



National Coalition for the Homeless Newsletter

NCH NEWS

October 9, 2009

In this issue:

- [Your Donation Counts](#)
- [Washington, DC Events](#)
- [National Events](#)
- [Policy Updates](#)
- [Other News](#)

Your Donation Counts!

- [Any amount that you give to NCH shows your dedication and concern for your neighbors experiencing homelessness. Even just \\$5 will count you among the thousands working to Bring America Home this Fall!](#)

[Donate Today!](#)

Washington, DC Events

First Expert Panel on Tobacco Use and Homelessness to be Held in DC

Experts from across the country will convene in Washington, DC on October 21, 2009 to tackle the issue of tobacco use among person's experiencing homelessness. The panel is being convened by Break Free Alliance, a program of the Health Education Council. Homeless service providers, policy makers, tobacco control program managers, state and federal health agencies, researchers and health care reform advocates will spend the day developing a report of recommendations on reducing tobacco use among the homeless.

"Homeless people encounter unique barriers to quitting, even though many people wish to stop smoking," explained Michael Stoops, Director of Community Organizing for the National Coalition for the Homeless, and a Break Free Alliance stakeholder. "Tobacco use needs to be addressed much more strongly by policy makers, the academic community, funders and homeless service providers in order to mitigate the consequences of smoking for such a vulnerable population."

Happy Hour to Support DC Street Soccer

Come out for our Fall Happy Hour at Commonwealth Pub in Columbia Heights! DC Street Soccer Young Professionals and HELP USA will be hosting this night of fun on Wednesday, October 21, 2009 from 5-7pm. Come and enjoy drink specials in support of our local homeless soccer program. Commonwealth Pub, 1400 Irving Street, NW. RSVP to sarah@streetsoccerusa.org. Suggested donation: \$10 online, \$15 at the door, www.streetsoccerusa.org for more info.

Department of Human Services NOFA Announcement

The Department of Human Services (DHS) has two different grant opportunities available regarding housing: both fall under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 -Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program. One grant opportunity is to provide housing counseling and housing search assistance to individuals and families. The other opportunity is to provide homeless prevention, re-housing and rental assistance to individuals and families. To learn more and view the NOFAs and RFAs go to: <http://opgs.dc.gov/opgd/cwp/view,a,1316,q,609787.asp>.

NCH Speaker George Siletti to be Honored

The Community Council for the Homeless at Friendship Place is holding the 12th Annual Benjamin E. Cooper Awards Reception Monday, October 26 at the Washington National Cathedral, Pilgrim's Observation Gallery in Washington, DC. George Siletti, NCH volunteer advocate and Faces of Homelessness Speaker since 1996, will be honored with the Community Outreach Award. For information on how to join George, go to <http://www.cchfp.org/events/57-upcoming/201-12th-annual-benjamin-e-cooper-awards.html>, or contact Julie Butner, jbutner@cchfp.org.

Covenant House 2009 Candlelight Vigil

They are hungry, frightened and alone. Their candles burn from both ends...and some no longer burn at all. America's homeless and struggling kids—are our kids. And they need us now more than ever. Stand alongside us, as we remember, honor and pray for Washington's homeless and struggling young people. Thursday, November 5, 2009, 5:30pm-6:30pm Lafayette Park (H Street between 15th and 17th Streets NW, Near McPherson Square and Farragut West Metro). For more information please contact Demetria Savoy at dsavoy@chdc.org or 202-610-6501, or Mark Freeman at mfreeman@chdc.org or 202-610-9607.

National Events

The National Women's Law Center is offering two free webinars to teach families and advocates how to access the recently expanded family tax credits.

Part I - Tax Credits: What Working Families Need to Know Tuesday, Oct. 20 at 1:00 p.m. Eastern (1 hour) Get the facts about how tax credits can give working families a leg up, and learn how to help spread the word.

Part II - Tax Credits Outreach: Tips and Tools for Service Providers and Advocates Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 1:00 p.m. Eastern (1 hour) You can make a big difference for families by making sure families get the

information they need.

The webinars are free but registration is required.

Upcoming Faces of Homelessness Presentations

If you are interested in attending any of these events, please contact Michael O'Neill, moneill@nationalhomeless.org.

