

NCH . NEWS . . .

NATIONAL COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS | 2201 P St NW | Washington, DC 20037
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 Hello,

This is the May edition of NCH News.

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The photograph on the right is a portrait from the Images of Homelessness Exhibit.

Housing Rights are Human Rights

The National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty (NLCHP) and the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE) hosted the second forum on the Right to Housing on May 4th in Washington DC.

The day-long event brought together local, state and national advocates for human rights education in an effort to empower participants in order to bring about social change, specifically housing rights.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), adopted by the United Nations on December 10, 1948, states “Everyone has the right to a standard living adequate for the health and well-being of himself [or herself] and of his [or her] family, including food, clothing, **housing** and medical care, and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his [or her] control.”

Activists stressed that while the UDHR is not a binding treaty there is an opportunity to organize
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grassroots campaigns around the message of human rights. Local activists from the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless discussed their success with implementing human rights language into local campaigns and city council resolutions focusing on housing.

Incorporating a human rights framework into both homelessness and housing advocacy is often successful in framing the message as well as educating law-makers and the general public on the importance of housing for everyone.

If you would like more information on incorporating a human rights framework into your advocacy please contact the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty or the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions. www.nlchp.org www.cohre.org

Images of Homelessness Exhibit

 *Images of Homelessness* is the largest-ever oil painting exhibit on homelessness. Artist Tammy deGruchy chose to do the exhibit for the National Coalition for the Homeless because of its dedication to educating the general public about homelessness. The portraits are of real people who were experiencing homelessness in all regions of America--urban, rural, suburban and on Native American reservations. They were photographed with permission, interviewed and painted by the artist.

The exhibit had been on display in Jeffersonville Indiana for the past few years. Last month the exhibit returned to Washington, DC and is on permanent display at the new National Coalition for the Homeless' office near Dupont Circle.

About the Artist Behind the Images of Homelessness Exhibit

The *Images of Homelessness* exhibit was created by artist Tammy deGruchy, formerly of West Virginia, who signs her paintings, Pneuma, meaning spirit. Ms. deGruchy donated all twenty-two of the original oils to the National Coalition for the Homeless.

deGruchy started the exhibit in 1998 in response to what she was reading in the news. She wanted to find out who was becoming homeless in America, and what the stories were behind the contrasting images of homelessness? deGruchy was shocked by how homelessness was happening to so many people.

The exhibit was unveiled at the national homelessness conference in Washington, DC in 1999. The exhibit has traveled the countryside. The painting series was supposed to originally be twelve images depicting the homeless population in this country. The number of paintings grew to twenty-two, and deGruchy states that is still not enough to show the many faces of homelessness.

Tipper Gore, former Second Lady and a strong advocate on both mental health and homelessness issues, wrote deGruchy stating, "The plight of homeless Americans is of great importance to me. I especially want to commend all of those involved with the *Images of Homelessness* oil painting exhibit for the outstanding work they have done in illustrating this important problem we face as a nation."

Tammy deGruchy now resides in Minnesota. You may reach her at: pneuma_art@yahoo.com

Reproductions of four of the portraits are available for \$25 each from the National Coalition for the Homeless. You can view them at www.nationalhomeless.org/publist. Please contact Molly Neck at mneck@nationalhomeless.org or call 202-462-4822 ext 15 if you would like to purchase a print.

Youthful Idealism / Energy / Activism Arrive at NCH

Each summer NCH comes alive with youthful idealism, energy and activism from college students or recent graduates who intern.



This summer (mid-May through mid-Sept.) we are fortunate to have nine interns with us.

Please welcome:

Kelly Fawcett, Oregon State University (OR)
 Anna Fogel, Harvard University (MA)
 Mickey Hubbard, Davidson College (NC)
 Emmett Keller, Muskingum College (OH)
 Natalie Khorochev, University of California, Berkeley (CA)
 Jordan Litt, Vanderbilt University (TN)
 Hanh Nguyen, Allegheny College (PA)
 Amy Warnick, Allegheny College (PA)
 Hunter Williams, Davidson College (NC)

Photo: Francine Triplett and Donald Brooks, members of the Speakers' Bureau join Jenny Rottmann, a former intern, at the NCH Open House.

