

# NCH . NEWS . . .

NATIONAL COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS | 2201 P St NW | Washington, DC 20037  
 Phone: 202.462.4822 | Fax: 202.462.4823 | INFO@NATIONALHOMELESS.ORG | WWW.NATIONALHOMELESS.ORG

This is the March issue of NCH News.

Information on how to unsubscribe is found at the bottom of this email. If you would like to receive a print version of this newsletter, please contact: [swaite@nationalhomeless.org](mailto:swaite@nationalhomeless.org)

In this issue:

1. There's an Awful Lot of Change Going Around!
2. NCH Welcomes New Interns
3. Students on "Faces of Homelessness"
4. Upcoming Faces of Homelessness Speaking Engagements
5. NCH Thanks Recent Contributors
6. New Books on Homelessness
7. Making Eye Contact: Seeing the Overlooked
8. Save the Date: Rural Housing Conference Dec. 3-5

## There's an Awful Lot of Change Going Around!

Would you like to improve change people's perceptions of homelessness?

Want to truly believe in your public officials from your local city council all the way up to the President of the United States?

Then learn how to organize a **Candidate Homeless Challenge** in your community!

\*Challenge our leaders to see first hand how public policy directly affects the poor and the homeless.

\*Challenge our leaders to define their political will regarding the elimination of homelessness in this country!

\*Challenge our leaders to become a part of REAL change!

A Candidate Homeless Challenge is when, socially and civic minded, passionate, concerned people (like you!) join with local advocates, activists, and most importantly currently and formerly homeless people (like us!) CHALLENGE their candidates, incumbents, and public officials to dress down, give up their everyday privileges and take the plunge into the world of homelessness.

If you have local and state elections coming up, NCH strongly encourages you to help us help you to organize a Candidate Homeless Challenge in your community in conjunction with this exciting Election Year!

For more information or how to get started contact:

Sarah A. Rosa  
 Homeless Challenge Project Director  
 National Coalition for the Homeless  
 2201 P ST NW  
 Washington DC 20037-1033  
 Phone: 202-462-4822 x13  
 ...bethesdahosting.com/.../397\_2008...

## **NCH Welcomes New Interns**

Two new interns have joined NCH for the spring.

Hunter Kaplan is a freshman majoring in business at Georgetown University. He is working on NCH's report on the condition of day laborers.

Myrna Nelson is a senior majoring in sociology at Marymount University. She is working on NCH's hate crimes report.

Both Hunter and Myrna have already contributed much valuable work to each of these projects, and NCH is glad to have them.

## **Students on "Faces of Homelessness"**

**By Jony Bell**

"I want to thank you for coming to my school to talk about life as a person without a home. We all learned that we should be thankful for our homes that we live in. Thank you for telling us how important a home is."

"It must take a lot of courage to talk about being homeless because a large amount of people have negative stereotypes about homeless folks. I think that I may have actually had some of those stereotypes. I did not realize that many of those people are not your average drinker or drug addict. Before I thought homeless people were all dirty and lazy."

"I realize now that just because people don't have homes, doesn't mean they are lazy. I have realized that those people are just like you and me but they do not have homes. They are just like the people here at school. For you to talk to many of the people that hold those stereotypes is just awesome! Thank you for talking about life as a person without a home. It makes me realize that you should never make fun of somebody that has no home; they are actually the same as us."

"I had no idea how many people are homeless. My outlook on homelessness has changed so much. Any of us can easily become homeless. If I was in your shoes, I would go crazy and cry. I really wish there could be no homeless people in the world."

"I think your speech was very inspirational. I was much influenced on the homeless and not being judgmental anymore. You taught us about life and dreams. I think you changed many people; I know you changed me. I am going to do all I can to help people in need. You really motivated me to not treat homeless people like a lot of people do."

"When you talk to kids at schools, it really does make a difference. We are becoming more aware of people without homes and we are starting to really care about it. We all want to make a difference and the more we know about it, the more we can change it. I am glad there are people like you telling us about homelessness because you put the needs of others on the table."

"I think that you are very brave in everything that you have done. I look up to people like you. I admire you very much. You are very inspiring. You are really making a difference to many people around the world."

The above are comments from 7th grade students at Thurmont Middle School in Thurmont, MD. These students (and more than a hundred others and their teachers) hosted and attended a "Faces of Homelessness" panel in November.

This month, those students sent thank you letters to the two speakers – David Pirtle and Terry Snead. Along with the letters came 6 boxes full of socks for men, women and children who are in need in the DC area.

NCH would like to thank Thurmont Middle School for their hospitality, willingness and fantastic spirit. Well done TMS!

## Upcoming Faces of Homelessness Speaking Engagements

Feb 16th Pilgrimage Olivet Presbyterian Church-Charlottesville, VA (High School)

Feb 16th Pilgrimage Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church-Mechanicsburg, PA (junior high)

Feb 17th PANIM at Washington Marriott – DC (high school)

Feb 17th PANIM at Holiday Inn Central – DC (High school)

Feb 17th PANIM at Crown Plaza Hotel-Old Town Alexandria, VA (high school)

Feb 18th Pilgrimage Joint Youth Ministries –Wilton, CT (high School)

Feb 19th Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA (college)

Feb 20th Bishop McNamara High School- all day, 6 classes-juniors (MD)

Feb 20th National Young Leaders Conference at 4 H Center in Chevy Chase, MD (high school)

Feb 20th Lesley University in Cambridge, MA (College)

Feb 22nd Religious Action Center at Marriott Crystal Gateway Hotel in Virginia (high school)

Feb 22nd-24th East Coast Conference National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness at University of Miami, FL

Feb 25th Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church in DC - Christopher Dock Mennonite High School from PA

Feb 25th Williston Northampton School in Easthampton, MA (Parents)

