

***Hate, Violence, and Death  
on Main Street USA:  
A Report on Hate Crimes  
and Violence Against  
People Experiencing Homelessness  
2004***



June 2005

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# ***HATE , VIOLENCE, AND DEATH ON MAIN STREET USA***

***June 2005***

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## **INTRODUCTION**

In October of 2004, three Milwaukee teens murdered a homeless man at his forest campsite. The teens hit 49-year-old Rex Baum, with rocks, a flashlight, and a pipe, before smearing feces on his face and covering his body with leaves and plastic. According to the criminal report, one of the boys “hit the victim one last time to see if he would make a sound like in Grand Theft Auto,” and then cut him several times with a knife to make sure he was dead.

In August, Curtis Gordon Adams, 33, beat and stabbed a disabled homeless man to death, and then licked the blood from his fingers on a Denver sidewalk.

In June, two New York City teens, kicked, punched, and finally bludgeoned 51-year-old William Pearson to death in a churchyard. Pearson crawled to the church steps before finally dying of a fractured skull. “His head was a bloody mess,” one police officer noted.

Sadly, these gruesome accounts are few of many, which demonstrate the hate / violence faced by people experiencing homelessness each year. The following report documents 105 hate crimes and violent acts that occurred in 2004, collected from newspapers and reports across the country. The narratives bring to light the discrimination and senseless violence faced daily by so many of our country’s homeless citizens.

A sampling of the headlines in the case narrative section of this annual report says it all:

- **Couple Beats Homeless Man, Leaves Him to Die in the Snow** (Maple Valley, WA, January)
- **Homeless Man Seeking Refuge from Cold Beaten to Death** (New York, NY, January)
- **Two Teens Beat a Homeless Man in His Sleep** (Key West, FL, March)
- **Teen Hits, Kicks, and Stomps Homeless Man to Death** (Bend, OR, April)
- **Man Set on Fire, Found Two Days Later** (Lompoc, CA, May)
- **Two Teens Viciously Beat Homeless Man to Death Outside Church** (New York, NY June)
- **Homeless Man Beaten to Death by Teens Claiming “Boredom”** (Oakland, CA, July)
- **Wheelchair-bound Homeless Man Stabbed to Death** (Denver, CO, August)
- **Teens Kill Homeless Man Over \$5 Dispute** (Gettysburg, PA, September)
- **Teens Beat Homeless Man, Then Torch His Belongings** (Albany, NY, October)
- **Homeless Woman Suffocated** (Keizer, OR, October)

## **PURPOSE STATEMENT**

The main objective of this report is to educate lawmakers, advocates, and the general public about the problem of hate crimes and violence against homeless people in order to instigate change and ensure protection of civil rights for everyone, regardless of their economic circumstances or housing status. As part of its mission, the National Coalition for the Homeless is committed to creating the systemic and attitudinal changes necessary to end homelessness. A major component of these changes must include the societal guarantee of safety and protection and a commitment by lawmakers to combat the hate crimes and violent acts against people who experience homelessness.

## **THE REPORTS**

Over the past six years (1999-2004), advocates and homeless shelter workers from around the country have seen an alarming increase in reports of homeless men, women and even children being killed, beaten, and harassed. In response to these concerns, The National Coalition For the Homeless has produced six reports documenting these acts.

- 1999:** No More Homeless Deaths! Hate Crimes: A Report Documenting Violence Against Men and Women Homeless in the U.S.
- 2000:** A Report of Hate Crimes and Violence Against People Who Are Homeless in the United States in 2000.
- 2001:** Hate. A Compilation of Violent Crimes Committed Against Homeless People in the U.S. in 2001
- 2002:** Hate, Violence, and Death on Main Street USA: A Report on Hate Crimes and Violence Against People Experiencing Homelessness in 1999-2002
- 2003:** Hate, Violence, and Death on Main Street USA: A Report on Hate Crimes and Violence Against People Experiencing Homelessness in 2003

The most recent report, *Hate, Violence, and Death on Main Street USA: A Report on Hate Crimes and Violence Against People Experiencing Homelessness in 2004*, continues to maintain the same goals and objectives as these previous reports:

1. To compile the incidents of hate crimes and violence that NCH has received and reviewed in order to document this alarming trend against people who are homeless.
2. To make lawmakers and the public aware of this serious issue.
3. To recommend proactive measures to be taken.

## **HATE CRIMES**

The term “hate crime” generally conjures up images of cross burnings and lynchings, swastikas on Jewish synagogues, and horrific murders of gays and lesbians. In 1968, the U.S. Congress defined a hate crime, under federal law, as a crime in which the defendant intentionally selects a victim, or in the case of a property crime, the property

that is the object of the crime, because of their race, color or national origin (Title 18 U.S.C Section 245). The law mandated that the government must prove both that the crime occurred because of a victim's membership in a designated group and because the victim was engaged in certain specified federally-protected activities — such as serving on a jury, voting, or attending public school.<sup>1</sup>

Hate crimes are commonly called bias-motivated crimes, referring to the prejudice or partiality of the perpetrator against the victim's real or perceived grouping or circumstance. Most hate crimes are committed not by organized hate groups, but by individual citizens who harbor a strong resentment against a certain group of people.

Some are “mission offenders,” who believe they are on a mission “to cleanse the world of a particular evil”.<sup>2</sup> Others are “scapegoat offenders,” who project their resentment toward the growing economic power of a particular racial or ethnic group through violent actions. Still others are “thrill seekers” — those who take advantage of a vulnerable and disadvantaged group in order to satisfy their own pleasures.<sup>3</sup> Thrill seekers, primarily in their teens, are the most common perpetrators of violence against homeless people.

In documenting hate crimes and violence against homeless people, and the data and documentation used for this report, NCH relies on news reports and information relayed to us by homeless shelters around the country. Although NCH acts as the nationwide repository of hate crimes/violence against homeless people, there is no systematic method of collecting and documenting such reports. Many of these violent acts go unpublicized and/or unreported, thereby making it difficult to assess the true magnitude of the problem.

Often, homeless people do not report crimes committed against them because of mental health issues, substance abuse, fear of retaliation, past incidents, or frustration with the police. Some cases this year were also omitted because the victims were found beaten to death, but no suspects could be identified. In addition, the report does not take into account the large number of sexual assaults, especially against homeless women.

