rates of disease than non-homeless smokers. The prevalence of obstructive lung disorder is more than double the expected prevalence in the general population.[\[4\]](#) Incidents of hypertension are more common among homeless smokers as well.

Smoking cessation programs have the potential to reduce incidents of disease and mortality. Knowledge of the risks of smoking and the benefits of quitting are equally high in groups of homeless and non-homeless smokers.[\[5\]](#)

However, homeless smokers are less likely to be prepared to quit smoking. Having an illness that a smoker thinks is tobacco related, self-confidence and social support networks for quitting are all associated with the readiness to quit.

According to a study done by the University of Pittsburgh, the most commonly preferred assistance is nicotine replacement and the self-efficacy to quit increases if that assistance is provided.[\[6\]](#)

The available data seems to indicate that encouraging homeless shelters to be smoke free and providing smoking cessation on site may increase the rate of quitting. The Salvation Army has recently begun to address tobacco addiction by including tobacco in its substance abuse treatment program. Partnering tobacco cessation programs with agencies that have historically provided services to the impoverished has the potential to reach such a high risk population.

Since there is only a small amount of research on tobacco use among homeless people, the National Coalition for the Homeless with the support of the National Network on Tobacco Prevention and Poverty has begun its own inquiries into tobacco use and cessation.

Surveys were recently sent out to D.C. area shelters, soup kitchens and churches. The NCH also plans to participate in the design of the D.C. Tobacco Quitline. Please contact Michael Stoops at [...bethesdahosting.com/.../397\\_2005...](http://...bethesdahosting.com/.../397_2005...)

[1] Chinakam, T. (2003). Breathe easy in recovery. *NNTP News*, 3.

[2] National Network on Tobacco Prevention and Poverty. (2005). *Tobacco Cessation for Correctional Populations: a Health Education Manual*.

[3] Amsten, J.H., Reid, K., Bierer, M., & Rigotti, N. (2004). Smoking behavior and interest in quitting among homeless smokers. *Addictive Behaviors*, 29, 1155-1161.

[4] Snyder, L.D. & Eisner, M.D. (2004). Obstructive lung disease among the urban homeless. *Chest*, 125(5), 1719-

[5] Butler, J., Okuyemi, K.S., Jean, S., Nazir, N., Ahluwalia, J.S., & Resnicow, K. (2002). Smoking characteristics of a homeless population. *Substance Abuse*, 23(4), 223-31.

[6] Connor, S.E., Cook, R.L., Herbert, M.I., Neal, S.M., & Williams, J.T. (2002). Smoking cessation in a homeless population: there is a will, but is there a way? *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, 17(5), 369-72.

## **The Violence Continues: Bum Fights III: The Felony Footage**

The release of Bum Fights III: The Felony Footage is the third installment of the Bum Fights DVD series. Its release in 2004 portrays the most degrading, sickening, and offensive material to date about the country's homeless. Homeless men, women, and children are coerced into performing dangerous stunts for money and drugs; reinforcing negative stereotypes about homeless people and homelessness.

The footage portrays homeless people as drug addicts, alcoholics, bums, and worst of all, worthless. The filmmakers continually mock and demoralize homeless people by filming some of the following scenes:

- A homeless man named "Bling Bling" smokes crack in various crowded settings such as a casino and a public river.
- "Bling Bling," is later "rehabbed" by being chained to a light post, taunted, tortured, and teased with money and crack just out of his reach. As he goes through withdrawals from his drug addiction the filmmakers inch a plate of goods closer and closer to him. "Bling Bling" is finally rewarded with drugs when he bungee jumps off a tower into a swimming pool.
- A homeless man (Donnie) gets spanked on his birthday by a prostitute and another homeless man named Rufus. These two individuals repeatedly and severely spank this homeless man with sex whips in the buttocks, genital region, and across the forehead. Throughout this process he is gagged and in pain.
- Several individuals continuously attack a homeless man in the face. The victim is screaming in pain.

### **What You Can Do:**

Even more disconcerting are major corporate retailers who have found it acceptable to sell these videos and DVDs in their stores and on the internet that show homeless people participating in the acts of self mutilations, drinking urine or Windex for money or alcohol, and fighting.

For a current list of these vendors and/or online stores selling these videos, please visit NCH's [...bethesdahosting.com/.../397\\_2005...](http://...bethesdahosting.com/.../397_2005...)

website at [www.nationalhomeless.org](http://www.nationalhomeless.org). Please write letters or call your local retail stores that are selling these videos and ask them to stop profiting off of **hate**. For additional information on the “Bum videos” or on the campaign to remove them from retailers please contact Michael Stoops at 202-462-4822 ext 19 or [mstoops@nationalhomeless.org](mailto:mstoops@nationalhomeless.org).