CAVE-ing

Each month in NCH News we will be highlighting an innovative strategy or tool that addresses education, awareness, or advocating around homelessness. If you or your organization is doing something that has proved successful, interesting or creative please send me your ideas and we will share them with our membership. For this month we are highlighting an education tool created by Michael O'Neill the *Faces of Homelessness* Speakers' Bureau Coordinator. Please send questions to moneill@nationalhomeless.org

CAVE-ing to End Homelessness

Contribute

Advocate

Volunteer

Educate

Contribute

- Clothing
- Toiletries
- Food
- Books
- Toys/games
- In kind services and materials
- Monetarily
- Phone Cards
- Buying a homeless street newspaper
- Host a fundraiser
- A smile

Advocate

- Write to or call your local U.S. Senator or Representative
- Get in touch with your local homeless coalition
- Follow local politics by attending neighborhood meetings and speaking in favor of low-income housing, group homes, shelters and homelessness prevention programs
- Involve local media by writing editorials and informing media of your concern for people experiencing homelessness
- Organize a sleep-out, a fast, hunger banquet or Urban Plunge
- Organize an event for National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week
- Bring a "Faces of Homelessness" panel to your community

Volunteer

- At a soup kitchen, shelter, or with a direct service organization
- Assist with job training and other programs
- Organize a poetry reading or musical performance at a shelter
- Mentor / tutor a child
- Spend time getting to know people with a simple conversation

Educate

- Visit NCH's website www.nationalhomeless.org
- Read "Illegal to be Homeless: The Criminalization of Homelessness in the United States - Nov 2004"
- Read the Bringing America Home Act
- Find our your Senators' and Representatives voting record on housing and homelessness issues
- Read the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act
- Find out what housing bills and plans are being proposed in your community

NCH "On the Road"

From mid-May through mid June, NCH staff members will be speaking at the following events:

Michael Stoops, Acting Executive Director:

May 3rd--National Network of Tobacco Prevention and Poverty, Chicago.

May 10--Filming for the Give Us Your Poor documentary, Boston

May 14--Greensboro Housing Coalition and Greensboro Police Dept. hosting a fundraiser to help a dozen homeless people move into permanent housing, Greensboro, NC

May 25 - 27--Southwest Florida regional conference in Ft. Myers, FL. Legislative Update and civil rights workshop.

Michael O'Neill, Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau Coordinator:

May 25th--Lawrence Township Public School, Lawrence, NJ

Announcements

Annual Report Available: The most recent annual report is now available. Please contact Molly Neck if you would like a copy.

Our Studio & Our Voices, a project of the Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless, is proud to present Atlanta Rich, "celebrating the richness of inclusion." This art exhibit is on display at 477 Peachtree Street Atlanta, GA, from May 5th - June 5th from 10 - 5 Mon - Sun. For more information, call 404-230-5000 ext 169.

Calendar of Events

June 1 - 4, 2005:

Washington, DC. National Health Care for the Homeless Council conference. This year's conference will feature workshops, including special policy sessions presented as a part of the HCH Policy Symposium. It will also feature keynote speakers, poster presentations, a resource area, and tours of local programs. For more information, go to www.nhchc.org

June 4 - 7, 2005:

Washington, DC. One Table Many Voices: A Mobilization to Overcome Poverty and Hunger Conference. The conference will be co-sponsored by Call to Renewal and Bread for the World at American University. For more information, go to www.onetableconference.org.

June 7, 2005:

Nationwide. National Hunger Awareness Day. National Hunger Awareness Day 2005, is a grassroots movement to raise awareness about the solvable problem of hunger in America. For more information, go to www.hungerday.org.

June 27th and June 28th, 2005:

"The Coordinators' Training" for the Walk-a-Mile Program in Seattle, Washington. Applications are being requested now for the program. Walk-A-Mile is a national educational program that links policymakers with their low-income constituents to learn more about each other's lives, to gain a new perspective and to "walk a mile" in each other's shoes. For more information, please go to www.walkamile.org.

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.

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.

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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.

Help Support the Important Work of NCH. Donate TODAY!

 The Photograph on the left is a display of "homeless" quilts at the Open House last month.

Three 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

Thank you for your generosity.

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

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