## **LEGISLATION**

Subsequently, federal bias crime laws enacted have provided additional coverage. The Hate Crimes Statistics Act of 1990 (HCSA) mandates the Justice Department to collect data from law enforcement agencies about “crimes that manifest evidence of prejudice based upon race, religion, sexual orientation, or ethnicity.”<sup>4</sup> The Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act, enacted as a section of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, defines a hate crime as “a crime in which the defendant intentionally selects a victim, or in the case of a property crime, the property that is the

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Anti-Defamation League, [http://www.adl.org/legislative\\_action/hatecrimes\\_briefing.html](http://www.adl.org/legislative_action/hatecrimes_briefing.html)

<sup>2</sup> Source: “Responding to Hate Crime” U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Victims of Crime, [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc)

<sup>3</sup> Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, [www.ojp.usdoj.gov](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov)

<sup>4</sup> Source: Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, [www.civilrights.org](http://www.civilrights.org)

object of the crime, because of the actual or perceived race, color, national origin, ethnicity, gender, disability, or sexual orientation of any person.” This measure only applies to, inter alia, attacks and vandalism that occur in national parks and on federal property.<sup>5</sup> The most recent piece of legislation, Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2005 was introduced in the U.S. House (H.R.2662), and (S.1145) in the U.S. Senate in the 109th Congress. This legislation “authorizes the Attorney General to provide technical, forensic, prosecutorial, or other assistance in the criminal investigation or prosecution of any crime that: (1) constitutes a crime of violence under Federal law or a felony under State or Indian tribal law; and (2) is motivated by prejudice based on the race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability of the victim or is a violation of the hate crimes laws of the State or tribe.” There is currently no federal criminal prohibition against violent crimes directed at individuals because of their *housing status*.

The National Coalition for the Homeless aims to include *housing status* in the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2005 (H.R. 2662 and S. 1445) and in future pieces of legislation. H.R. 2662 and S. 1445 have broad bipartisan support, but through the inclusion of *housing status*, hate crimes and violent acts toward people experiencing homelessness will be more appropriately handled and prosecuted. Additionally, if victims know that a system is in place to prosecute such crimes, they are more likely to come forward to report these crimes. People who are forced to live and sleep on the streets for lack of an appropriate alternative are in an extremely vulnerable situation, and it is unacceptable that hate crime prevention laws do not protect them.

Also noteworthy is the Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2005 (H.R. 259), which has been introduced into the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress by Ms. Jackson-Lee of Texas and has been referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. This bill is an abridged and slightly altered version of H.R. 2662 and S.1145.

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<sup>5</sup> Source: Anti-Defamation League, [http://adl.org/legislative\\_action/hatecrimes\\_briefing.html](http://adl.org/legislative_action/hatecrimes_briefing.html)  
Source: [www.Thomas.loc.gov](http://www.Thomas.loc.gov)

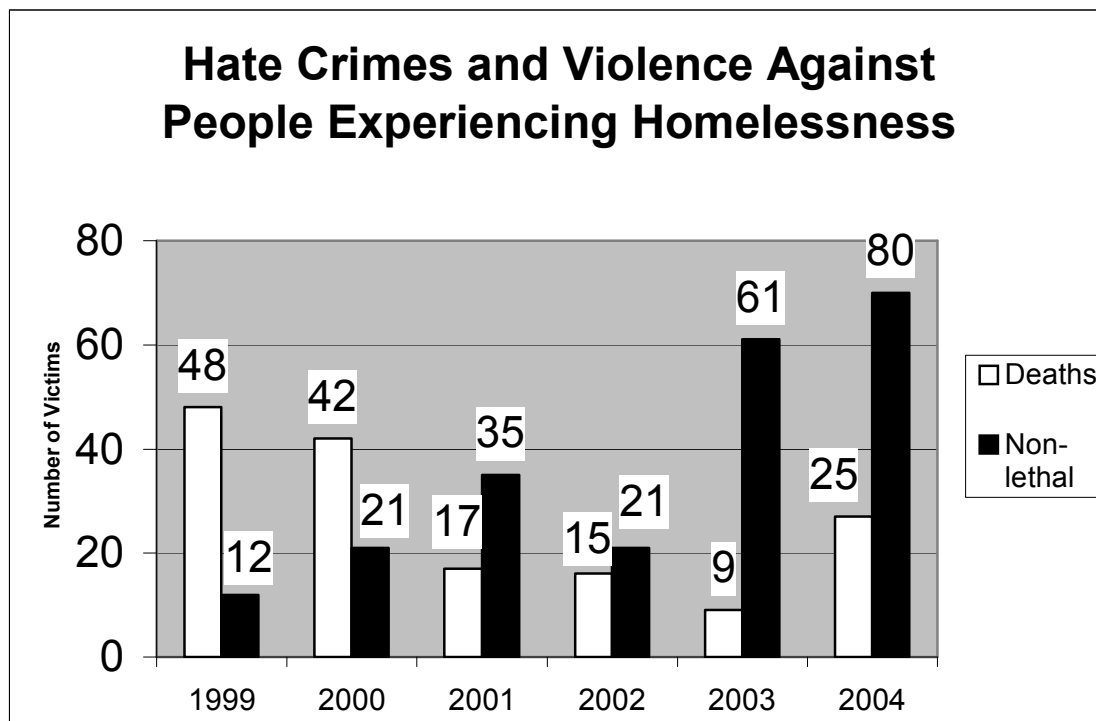


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## **HATE CRIMES/VIOLENCE DATA OVER A SIX YEAR PERIOD (1999-2004)**

Advocates, homeless shelter workers, and the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) all began to recognize that reports of hate crimes and violent acts against people experiencing homelessness were increasing with frequency and brutality. As a result, in 1999, NCH began publishing annual reports documenting hate crimes and violent attacks against people experiencing homelessness. These annual reports have not only served to document the number of deaths and non-lethal attacks, but have included the individual stories of the victims of these crimes. This annual study makes evident the great number of crimes as well as the large geographic area in which they occur.