## **Connecting With the People**

**By Richard R. Troxell, NCH Board Member,  
House the Homeless, Inc.- President,  
Universal Living Wage Campaign- National Chairman**



House the Homeless believes that in order to be successful as advocates, we must communicate with and involve the people most affected by the problems for which we offer solutions.

House the Homeless is made up of all homeless and formerly homeless people. We connect with people by locating our office in the local homeless resource center, their home in Austin, Texas. About twice a month, as President of House the Homeless, I go to other places where people experiencing homelessness frequent.

For example, I'll go to the “Angel House” where folks are gathering to eat, and I'll address the crowd. In a soapbox style, I address the group and start by introducing myself. The crowd usually quiets when someone recognizes me and calls for attention.

If I weren't known, I'd first approach the doorman or one of the food providers and ask them to still the crowd so I can speak. The introduction gives me credibility...at least until I begin to speak...then it's up to me. I explain who I am and that I've been working for several years in hope of making things better for folks living on the street. While our goal is to end homelessness, I don't assert this concept at this time, as folks on the street don't believe that homelessness will ever end.

Before I speak about the Housing Trust Fund, the Bring America Home Act, or the Universal Living Wage Campaign, I talk about the tickets that they are receiving for sleeping outside or the lack of port-o-potties or about the police moving them from one area of town to another, etc.

I then always try to give them something they can use in their daily lives. I may give them a copy of the “No Camping” Ordinance so they know more about it than the police who issue them tickets for supposedly violating it. Or, I may give them a House the Homeless “Plastic Pocket guide”- a laminated, eight paneled resource guide that easily folds down and fits into their pocket.

Having established credibility and rapport, I finally share with them some other beneficial information. I tell them that they have a friend in us and that we are out there fighting with their interests in mind every single day, whether they see us or not. I invite them to our monthly meeting to share their concerns so we can work together to improve things. I explain that we embrace the concepts of dignity and fairness for all folks experiencing homelessness.

Finally, I thank them for their time and say I'll see them “next time” or at the monthly meeting. Hopefully we've made a meaningful connection, (at least for this week).

## **Subsidized Housing and Healthy Kids**

**By Mickey Hubbard, NCH Intern from Davidson College, NC**

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The study “Subsidized Housing and Children’s Nutritional Status” published in *The Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine* by the Children’s Sentinel Nutrition Assessment Program (C-SNAP) provides vital proof of the positive affect subsidized housing can have on families, especially children.

C-SNAP is made up of a group of well-known pediatric doctors and researchers from seven urban medical centers across the nation who study the impact of public policies on health and nutrition of thousands of low-income children.

This study, conducted over a five-year period at six C-SNAP medical centers, provides a clear link between subsidized housing and healthy children. The study, of nearly 12,000 low-income renter households, shows that children of households that do not receive housing subsidies have a lower weight-for-age than those of households that do receive housing subsidies, despite both groups experiencing food insecurity.

Children in food insecure homes who did not receive housing assistance were twice as likely to be critically underweight, according to national growth standards. Overall, children of subsidized households experience greater growth than children of un-subsidized households within the inner city populations observed by this study.

These results affirm that a positive relationship *does* exist between better nutrition and subsidized housing. Furthermore, the fact that this relationship is independent of participation in other programs, such as Food Stamps or TANF, strengthens the correlation between housing subsidies and good nutrition.

The results of this study coincide with studies done by other organizations such as the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which show that housing subsidies help to relieve financial strain, allowing families to better feed their children a proper diet and prevent growth deficiencies.

This study can be used as a tool to prove the benefits of supporting subsidized housing. In a time when legislators are calling for firm scientific data to support “antidotal evidence” this research clearly supports the need for more affordable housing and an increase in funding for programs like Section 8 vouchers.

“Our results suggest that, in a time of increasing economic hardship and food insecurity for American families, further restricting access to housing subsidies will compromise the nutritional status and well-being of more low-income children,” said lead author Alan Meyers, MD a pediatrician at Boston Medical Center and an associate professor of pediatrics at Boston University School of Medicine.

The full report can be viewed at <http://archpedi.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/159/6/551>. For more information on child nutrition and the safety net visit [www.c-snap.org](http://www.c-snap.org).

## **American Urban Plunge 101**

“No one should have to live like this. This isn’t humane. *It kills your soul*,” said Meghan, a student plunger from Vanderbilt University as they were sleeping in front of a bank on one cold winter night in D.C.

George Orwell, the author of *Down and Out in Paris and London*, who lived among the poor in 1933, introduced the concept of a “plunge”. In 1986, the president of the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, John Coleman, posed as a homeless person for ten days in New York City, seeking an  
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Foundation, John Coleman, posed as a homeless person for ten days in New York City seeking an understanding of homeless people and homeless issues.

