

The Advocate

NCH Newsletter

November 21, 2012



Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week Follow Up, Giving Back, News from the Field & Grant Opportunities

Thank you Friend,

You continue to be a source of strength and inspiration as we work to institute the housing and attitudes that are ending homelessness.

Last week was [National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week](#), and we are so grateful for all your hard work to make the week an overwhelming success! Communities in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. observed the week by educating others about the multiple facets of homelessness, the challenge of living on limited food assistance programs, and the policies that are created to negatively impact homeless communities.

Find what happened [in your area](#) or [register your events!](#)

We couldn't be more thankful during this holiday week for the efforts of our members! Here are some highlights:

- NCH staff traveled to 6 (there are only 5 of us!) different states to give presentations at local events, including [Villanova University](#) in Pennsylvania where Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week started 37 years ago!
- Baltimore speakers and AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteers organized a [sleep out and rally](#) at City Hall that was attended by city council members as well as homeless folks, advocates and students.
- NCH partner Youth Service America engaged thousands of youth in service projects during Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week. Check out their great blogs on how youth can end hunger & homelessness:

Connect with NCH



Upcoming Events

December 21, 2012 - [National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day](#)

NCH in the News

PBS NewsHour (Oct. 31) - [Forgotten Voters: D.C. Volunteers Work to Register the Homeless](#)

Argus Leader (Nov. 11) - [Life on the street leaves homeless vulnerable](#)

Portsmouth Patch (Nov. 19) - [When Living At Home Is Not An Option – The Plight of Runaway Children](#)

Huffington Post (Nov. 20) - [Thanksgiving Volunteer, Donation Opportunities That Make An Impact](#)

Special Thanks to our recent donors, and new and renewed members!

[Making a Difference](#) and [10 Ways You Can Help](#)

- Dozens of city governments passed resolutions or proclamations recognizing National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week and the work of local advocates. Here are just a few: [Bowling Green, KY](#), [Greencastle, IN](#), [Milton, DE](#), & [Santa Rosa County, FL](#).

Give Back this Holiday Season

During Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week, so many of you found creative ways to give back to those who are homeless in your communities! Thank you!

We are so thankful for all your support and the work that you do to solve homelessness. We need your continued support to become a country where everyone has safe, affordable and accessible homes! Here are a few ways to give back this holiday season:

- **Craftsy Cares [Keep Out the Cold](#) Campaign**
Craftsy, an online community for crafters, has partnered with NCH in an effort to keep out the cold for 10,000 homeless children. From November to January, they will be collecting new garments, hats, gloves, and blankets to be donated to NCH partners. Makers can download free patterns from the [Craftsy Cares website](#) and are encouraged to attach a personal note for the child receiving the hand-made item.
- **[Combined Federal Campaign](#) (CFC)**
The CFC gives all Federal employees an easy way to give to your favorite charities, and to have donations taken out of your paycheck pre-tax! Remember to designate your gift to the National Coalition for the Homeless, #10844 in your CFC pledge book or on your local campaign's website!
- **[World Bank Community Connections Fund](#)**
All employees of the World Bank can donate, and have their donation matched, through the Community Connections Fund! NCH is proud to participate in the fund and has worked with the World Bank for several years to educate employees about homelessness. The campaign runs through January 4, 2013.

News From the Field

Here are some updates from current NCH AmeriCorps*VISTA members:

- Paul Garner, Mid South Peace and Justice Center, Memphis, TN:
I developed a presentation on Homelessness and Poverty for the 2012 Gandhi-King Conference which was attended by about 250 people. Following the presentation, there

Eden Ari, Gaelan Armstrong, Jon Ballew, Gorus Bix, Broward County Sheriff's Office, Capella University - Inspire Giving Program, Come to the Fountain, Sean Cononie, Data Connectors – Orlando, Lewis Davis, Jr., Adrian Early, Ronald Encarnacion, Harold Eskin, Sandra Gardner, William Gefell, Give Us Your Poor, Harrisburg Center For Peace and Justice, Sandi Hengle, Ariane Henry, Lissa Hill, Hilton HHonors, Homeless Services Network Of Central Florida, HOPE Through Divine Intervention, Joanna Jackson, Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative, Amanda Jones, Will Lerner, Tonia Lovrin, David Lubeski, Max Lubin, Jule Monnens, Lisa Overberg, Patricia Roberts, David Rollins, Carolyn Sechler, Albert Sweigart, The Aberdeen Foundation, Transition House, Allyn Wall, Ginger Wallace

was a panel discussion between out of town visitors, community members, H.O.P.E. members, case workers, and others who do work in Memphis to combat homelessness and poverty. Also, H.O.P.E. has joined forces with the Krav Maga Center of Memphis to produce a series of monthly self defense classes for women experiencing homelessness! 92% of women on the street have experienced the victimization of physical or sexual assault. This will provide our members who are women with a way to develop their survival skills and strengthen the interpersonal bonds they have with one another in a safe and supportive environment. This, along with the added component of mutual emotional support and group counseling will lead us to the creation of a H.O.P.E. Women's Caucus, to specifically address the issues of women on our streets.

- Gabby Alessi-Friedlander, Volunteers of America, New Orleans, LA:
We just held our Stand Down on October 27th, 2012. It was an incredible success! Approximately 175 homeless Veterans attended (in total, 340 homeless individuals attended). The police helped provide security, and military members acted as escorts. Entertainment was also provided, including a singing group from Gateway. Services included were: coffee-donuts-lunch, clothing, hygiene kits, benefits counseling, basic health care screening, immunizations (flu shots), limited mental health, housing referrals, and legal assistance.
- Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County, West Palm Beach FL:
Kudos to the West Palm Beach team, Oudeline, Darius, Michele, Alicia and Ryan for their outstanding accomplishments in organizing and holding a successful Project Homeless Connect in sugar cane country, one of the most poverty stricken areas stretching over 40 miles in the county!

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

KeyBank Foundation

The [KeyBank Foundation](#) provides support to nonprofit organizations that foster economic self-sufficiency in the communities where KeyBank operates in Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, and Washington. Requests may be submitted throughout the year and are reviewed quarterly. Application guidelines and forms are available on the [KeyBank website](#).

Kresge Foundation: Community Health Partnerships
The [Kresge Foundation](#) is dedicated to promoting human

progress by helping to improve the lives of poor and low-income children and adults, particularly those living in underserved urban and rural areas. Through the Community Health Partnerships initiative, the Foundation seeks to encourage cross-sector collaboration and the integration of community health strategies into health care, especially the primary care safety-net. Preliminary applications may be submitted at any time. Visit the [Foundation's website](#) to review the application guidelines.

Youth Service America - Youth Hunger Service Projects

[Sodexo Foundation Youth Grants](#) of \$500 grants are available for youth-led service projects that bring together young people, families, Sodexo employees and other community members to address childhood hunger. U.S. young people, ages 5-25, are eligible to apply. Projects will take place on or around Global Youth Service Day, April 26-28, 2013. Applications are due by midnight January 31, 2013. [Learn more](#).



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