Total number of violent acts over 6 years: **386**

Total number of deaths over 6 years: **156**

Total number of non-lethal attacks over 6 years: **230**

Number of cities where crimes occurred over 6 years: **140**

Number of states where crimes occurred over 6 years: **39** plus Puerto Rico

Age ranges of the accused/convicted: **from 11 to 65 years of age**

Age ranges of the victims: **from 4 months old to 74 years of age**

Gender of victims: male: **296** female: **44**

## SUMMARY OF HATE CRIMES AND VIOLENCE DATA IN 2004:

Total number of violent acts: **105**

Total number of deaths: **25**

Total number of non-lethal attacks: **80**

Number of cities where crimes occurred: **36**

Number of states where crimes occurred: **22** plus Puerto Rico

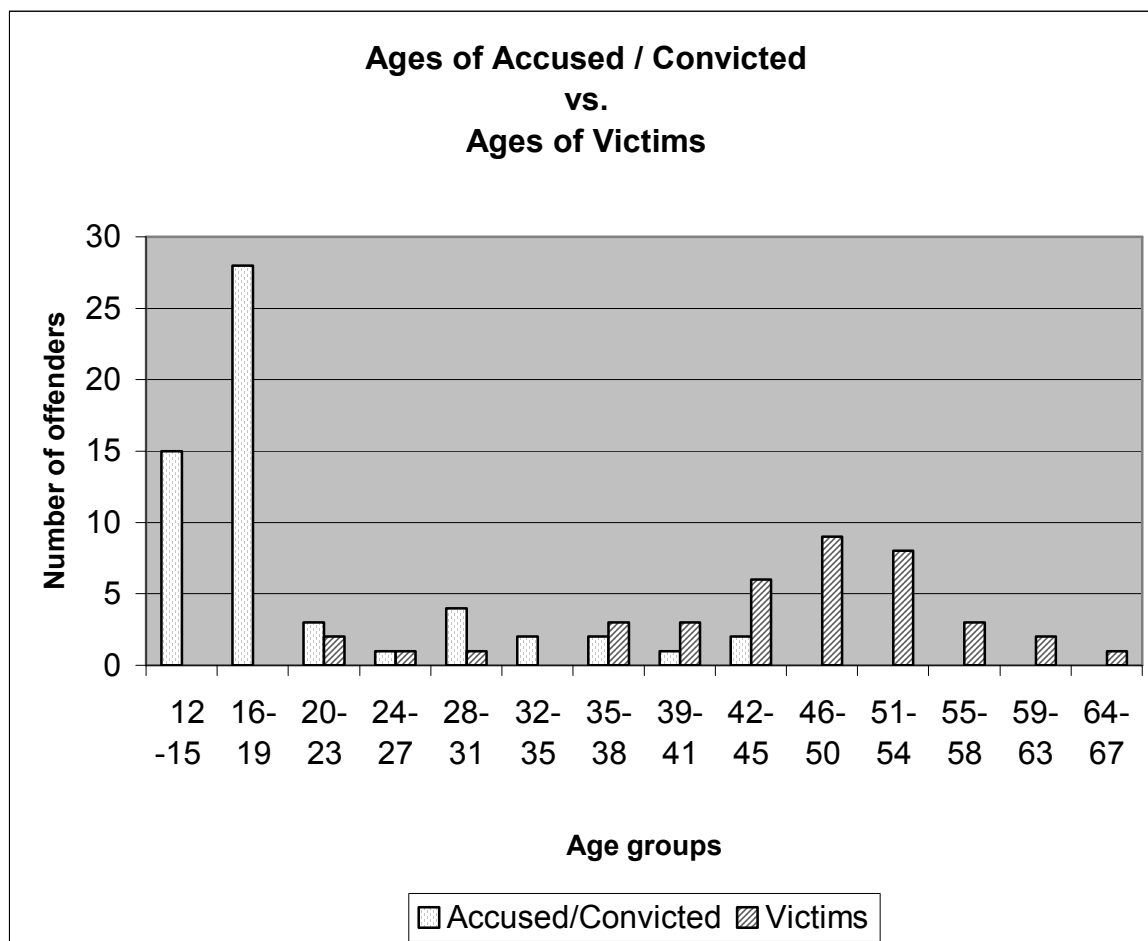
Age ranges of the accused/convicted: **from 12 to 45 years of age;**

**45 (two), 44, 42, 39, 38, 35, 34, 33, 32, 30, 29, 28 (two), 27, 25, 23, 22 (two), 20, 19 (six), 18 (six), 17 (twelve), 16 (six), 15 (nine), 14 (five), 12**

Age ranges of the victims: **from 20 to 65 years of age;**

**65, 63, 61, 58, 57, 56, 54, 53, 52 (three), 51 (three), 50 (five), 49, 48 (three), 45, 44, 43 (two), 42 (two), 39 (three), 38 (two), 37, 30, 25, 21, 20,**

Gender of victims: male: **67** female: **10**



**CITIES WHERE HATE CRIMES/VIOLENCE OCCURRED IN 2004:**

**Albany, NY** -- 1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.  
**Anchorage, AK** -- 5 separate incidents resulting in 5 non-lethal acts.  
**Ann Arbor, MI** -- 1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act  
**Aurora, IL** -- 1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.  
**Austin, TX** -- 1 incident resulting in 1 death.  
**Baltimore, MD** -- 1 incident resulting in 1 death.  
**Bend, OR** -- 1 incident resulting in 1 death.  
**Bradenton, FL** -- 1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.  
**Chicago, IL** -- 3 separate incidents resulting in 1 death and 2 non-lethal acts.  
**Clinton Township, MI** -- 1 incident resulting in 2 non-lethal acts.  
**Corpus Christi, TX** -- 5 separate incidents resulting in 5 non-lethal acts.  
**Corvallis, OR** -- 1 incident resulting in 1 death and 2 non-lethal acts.  
**Denver, CO** -- 15 separate incidents resulting in 10 deaths and 5 non-lethal acts.  
**Fairfax, VA** -- 2 separate incidents resulting in 2 non-lethal acts.  
**Galveston, TX** -- 18 separate incidents resulting in 18 non-lethal acts.  
**Gettysburg, PA** -- 1 incident resulting in 1 death.  
**Greenville, NC** -- 6 separate incidents resulting in 6 non-lethal acts.  
**Honolulu, HI** -- 1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.  
**Kalamazoo, MI** -- 2 separate incidents resulting in 3 non-lethal acts.  
**Keizer, OR** -- 1 incident resulting in 1 death.  
**Key West, FL** -- 3 separate incidents resulting in 3 non-lethal acts.  
**Lawrenceburg, TN** -- 1 incident resulting 1 non-lethal act.  
**Loiza, Puerto Rico** -- 1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act  
**Lompoc, CA** -- 1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.  
**Maple Valley, WA** -- 1 incident resulting in 1 death.  
**Milwaukee, WI** -- 2 separate incidents resulting in 2 deaths.  
**Minneapolis, MN** -- 7 separate incidents resulting in 7 non-lethal acts.  
**Nashville, TN** -- 1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.  
**New York City, NY** -- 5 separate incidents, resulting in 3 deaths and 2 non-lethal acts  
**Oakland, CA** -- 3 separate incidents resulting in 1 death and 2 non-lethal acts.  
**Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico** -- 1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act  
**Santa Cruz, CA** -- 1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.  
**Toms River, NJ** -- 3 separate incidents resulting in 3 non-lethal acts.  
**Tulsa, OK** -- 1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.  
**Waverly, OH** -- 1 incident resulting in 1 death.  
**Weymouth, MA** -- 1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act.

