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# The Advocate

# eNews

## NCH Newsletter

October 14, 2010



### Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, Nov. 14 - Nov. 20, is one month away

Hi {FIRST\_NAME|Friend},

We are 31 days away from the start of hunger and homelessness awareness week. Each year, one week before Thanksgiving, the [National Coalition for the Homeless](#) and the [National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness](#) co-sponsors National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. During this week, hundreds of schools, communities and cities take part in a nationwide effort to bring greater awareness to the problems of hunger and homelessness.

#### Here are 3 ways you can raise awareness in your community this November.

1. Host educational forums on hunger and homelessness. Invite speakers, such as homeless persons (or [NCH's Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau](#)), service providers, and community speakers to share their experiences.
2. Arrange a Community Service Day where people can volunteer at different local organizations and learn about their activities. Suggested contacts: food pantries, homeless shelters, and soup kitchens. Check the [directories on NCH's website to locate a great organization](#) to work with.
3. Think Globally, Act Locally- Washington, D.C. isn't the only place that advocacy and lobbying is possible! Gather a group of students and homeless/formerly homeless individuals and visit your city hall, county commission, state



Please make a \$10 donation today to help NCH raise awareness about homelessness this November.

#### Homeless Persons Memorial Day



Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL) introduced a House Concurrent Resolution expressing Congress's support of the goals and ideals of National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day. This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day, which is observed on December 21, 2010.

"Winter is a notoriously difficult

legislature and/or a local office of your Congressional representative or Senator. Focus on educating your audience on homelessness issues and what ideas you have to better the situation. Lobbying doesn't have to have a negative connotation, think about what you are doing as merely an educational, hopeful conversation. For more tips on lobbying and advocacy [see the lobbying/advocacy FAQ](#).

Don't forget to let NCH know what you have planned for Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. Please enter your [event\(s\) in this online form](#).

### NCH Speaker Inspires Group to Act

This past January NCH speaker, George Silletti, spoke to a group of college students from Birmingham Southern College. When asked what the group could do to help the homeless in their own community George immediately suggested a sock drive.



"I suggested socks, because homeless people do so much walking that they wear through socks quickly. People often forget the feeling that new socks provide."

Caitlin, a then student and now AmeriCorps VISTA in the service learning department at BSC is working to make George's suggestion a reality. As they prepare for the fall alumni reunion weekend they are asking all students and alumni to participate by donating a pair of socks.

"It makes me feel good and proves to me that people care about the homeless," says George.

To learn more about [ways you can help](#) visit NCH's website.

### NCH in the News

**CNN** (Oct. 6) - [Controversial study on homeless services in NY](#)

**New York Times** ( Oct. 3) - [California cracks down on people living in vehicles](#)

**USA Today** (Oct. 1) - [Parking meters as donation stations](#)

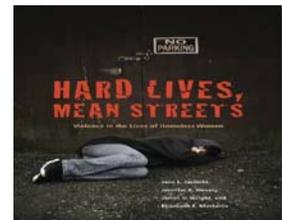
**Daily Gamecock** (Sept. 30) - [NCH VISTA recruits students to support](#)

time of year for homeless people," said Hastings, who serves as the Co-Founder and Co-Chairman of the Congressional Caucus on Homelessness. "Furthermore, the spirit of the holiday season provides an opportunity for promoting compassion and concern for all, especially the homeless."

[Read more about the homeless persons memorial day resolution on the blog.](#)

Learn more about [planning a homeless persons memorial day event](#).

### Book Review



This most recent addition to the Northeastern Series on Gender, Crime, and Law is "Hard Times Mean Streets: Violence in the Lives of Homeless Women." The book is an outstanding academic work that offers an in-depth look into the lives of homeless women; providing not only analysis of other relevant academic research but excellent quantitative and qualitative research. The findings of this study prove what those working with the homeless already know: gender and violence play key

[Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week at alma mater](#)  
**Palm Beach Daily News** (Sept. 26) - [Youth group hears about homelessness from those who have experienced it](#)

### Picture of the Month

John Harrison, member of NCH's speaker's bureau stopped by Niagra Falls on a recent speaking trip in Buffalo.



### Texting Supported NCH Programs

Thank you to all who donated through our Text HOME to Donate campaign which ended Sept. 30. **Our text campaign raised \$300 with individual text donations.** We appreciate all who gave through this new donation outlet, and look forward to offering you additional new and exiting ways to be involved in ending homelessness.

roles in the lives of homeless women.

[Read more of the review on the blog.](#)

### Congressional Hearing Wrap Up



On Wednesday Sept. 29 Senator Benjamin Cardin (D-MD) chaired a hearing "Crimes Against America's Homeless: Is the Violence Rising?" NCH would like to thank Senator Cardin and all of the witnesses for their testimony.

If you missed the [hearing you can view it online](#) or read the [witnesses testimony's](#) on the senate judiciary website.

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