October 20: Saint Paul Catholic Church in Damascus, MD
 October 21: National Young Leaders Conference in Chevy Chase, MD
 October 22: Sligo Middle School in Silver Spring, MD
 October 22: UNC-Chapel Hill in Washington, DC
 October 22: Maret School in Washington, DC
 October 23: Sligo Middle School in Silver Spring, MD
 October 23: Georgetown University "Just One Day" in Washington, DC
 October 23: UNC Chapel Hill students in Washington, DC
 October 23: St Andrew's Lutheran Church in Memphis, MI
 October 24: Steinbruck Center in Washington, DC
 October 24: St Andrew's Lutheran Church in Memphis, MI (Box-Out Event)
 October 27: Silver Spring Interfaith Housing Coalition in Silver Spring, MD
 October 27: Martin Luther King Jr Library in Washington, DC
 October 29: Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, DC
 November 2: BBYO Board of Directors in Washington, DC
 November 2: Fairfield University in Fairfield, CT
 November 3: Holyoke Community College in Holyoke, MA
 November 3: Clark University in Worcester, MA
 November 4: UCONN-Stoors in Stoors, CT
 November 4: National Young Leaders Conference in Chevy Chase, MD
 November 6: St Bernadette School in Silver Spring, MD
 November 6: Health and Human Service Collaborative of the Eastern Panhandle in Martinsburg, WV
 November 6-8: National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness Conference in Chicago, IL
 November 8: Sligo Dennis Avenue Park in Silver Spring, MD
 November 8: George Washington University in Washington, DC
 November 9: Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester, NH
 November 10: Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester, NH
 November 10: PANIM in Washington, DC
 November 10: University of New Hampshire in Durham, NH
 November 10: Messiah College in Grantham, PA
 November 11: Sidwell Friends Upper School in Washington, DC
 November 11: National Young Leaders Conference in Chevy Chase, MD
 November 12: Penn State University in University Park, PA

National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week

National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week will be held November 15-21, 2009. Each year, NCH cosponsors this week of action with the National Student Campaign Against Hunger & Homelessness. 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. If your community has already joined this effort, the 2009 Event Manual can serve as an evaluator for past efforts and possibly offer fresh ideas for the future. If this is your first time participating, download the [2009 Event Manual](#) today and see how your community can get involved!

Policy Updates

Action Needed to Fund the National Housing Trust Fund

The National Coalition for the Homeless supports and affirms Senator Jack Reed's introduction of S.1731, a bill proposing funds for the National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF). In addition NCH supports Representative Barney Frank (D-MA) for introducing H.R. 3766 the "Main Street TARP Act" which would also fund the NHTF. Please call your elected officials in Congress **Today** and ask them to cosponsor bills that will provide the National Housing Trust Fund with \$1 billion.
 Read more here: [http://capwiz.com/nihc/issues/alert/?alertid=14172506&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/nihc/issues/alert/?alertid=14172506&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id]).

Support Single Payer Health Care

U.S. Senator Bernard Sanders (I-VT) and U.S. Representative Anthony D. Weiner (D-NY) plan to introduce amendments to replace the current health care reform legislation with a single payer system that would provide all Americans with the health care they need.

Supporting these amendments is a crucial way to focus the discussion on wider reform measures, and strengthens a fallback plan for a public option compromise. **NCH encourages advocates and others to call their Senators and Representative and encourage them to support these amendments.**

NPR discusses Hate Crimes Against the Homeless

On Sunday, October 18 NPR's popular show All Things Considered interviewed David Pirtle, a member of the Board who formerly experienced homelessness, and Michael Stoops, Director of Community Organizing for a piece on Hate Crimes Against the Homeless. Listen to it [HERE](#).

Retraction

In the last Newsletter NCH misidentified Senator Benjamin L. Cardin as a Democrat from Massachusetts. Senator Cardin is a senator from Maryland. The parentheses after his name should have read: (D-MD). NCH apologizes for any confusion.

Other News**NCH's Foreclosure Report Featured in the New York Times**

In an article highlighting the many people who are losing their homes due to foreclosure, the New York Times sites NCH's *Foreclosure to Homelessness 2009 report*. Read the full article [here](#).

Ending Veterans Homelessness

The National Alliance to End Homelessness announces a renewed campaign to end homelessness among veterans. Learn more at <http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=5f0f15da-8942-4773-9504-1eea6a30a1e5>.

Affordable Housing Projects Grant Opportunity

The Home Depot Foundation is dedicated to building affordable homes for working families that are healthy to live in and affordable to own. Through the Affordable Housing Built Responsibly Grant Program, the Foundation supports nonprofit organizations throughout the United States and Canada whose missions align with the Foundation's interests in supporting the production and preservation of affordable, efficient, and healthy housing. Preference is given to proposals that result in the production, preservation, or financing of housing units for low- to moderate-income families. The most promising proposals should incorporate a number of "green" building design practices. The 2010 deadlines for online letters of inquiry are January 15 and July 1. Visit the Foundation's website (<http://www.homedepotfoundation.org/grants.html>) to review the grant criteria and take the eligibility test.

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link: [Unsubscribe](#)

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

[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