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## **STATES WHERE HATE CRIMES/VIOLENCE OCCURRED IN 2004:**

**Alaska** -- 5 separate incidents resulting in 5 non-lethal acts (Anchorage).

**California** -- 5 separate incidents in 3 cities: Lompoc (1), Oakland (3), and Santa Cruz (1) resulting in 1 death and 4 non-lethal acts.

**Colorado** -- 15 separate incidents resulting in 10 deaths and 5 non-lethal acts (Denver).

**Florida** -- 4 separate incidents in 2 cities: Bradenton (1), and Key West (3) resulting in 4 non-lethal acts.

**Hawaii** -- 1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act (Honolulu).

**Illinois** -- 4 separate incidents in 2 cities: Aurora (1), Chicago (3) resulting in 1 death and 3 non-lethal acts.

**Maryland** -- 1 incident resulting in 1 death (Baltimore).

**Massachusetts** -- 1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act (Weymouth).

**Michigan** -- 4 separate incidents in 3 cities: Ann Arbor (1), Clinton Township (2), and Kalamazoo (3) resulting in 6 non-lethal acts.

**Minnesota** -- 7 separate incidents resulting in 7 non-lethal acts (Minneapolis).

**New Jersey** -- 3 separate incidents resulting in 3 non-lethal acts (Toms River).

**New York** -- 6 separate incidents in 2 cities: Albany (1), and New York City (5) resulting in 3 deaths and 3 non-lethal acts.

**North Carolina** -- 6 separate incidents resulting in 6 non-lethal acts (Greenville).

**Ohio** -- 1 incident resulting in 1 death (Waverly).

**Oklahoma** -- 1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act (Tulsa).

**Oregon** -- 3 separate incidents in 3 cities: Bend (1), Corvallis (3), and Keizer (1) resulting in 3 deaths and 2 non-lethal acts.

**Pennsylvania** -- 1 incident resulting in 1 death (Gettysburg).

**Puerto Rico** -- 2 separate incidents in 2 cities: Loiza (1), and Rio Piedras (1) resulting in 2 non-lethal acts.

**Tennessee** -- 2 separate incidents in 2 cities: Lawrenceburg (1), and Nashville (1) resulting in 2 non-lethal acts.

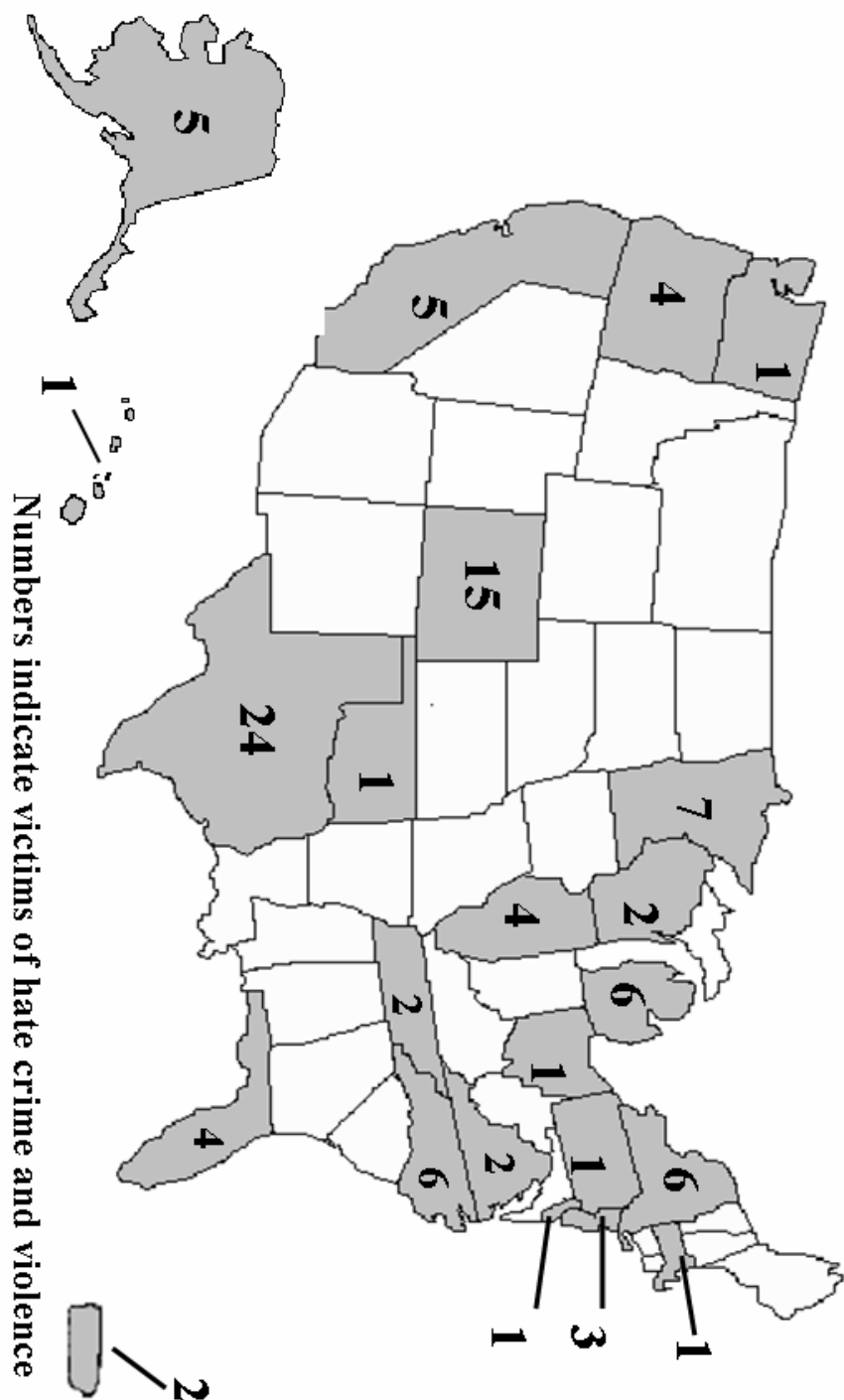
**Texas** -- 24 separate incidents in 3 cities: Austin (1), Corpus Christi (5), and Galveston (18) resulting in 1 death and 23 non-lethal acts.