Feb 26th Williston Northampton School in Easthampton, MA (entire high school)

Feb 27th National Young Leaders Conference at 4 H Center in Chevy Chase, MD (high school)

March 2nd Pilgrimage Anselm College-NH

March 2nd PANIM Holiday Inn Central

March 3rd Vanderbilt University at NCH

March 3rd Amizade at NCH

March 3rd Pilgrimage – St. Joseph's College-Maine

March 3rd Georgia State University at NCH

March 4th Grand Valley State University at NCH

March 5th National Young Leaders Conference at 4 H Center in Chevy Chase, MD (high school)

March 6th University of Missouri-St Louis in St, Louis, MO

March 7th Bnai Torah Congregation at location TBD in DC area

5/15/2009

NCH News Email Newsletter

March 7th Religious Action Center at Sheraton National Hotel in VA

March 7th-9th IMPACT Conference at Northeastern University in Boston, MA

March 8th Bnai Bith Youth Organization Conference in Fort Lauderdale, FL

March 8th Youth Services Opportunities Project in DC

March 8th Howard University-DC

March 9th PANIM Crown Plaza Hotel Old Town Alexandria

March 9th PANIM Crown Plaza Hotel Old Town Alexandria

March 10th Pilgrimage Marian College

March 10th Pilgrimage UNC Greensboro

March 11th United Methodist Church-Eastern Illinois and University of Tennessee Chattanooga

March 12th Youth Services Opportunities Project in DC

March 12th National Young Leaders Conference at 4 H Center in Chevy Chase, MD (high school)

March 13th Montgomery County Public Library

March 15th University of Wyoming and Marymount Manhattan College at NCH

## **NCH Thanks Recent Contributors**

NCH would like to thank the following for their generous contributions:

Community Health Charities New England

CT Corporation System

Hilton HHonors

Jewish Community Endowment Foundation of the Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey

Pearson Education

Plasmanet, Inc.

Prudential Foundation Matching Gifts

United Way California Capital Region

Bobby Buggs, Jr.

Kara Burt

Jesse Call

Betsy Cary

...bethesdahosting.com/.../397\_2008...

5/15/2009

NCH News Email Newsletter

Faye's Captured Moments

Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless

Julie Downs

Jonina Duker

Lloyd Flores

Joseph Gaston

Glenn Gulau

Amanda Holloway

Ruth G. Kahn

Saul Kaiserman

Paul Kohler

David Long

Sara Malnati

Des Moines Area Interfaith Hospitality Network, Inc.

James P. McGrath

Kristen Menges

Oonal Patrick Murphy

Montra Neal

Stephen Nicholas

David Overton

Joey Palack

W.P. Suresh Paul

Erin Pierce

Kim Rakosky

Gabriella Romero

Rhoda Selvin (in memory of Bruce Fox)

Jack Smith

Jennifer Smith

5/15/2009

NCH News Email Newsletter

Phoenix Consortium for the Homeless

Debra Strauss (in memory of Paula Brands)

Deidre Summey

Christian Wainwright

Sharon Walsh

Aid for Families in Need

Jessica Worthen

Lewis Yelin

Robert Weiler

Thomas F. Minges

Coalition on Homeless Concerns

Nat'l Assn. of Realtors

Kay Kirman

Straight from the Streets Outreach

Next Step/Crossroads

Eleanor Taylor

## **New Books on Homelessness**

Just released are two books that may be of interest to NCH News readers.

David Geliebter's *Underbelly* explores the stories of people experiencing homelessness and poverty in Palm Beach, Florida, as told through personal testimonies and photographs. Says the author, "With this book, these few people, at least, are no longer anonymous faces on the street we turn to avoid."

Brian McLaren's *Everything Must Change* examines homelessness, poverty and other contemporary issues through the lens of the author's Christian faith. Of particular interest to McLaren is the question of how churches can become more relevant to helping younger generations tackle social problems.

Both books are available from Powell's Books or Amazon.com, as well as local booksellers.

## **Making Eye Contact: Seeing the Overlooked**

**By Laura Silver, *City Limits***

Winter in New York and many of the city's homeless seem to disappear. On the corner of Madison Avenue and 31st Street they're more visible than ever, thanks to "About Face," a photo exhibit by Bill Bernstein in conjunction with the Bowery Mission.

5/15/2009

NCH News Email Newsletter

Alex and Shimeka. Copyright 2007 Bill Bernstein.

Fifteen homeless people now have a roof over their head – but as subjects of a compelling new art exhibit, they're not tucked away out of sight. The larger-than-life portraits — some photographs are up to five feet tall — are visible from the street through floor-to-ceiling windows on the second floor of the Christian Herald Building, the administrative headquarters of the Bowery Mission.

“These are the unseen people of our city,” says Bernstein, who more often shoots commercial work for corporate clients. “I want to see them.”

Hector. Samuel. Carolyn. James. Unavoidable.

[Read the rest of this article on the \*City Limits\* Website.](#)

## **Save the Date: Rural Housing Conference Dec. 3-5**

The Housing Assistance Council will be hosting its National Rural Housing Conference December 3-5, 2008 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Washington, DC. The conference will include workshops, networking events, and an awards ceremony recognizing the achievements of rural housing advocates.

For more information, email [haconference2008@ruralhome.org](mailto:haconference2008@ruralhome.org) or call 202-842-8600, extension 108.

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

Phone: 202.462.4822 | Fax: 202.462.4823 | [INFO@NATIONALHOMELESS.ORG](mailto:INFO@NATIONALHOMELESS.ORG) | [WWW.NATIONALHOMELESS.ORG](http://WWW.NATIONALHOMELESS.ORG)

Powered By



[remove from list](#)  
[update profile](#)