Since then, many members of Congress and several celebrities include Martin Sheen, Dennis Quaid, and Brain Dennehy spent a night living outside on the streets of Washington, D.C., known as the "Grate American Sleep Out."

Michael Stoops, acting executive director of NCH, began the concept of an Urban Plunge Program for students. The Urban Plunge Program aims to help students to experience and understanding of what it is like to be homeless in America.

It is designed as an educational experience for young adults to gain firsthand knowledge of the growing crisis of homelessness, of how the system currently deals with the trauma of homelessness, and to see the world through the eyes of a homeless person.

Here at the NCH, we believe that "you must first seek to understand, then to be understood". We believe that when you have even a small emotional understanding of the hardships of homelessness, you are more likely to be successful at addressing the root causes.

The purpose of plunge is not about going on the streets to convince homeless people to change their lives nor is it a chance to find out how it really is being homeless in America. Rather, it is a privilege of being able to step in and out of what we perceive to be the homeless experience, and after 48 hours, you'll return home where there is hot showers, hot food, and a warm, clean bed.

The experience consists of 48 hours living as homeless individuals on the streets of America's cities. Plunges have taken place in San Francisco, Denver, Austin, and Washington, D.C. Over 2,000 students across the nation have participated in the program, according to Michael Stoops, who organizes an average of 10 plunges each year.

The experience includes: panhandling, eating at soup kitchen, interacting with homeless people, rejection by your fellow citizens, dealing with boredom and spending the night on the streets.

One plunger describes the experience as, "walking everywhere, but arriving nowhere." Jon, a student from Vanderbilt, said, "there is just an overwhelming feeling of not belonging anywhere."

Students are welcomed back into society after 48 hours, though many cannot walk back into their old lives. "It's impossible to articulate what we saw, how it felt, and we only went through two days of it. Yesterday it got so cold, and I couldn't stop thinking about David, a leader of plunges in DC, sleeping outside in D.C. I just can't push that aside. But I don't know how to help, either. Just going to a soup kitchen won't be enough for me," explains Meghan.

The Urban Plunge Program has been part of NCH's programs for the past twenty years and will continue to play a vital role in our public education work. If you have any questions or would like to arrange a plunge in your city, the closet metropolitan area or in Washington, D.C., please contact Michael Stoops at NCH at (202) 462-4822 ext.19 or email: [mstoops@nationalhomless.org](mailto:mstoops@nationalhomless.org). Additional information can be found at: [www.nationalhomless.org](http://www.nationalhomless.org)

## **Calendar of Events**

### **July 28th - 31st, 2005:**

The annual conference of the North American Street Newspaper Association will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia (Canada) on July 28th - 31st. Nearly 100 representatives from across Canada and ...[bethesdahosting.com/.../397\\_2005...](http://bethesdahosting.com/.../397_2005...)

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Nova Scotia (Canada) on July 28th - 31st. Nearly 100 representatives from across Canada and the United States will be in attendance.

**September 6th, 2005:**

Nationwide. Bridging the Economic Divide. On Tuesday, September 6th 2005, the day after Labor Day, people will gather at bridges during evening rush hour across the country to support the Universal Living Wage Campaign. For more information on this event please visit [www.universallivingwage.org](http://www.universallivingwage.org).

**Nov. 13-19th, 2005:**

Each year, one week before Thanksgiving, the National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness co-sponsor National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. During this week a number of schools, communities and cities take part in a nationwide effort to bring greater awareness to the problems of hunger and homelessness. For an organizing manual including a variety of events that you can do, please go to [www.nationalhomeless.org/awareness](http://www.nationalhomeless.org/awareness).

**Dec. 21st, 2005:**

National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day. Since 1990, NCH has sponsored National Homeless Person's Memorial day on or near the first day of winter (December 21st) to remember our homeless friends who have paid the ultimate price for our nation's failure to address this issue. Learn how you can participate in this year's National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day at [www.nationalhomeless.org](http://www.nationalhomeless.org).

## **Support NCH**

### **Four easy ways to help:**

1. Send your gift to the National Coalition for the Homeless  
2201 P. St, NW Washington, DC 20037-1033
2. Call 202-462-4822 ext 15 and speak with Molly Neck
3. Donate online at [www.nationalhomeless.org](http://www.nationalhomeless.org)
4. Host a Bringing It Home Dinner Party. To host a dinner party/event or for more information, please contact Anna Bremner at [abremner@blueskycollaborative.com](mailto:abremner@blueskycollaborative.com) or 617-731-1821

## **Thank you for your generosity.**

Click [here](#) if you would like to be removed from this list.

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