**Virginia** -- 2 separate incidents resulting in 2 non-lethal acts (Fairfax).

**Washington** --- 1 incident resulting in 1 death (Maple Valley).

**Wisconsin** -- 2 separate incidents resulting in 2 deaths (Milwaukee).

## Total Number of Deaths and Non-lethal Acts 2004



## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION:**

The National Coalition for the Homeless recommends that the following actions be taken:

1. A **public statement** by the U.S. Department of Justice acknowledging that hate crimes and/or violence against people experiencing homelessness is a serious national trend.
2. The Justice Department would **issue guidelines** for local police on how to investigate and work with people experiencing homelessness based on recommendations from the National Coalition for the Homeless. The Justice Department would recommend improvements to state law on how to better protect against violence directed against people experiencing homelessness, including tougher penalties.
3. A **database** to be maintained by the U.S. Department of Justice, in cooperation with the National Coalition for the Homeless, to track hate crimes and/or violence against people experiencing homelessness.
4. **Inclusion of housing status** in the pending state and federal hate crimes legislation. Pending federal bill is the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2005 (H.R. 2662 in the U.S. House of Representatives; S.1145 in the U.S. Senate--109<sup>th</sup> Congress).
5. **Sensitivity/Awareness training** at police academies and departments nationwide for trainees and police officers on how to deal effectively and humanely with people experiencing homelessness in their communities.
6. A **U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) study** into the nature and scope of hate crimes and/or violent acts and crimes that occur against people experiencing homelessness. This proposed study will address the following:
  - Causes of hate crimes/violence.
  - Circumstances that contribute to or were responsible for the perpetrators' behavior.
  - Beliefs held by the perpetrators of these crimes and how their beliefs have changed since conviction.
  - Thoughts and advice from the perpetrators to others who are considering hate crimes/violence against the homeless population.
  - Community education, prevention and law enforcement strategies.



## **CASE DESCRIPTIONS BY MONTH, DATE, and CITY IN 2004**

### **JANUARY**

#### **Honolulu, Hawaii**

*Four Teens Leave Homeless Man in Critical Condition*

**January 8:** Four teenagers beat and stabbed an unidentified homeless man, leaving him in critical condition at Queen's Medical Center. Lynn Mauneaka, director of The Institute for Human Services, an emergency shelter in Oahu, described the attack as "extreme" and "ugly." A witness reported one of the attackers saying, "I got the guy good by knifing him." Savannah Balai, 19, Percy Elevenia, 18, and an unnamed 15-year-old were charged with second-degree assault.

Sources: Honolulu Advertiser, "4 arrested in attack on homeless man," 1/10/04; Honolulu Advertiser, "3 charged in beating of homeless man" 1/13/04

#### **Maple Valley, Washington**

*Couple Beats Homeless Man, Leaves Him to Die in the Snow*

**January 8:** Shirin Galinkin, 27, and David Pulcino, 45, were arrested and charged with second-degree murder on October 25 for the death of 57-year old Jeffery Thompson. Galinkin and Pulcino admitted to severely beating Thompson during an argument after the three had been drinking together. The couple then left Thompson to die under an old railroad trestle, where a passerby found his body.

Thompson, a Vietnam veteran, was well known in the small town of Maple Valley, where he had lived in his entire life. He performed odd jobs for neighbors, told stories, and lent out books from his large collection.

Following Thompson's death, the town held a memorial service, and a local 16-year old helped raise a \$200 reward for anyone who could help catch Thompson's killers. "People responded on a very deep level to his soul," noted Maple Valley resident Stanette Marie Rose.

Sources: Seattle Times, "Couple arrested in beating death of homeless man," 10/21/04; Seattle Post-Intelligencer, "Arrests in death of homeless man left to die in snowy January," 10/22/04; Seattle Times, "Pair held in killing of homeless man," 10/22/04; Seattle Post-Intelligencer, "Couple charged with killing homeless man," 10/26/04; New York Times, "Homeless Man is Killed and a Town Pours Out Prayers," 11/03/04

## **New York City, New York**

### *Two MTA Police Charged With Assaulting Homeless Man*

**January 18:** Sergeant Joseph Camean and Officer Michael Koenig, both police officers with the Metropolitan Transit Authority, were indicted in the beating of a homeless man after ejecting him from Penn Station. Koenig and two fellow officers escorted Maurice Cherry out of Penn Station. According to the assistant district attorney, an argument then ensued in which Koenig began to beat Cherry over the head with a metal baton, causing him to curl into the fetal position.

Two witnesses reported the assault, which was also captured by a surveillance camera. Sergeant Camean, 32, was later informed of the assault, but both he and Koenig failed to report the incident to authorities or record it in their memo books.

Officer Koenig, age 34, was charged with Assault in the Second Degree, Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, and Official Misconduct. Sergeant Camean was charged with Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree and Official Misconduct. Both officers initially pleaded not guilty and were suspended from the MTA without pay.

Koenig later changed his plea to guilty and was ordered to do 200 hours of community service; he eventually resigned from his position.

