



National Coalition for the Homeless Newsletter

NCH NEWS

October 9, 2009

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Three quick ways to support the work you are passionate about!

- [Donate to NCH during America's Giving Challenge on Facebook OR MySpace](#). Any amount will do, \$5 to \$500!
- [Vote for NCH in the Christie Cookies Charity Challenge](#).
- [Go to our YouTube page](#) and watch three new short films about homelessness.

P.S. NCH was just designated as a 4-Star Charity by Charity Navigator. You can be confident that your [donation](#) is going directly to support our program activity.

The Travels of Michael Stoops: *Boxman*

Boxman is a one act play about two homeless men who live in an elaborate box house in an unnamed southern city. Michael Stoops, NCH's Director of Community Organizing attended a performance of the play during Project Homeless Connect Week in late September in Jackson, Mississippi.

It was written and directed by Linda Towns, Director of the Mississippi State Hospital Community Services Stubbs Homeless Program. Towns has worked with the homeless mentally ill for almost 20 years. The play's characters comprise a composite of people she has met on the streets and in shelters. Ray, the architect of the box in the play, is a character who doesn't like to talk much about himself, but eventually opens up to reveal a complicated past riddled with violence and a search for self-forgiveness. Jonah, the play's other character, is a street artist and con man who befriends Ray and is invited to share Ray's box house. Jonah also has a complicated past, involving a history of abuse by his father and lingering self doubt about his prospects as a legitimate artist.

The author's hope is that the play will help the general public get a better understanding of the real people behind the anonymous faces we see everyday on the streets of our cities. The performance of the play was combined with an art exhibit, "Anonymous Faces on the Streets" that was held at the Eudora Welty Library, and also a musical presentation by homeless musicians in the park right next to the Governor's Mansion.

The play and art exhibit were part of a week long series of events sponsored in part by the Partners to End Homelessness, The City of Jackson, Jackson/Hinds Library System, Mississippi State Hospital and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness.

The week ended with an all day homelessness conference for homeless service providers and homeless/formerly homeless people. Michael Stoops gave a luncheon address and conducted a workshop on the criminalization of homelessness issue with the ACLU of Mississippi.

Policy Updates

Senate Bill Proposes Funding for National Housing Trust Fund

The National Coalition for the Homeless supports and affirms Senator Jack Reed introduction of S.1731, a bill proposing funds for the National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF). In addition to other measures designed to help homeowners facing foreclosure, the bill would finance NHTF at one billion dollars, through the sale of warrants from the Trouble Asset Relief Program.

Senate Introduces Homeless Hate Crimes Companion Bill

US Senator Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MA) introduced the Hate Crimes Against the Homeless Statistics Act in the US Senate today. The bill complements a previously introduced bill in the US House of Representatives by Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX). Hate Crimes Against the Homeless Statistics Act directs the Federal Bureau of Investigation to collect information on hate crimes against people experiencing homelessness.

Other News

NCH designated as a 4-Star Charity

NCH recently received the distinction of being named a Charity Navigator 4 Star Charity for sound fiscal management. As the nonprofit sector continues to grow at an unprecedented pace, savvy donors are demanding more accountability, transparency and quantifiable results from the charities they choose to support with their hard-earned dollars. In this competitive philanthropic marketplace, Charity Navigator, America's premier charity evaluator, highlights the fine work of efficient charities, such as the National Coalition for the Homeless, and provides donors with essential information needed to give them greater confidence in the charitable choices they make.

Approximately a quarter of the charities evaluated have received Charity Navigators highest rating, indicating that National Coalition for the Homeless executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way, and outperforms most other charities in America. This exceptional designation from Charity Navigator differentiates National Coalition for the Homeless from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust. See our full report [here](#).

The Big Warm Up

The National Coalition for the Homeless is partnering with Lands' End Clothing Company as part of a nationwide coat drive campaign *The Big Warm Up*. The overall mission of the campaign is to collect gently-used coats at more than 250 Lands' End Shop at Sears locations and distribute the donations to homeless and displaced individuals through partner organizations. The campaign will kick-off Thursday, October 29, 2009.

The National Coalition for the Homeless is seeking homeless coalitions and service agencies who would be interested in collecting coats to distribute to clients in need of warm outerwear.

For more information, please contact Jony Bell at jbelle@nationalhomeless.org or (202) 621-0005. The deadline for taking advantage of this opportunity is Wednesday, October 21.

Ohio Media Companies Release New NCH PSAs

Bytemonkeys and GC Films are collaboratively producing three new national spots for the National Coalition for the Homeless. The spots were executed by industry veterans: Greg Carter, directing and Jimmy Dutt, editing. All spots have been shot on location, in the Greater Columbus area, bringing needed attention to homelessness across the country.

The spots will air nationally on television and [YouTube](#), as well as featuring on the [NCH website](#) and shown nationwide at over three-hundred speaking engagements. *Homeshow*, *No Season* and *Holidays* present three very different aspects of homelessness and hunger in America. Each spot has been shot in HD, with direction by Greg Carter, editing by Jimmy Dutt, production by Virginia Hayes & Greg Carter and Wayne Sells, Director of Photography.

Please find more information about Bytemonkeys.tv by contact (614).824.1685 and view additional work by GC Films at <http://gcfilms.tv>

CSG Justice Center Launches National Reentry Resource Center

The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center announced today its launch of the National Reentry Resource Center—an unprecedented initiative to advance the safe and successful return of individuals from prisons and jails to their communities. Among those served by the resource center will be states, tribes, territories, local governments, service providers, nonprofit organizations and adult and juvenile corrections institutions. For more information, visit the resource center's website at www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org

UK's Emmaus Housing Visiting US

Emmaus Communities: Paul and Jane Bain, from the Emmaus movement in the UK, recently visited with NCH's Executive Director, Neil Donovan and Director of Community Organizing, Michael Stoops as part of a 3 month visit to the USA, traveling Northwards along the Eastern Seaboard networking with homelessness organizations of all kinds to share experiences, talk about Emmaus and see if it might be thought a good new addition to existing provision here for those who are homeless or vulnerably housed. If you would like to know more please see www.emmaus.org.uk or call Paul/Jane until November 29th on 910-333-4336.

Board Spotlight

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development released the 2009 Continuum of Care NOFA for Homeless Assistance grants on September 29, 2009. Click [here](#) to find an easy manual on how to use these dollars for Rapid Re-Housing programs. The Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Manual has been developed by long-time board member Sue Watlov Phillips of Elim Transitional Housing in Minnesota.

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National Coalition for the Homeless
2201 P Street, NW
Washington, District of Columbia 20037-1033
US

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