*Sources: News Release, District Attorney of New York County, 10/12/04; Daily News, "Charge 2 MTA Cops Beat Homeless Man," 10/13/04; New York Times, "Officer Charged in Beating of Homeless Man Outside Penn Station," 10/13/04; Homeless Grapevine, "MTA Police Officer Beats Homeless Man," #69-2005*

### *Homeless Man Seeking Refuge from Cold Beaten to Death*

**January 26:** An unidentified homeless man, believed to be in his 20's, was found dead in the basement of an apartment building where he had been seeking refuge from the bitter cold. Jose Perez, 42, was charged with second-degree murder and criminal possession of a weapon in connection with the fatal beating.

*Source: New York Daily News, "Charge Tenant in Slaying at Brooklyn Building" 1/26/04*

## **MARCH**

### **Kalamazoo, Michigan**

#### *Women and Children Harassed Outside Mission*

**March 22:** Women and children, residents at the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission, were pelted with rocks by a group of neighborhood men. The attacks stopped when a young male resident from the mission intervened. Later, as the same young man walked down the street, approximately 20 men jumped him. When he returned to the mission for help, he was turned away. The man filed a police report, but no progress has been made.

*Source: Lori Anne Fuller, Kalamazoo Homeless Action Network, 5/10/04*

### **Key West, Florida**

#### *Two Teens Beat a Homeless Man in His Sleep*

**March 23:** Two teenagers, 17 and 18, were arrested and charged with battery for attacking a sleeping homeless man.

The 58-year-old man was found with large, bloody cuts on his forehead. A witness directed two police officers to the location where “several males” were beating the homeless man. When the police arrived, they saw the teens punch the victim repeatedly, then stand up, laugh, and give each other high-fives.

*Source: [Keysnews.com](http://Keysnews.com), “Teens accused of beating a homeless man in Key West,” 3/22/04*

### **New York City, New York**

#### *3 Department of Homeless Services Officers Arrested in the Beating of a Shelter Resident*

**March 31:** Sgt. Raul Perez, 29, along with officers Wayne Davidson, 44, and Richie Mann, 28 were charged with assault for the beating of a resident in the Bellevue Men’s Shelter in Manhattan. The three police officers, employed by the Department of Homeless Services (DHS), attacked the 20-year-old man in a hallway and elevator with a metal garbage can. The man was treated for cuts and bruises.

The spokesman for DHS, Jim Anderson, said the agency will not stand for any abuse and that “the alleged abuse of power sharply contradicts the values and standard practices of the program. DHS has no tolerance for behavior of this type and the three officers have been suspended without pay.”

*Source: [Newsday](http://Newsday) “3 officers held in beating at shelter” 4/2/04*

## **APRIL**

### **Bend, Oregon**

*Teen Hits, Kicks, and Stomps Homeless Man to Death*

**April 16:** Stephen Withrow, 17, is charged with murder, manslaughter, robbery, and assault after allegedly killing Curtis Dean Kizer, a 42-year old homeless man.

According to local authorities, Withrow told detectives that on April 16, he drank nine beers with several friends in the woods. Soon after Withrow, with two friends, approached Kizer, who was waiting to be served dinner by a local church group. He made small talk with Kizer, and then punched him in the face without warning, rendering him unconscious.

Withrow continued to punch Kizer in the face, all the while yelling, swearing, and referring to him as homeless. He then repeatedly climbed up a set of nearby stairs and jumped onto Kizer's chest.

Kizer's friends and the youths accompanying Withrow agreed that the attack was completely unprovoked.

Withrow has a criminal record, including charges of first-degree theft, unlawful possession of a firearm, possession of alcohol by a minor, criminal mischief, and first-degree burglary.

Moreover, police found two binders in Withrow's room that contained handwritten notes about his desire to kill someone. Withrow pleaded guilty to manslaughter and was given 20 years in prison.

*Sources: Associated Press, "Teen facing murder charge in death of homeless man," 4/21/04; Bend Bulletin, "Teen arraigned in case of Drake Park killing," 4/28/04; Bend.com, "Teen Drake Park slaying suspect had many run-ins," 5/7/04; Bend.com, "Footbridge murder suspect to enter plea Dec. 6," 10/4/04; The Associated Press State & Local Wire, "Teen will serve 20 years after manslaughter plea," 4/13/05*

### **Weymouth, Massachusetts**

*51-Year-Old Homeless Man Beaten by 19 Year-Old*

**April 15:** 19-year-old Daniel Cronin was arrested and charged for assault and battery with a dangerous weapon. Cronin was reported to have hit a 51 year-old homeless man with a rock and then chased him with a stick.

Source: The Patriot Ledger "Homeless man beaten; police make arrest" 4/16/04

## **MAY**

### **Lompoc, California**

*Man Set on Fire, Found Two Days Later*

**May 29:** A sleeping 53-year-old homeless man was set on fire in the downtown area, sustaining serious burns on his back and arms. He was discovered two days later when a passerby heard his moans. The police are searching for three teenagers between the ages of 15 and 18 believed to be responsible for the attack.

*Sources: Los Angeles Times, "Teens Who Set Homeless Man on Fire Sought" 5/29/04; Associated Press, "Teens Allegedly Set Homeless Man on Fire," 5/30/04*

## **JUNE**

### **Austin, Texas**

*Homeless Man Beaten to Death*

**June 15:** 43-year-old Curtis Ray Wilson, a homeless man, was severely beaten before collapsing and dying in the lobby of a business in Austin. Several months after the savage beating death, his alleged attacker was arrested and brought to trial. His motivation purportedly was to impress his girlfriend.

Curtis suffered from mental illness. He was known and loved by hundreds of people for his good nature and sense of humor.

House the Homeless, an Austin advocacy group, honored Lisa Morrill, the detective who arrested Wilson's alleged killer, with the Curtis Ray Wilson Compassion Award. She was recognized for resisting pressures to close the case; insisting that Mr. Wilson was a "regular person and deserved to be treated as decently as anyone else." The name of Curtis Ray Wilson was read along with eighty-eight other people at the 2004 Homeless memorial Sunrise Service. Each year Austinites and concerned citizens from all across the nation, gather in their local communities to acknowledge the men and women who have lost their lives while living on the streets of America.

*Sources: KEYE, "Homeless Man Murdered in Austin," 6/16/04; KVUE News, "Suspect identified in attack on homeless man," 6/18/04; Richard R. Troxell, President of House the Homeless, Austin*

### **Corpus Christi, Texas**

*Up to Eight Suspects Set Sleeping Man on Fire*

**June 15:** At approximately 3:45 a.m., a homeless man, Lucas Adam Wiser, 21, was sleeping in front of Corpus Christi Metro Ministries, when he was set on fire. He was hospitalized with third-degree burns on his arms and legs. Police suspect that up to eight men were involved in the crime. Surveillance cameras recorded the attack, leading to the conviction of two individuals.

One, a 15-year-old boy, accepted a plea deal and was sentenced to a maximum 10-year term for aggravated assault. Another man, Michael Enoch, 20, was sentenced to 10 years in prison for the same crime.

Advocates fear that this may be related to other attacks on homeless people. Three other attacks by teenagers have recently occurred in the area. "One guy was asleep and woke up to find an iron bar across his face," attests Patricia Henry of the Mother Teresa Shelter. One homeless man was beaten with a belt buckle. Another attack occurred when a homeless man was nearly run over by car following a confrontation.

*Sources: Associated Press, "Video shows homeless man being set ablaze," 6/17/04; Dallas Morning News, "Advocate for homeless fears attacks may be on the rise," 6/18/04; Houston Chronicle "Torching of homeless man caught on camera / Corpus Christi police seek clues" 6/18/04; Caller Times, "Homeless man flees hospital," 6/19/04; Real Change, "North American Newsbriefs," 6/20/04; Houston Chronicle, "Teen Detained in Attack on Homeless Man Set Ablaze," 6/21/04; Corpus Christi Caller-Times, "Fire suspect, 15, accepts plea deal." 9/22/04*

## **Nashville, Tennessee**

### *Driver Intentionally Runs Into Homeless Man's Shopping Cart*

**June 13:** Jesse Holt, 23, has been charged with aggravated assault after deliberately driving his pickup truck into 48-year-old Kenneth McCart's shopping cart. The well-known and well-liked McCart sustained injuries to his knees, elbows, and forehead. Following the accident, McCart began to suffer from seizures and is currently receiving treatment at Skyline Medical Center.

Holt admits intentionally running into the shopping cart, claiming that he was angry that McCart was "lollygagging in the road being a safety hazard," but says that he had no intention of seriously injuring McCart. After hitting McCart, Holt continued driving to his job at Papa John's, where he was currently on the clock.

*Sources: The Tennessean, "Driver hits homeless man's cart deliberately," 6/27/04; The Tennessean, "Some think attacks on homeless should be considered hate crimes," 9/5/04*

## **New York City, New York**

### *Two Teens Viciously Beat Homeless Man to Death Outside Church*

**June 17:** Dashorn Washington and Jamel Robinson, both 15, were charged with second-degree murder in the death of 51-year-old William Pearson, who officially died of a fractured skull.

According to police reports, Washington and Robinson pulled the sleeping Pearson out of an abandoned car parked at a gas station. They proceed to kick and punch him, eventually hitting him with a nearby milk crate.

Pearson was able to free himself and run toward St. Gabriel's Roman Catholic Church. The teens soon caught up and began hitting him with garbage cans. They followed

Pearson into the churchyard and attacked him with as many as thirty bricks. Pearson managed to crawl to the front of the church, where a priest saw him and called 911.

Pearson died soon after the 3:15 a.m. call. "His head was a bloody mess," one officer reported. Neither Washington nor Robinson have shown remorse for the murder, police say. One was reported to have bragged, "I got my body."

Pearson was well known and liked by many of the older residents of the area. He was described as kind-hearted and helpful during his three or four years on the street, which began after his mother died. Children in the neighborhood nicknamed him Mr. Billy.

Local teenagers however, frequently harassed him.

Both Washington and Robinson were charged as adults with murder and criminal possession of a weapon. In April of 2005, a jury took only a few hours to convict Robinson of second-degree murder.

In May of 2005, Robinson was given the maximum sentence of 15 years to life in prison. "You took a helpless person and stoned him to death.... I can think of few crimes that are worse than that," Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Anne Feldman told Robinson, now 16.

*Sources: New York Daily News, "Beaten to death at Mary's feet," 6/18/04; New York Times, "Homeless Man Dies in Beating; Police Arrest 2 Teenagers," 6/18/04; New York Times, "Homeless Man is Killed; 2 Teenagers Are Arrested," 6/18/04; New York Post, "I Got My Body," 6/18/04; Newsday "Killing of Homeless Man" 6/19/04; New York Daily News, "Homeless Man's Killer Gets Max," 5/3/05; New York Times, "Teenager Gets Maximum Term for Killing Homeless Man," 5/4/05*

## **Santa Cruz, California**

### *Homeless Man Beaten By Youths*

**June 16:** A homeless man, who wishes to remain anonymous, was attacked with baseball bats by a group of young men as he slept outdoors in his sleeping bag.

*Source: Homeless United for Friendship and Freedom (HUFF), 6/16/04*

## **Tulsa, Oklahoma**

### *Killing of Bar Owner Stirs Up Hatred Against Homeless Community*

**June 24:** According to District Attorney Tim Harris, bar owner Shawn Howard, 35, and bar manager Josh Martin came upon homeless man Terry Badgewell, 39, as they were attempting to drive away drug dealers. The two men ordered Badgewell to leave.

An altercation ensued in which Howard struck Badgewell in the face with a pair of brass knuckles. In turn Badgewell hit Howard repeatedly with a pipe, killing him. Since the incident, homeless citizens of Tulsa have faced intense criticism and discrimination.

Wanted posters have been placed around town prominently featuring Badgewell's image. T-shirts stating, "Fuck the homeless" have been printed and distributed throughout Tulsa. Homeless people who frequent a local Salvation Army shelter have been chased away.

Harris declined to prosecute the case, saying that the evidence indicates that Badgewell was acting in self-defense. However, Howard's mother filed a petition in August seeking a grand jury probe of her son's death. The petition received enough signatures to warrant the creation of a grand jury to indict Badgewell.

Badgewell has been in jail since December 9, 2004. He faces trial on charges of first-degree murder and assault with a dangerous weapon.

"We will defend this vigorously," stated Badgewell's attorney, Steve Hjelm.

*Sources: Associated Press, "Tulsa Bar Owner's Family Fails To Sway Prosecutor," 8/2/04; Associated Press, "Fatal beating of bar owner by homeless man leads to backlash against homeless in Tulsa," 8/17/04; Associated Press, "Petition Granted For Grand Jury Investigation," 8/17/04; Seattle Post-Intelligencer, "Tulsa killing sparks war against homeless," 8/17/04; Chicago Sun-Times, "Oklahomans lash out at homeless for slaying," 8/18/04; Associated Press, "Grand jury indicts man in death of bar owner," 12/9/04; The Associated Press State & Local Wire, "Man bound over for trial on beating charges," 4/28/05*



## JULY

### Baltimore, Maryland

*Man arrested in fatal beating*

**July 6:** James Edward Johnson, 39, was arrested for the fatal beating of Keith Lusby, 48, a homeless man. Witnesses say that Johnson attacked him after Lusby made a negative comment to Johnson's girlfriend. Lusby's severely beaten body was found behind a gas station. The state medical examiner's office determined that he died from fatal head injuries.

Source: Baltimore Sun, "Essex man arrested in fatal beating murder charge is filed in homeless man's death. Suspect admitted role, police say," 7/06/04

### Galveston, Texas

*Tensions Mounting due to Attacks on Homeless Community*

**July 17:** The homeless community of Galveston has experienced attacks, virtually everyday, at the hands of teenagers armed with bats, knives, and guns. Between April and June, 18 homeless people were hospitalized due to these assaults.

Stephen Davis, 39, was chased by bicyclists wielding bats, and saved only by a motorist who opened her car door to let him in. Michael Seesman, 50, pointed out holes in windows where BB pellets were shot at a homeless camp. Roy Wright suffered a slash on his arm from shoulder to elbow, while his friend was beaten into a concussion.

Only one police report has been filed for crime against a homeless resident; a 50-year-old man was hit in the mouth. Local homeless people note, however, that many more attacks have occurred. Incidents go unreported due to negative relations between police and people experiencing homelessness, where 83 citations have already been given this year for impeding the sidewalk, each costing up to \$127.

Source: Houston Chronicle, "Men blame teens for rash of attacks at Galveston camp," 7/16/04

### Milwaukee, Wisconsin

*Teens Seek out a Homeless Man to Beat and Kill*

**July 29:** The body of Horacio Lima, 43, was found underneath a bridge in Milwaukee. Police say that he was beaten over the head repeatedly with what was probably a piece of lumber. According to the reports of other homeless people, this beating was one of many violent acts against the homeless community in that area. Police are searching for two suspects in the case, but no arrests have been made.

Sources: The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel "Death of Homeless Man Draws Inquiry" 7/31/04; The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel "Attackers Bash" 8/3/04

## **Oakland, California**

### *Homeless Man Beaten to Death by Teens Claiming “Boredom”*

**July 17:** Two 16-year-olds and a 15-year-old were arrested and charged with murder in the beating death of Dalrus Joseph Brown (“DJ”), 52.

The teens told police that they had originally intended to shoot factory windows with their BB guns, but when they came upon Brown, they changed their minds.

The boys began to hit and kick the sleeping homeless man, and then shot him repeatedly with a BB gun. Finally, they beat him with wooden boards and ripped apart his makeshift shelter. Brown, who made money by recycling cans, was found dead with his face and clothing covered in blood.

Police later reported that the boys claimed to have killed Brown because “they were bored and they didn’t have anything to do.” It has not yet been decided if the three teens will be tried as adults.

The vicious attack on Brown came on the heels of several other attacks on homeless men in the area similarly involving boards and weapons.

*Sources: Oakland Tribune, “Homeless man killed by youths,” 7/18/04; KTVU, “Vicious Thugs Terrorize Oakland Homeless,” 7/19/04; San Francisco Chronicle, “Youths’ fatal beating of homeless man is mystery to his family,” 7/20/04; Oakland Tribune, “3 teens arrested in homeless man’s death,” 7/24/04; Bay City News, “Police: Teens in Homeless Beating Were Bored,” 7/26/04; Associated Press, “Suspects in Slaying of Homeless Man Just ‘Bored,’” 7/27/04; Street Spirit, “The Murder of a Homeless Man in Oakland,” August 2004; San Francisco Bay View, “Attacks along the railroad tracks,” 8/11/04*

## **AUGUST**

### **Anchorage, Alaska**

#### *Youths Attack Homeless Man, Flee in Stolen Car*

**August 19:** Three 14-year-old boys and a 15-year-old girl were involved in the assault of a 54-year-old homeless man in the early morning of August 19. The boys knocked the man down and repeatedly kicked and punched him as the girl stood by watching.

The teens fled in a car after an off-duty police officer stopped to assist the man. All four were arrested soon after they abandoned the vehicle at a gas station and tried to run from police.

The girl told police that the three boys had beaten another homeless man without provocation just an hour before. All three of the boys were charged with assault, while two of the boys and the girl were charged with vehicular theft.

According to Don Bertis, director of a local shelter, reports of abuse are not uncommon, though many go undocumented. In the past month, one man's tent was set on fire and two other people were beaten to the point of needing medical attention.

Source: *Anchorage Daily News*, "Group of 14-year-olds beat homeless man," 8/19/04

### **Ann Arbor, Michigan**

#### *Homeless Man Attacked*

**August 26:** A 50-year-old homeless man was robbed and assaulted by a man who stole his watch. The victim was able to give police the first name of his attacker, who is suspected of attacking a number of other homeless people in the area in recent weeks.

Source: *Everything Michigan*, "Homeless man assaulted, robbed," 8/26/04

### **Chicago, Illinois**

#### *Sleeping Homeless Man Beaten to Death*

**August 10:** James Z. Cotton, 22, was arrested and charged with first-degree murder in the beating death of 63-year-old homeless man Floyd Johnson, locally known as Rico.

Cotton admitted that he stomped on and kicked Johnson before beating him to death with pieces of Johnson's own wooden table. Police discovered Johnson with massive head injuries on the sidewalk where he slept. He died at a nearby hospital.

Johnson's friends describe him as a good and respectful man who was constantly the victim of cruelty. In one incident both his walker and cane had been stolen. In another case, an unknown attacker exploded fireworks in his mouth while he slept.

Sources: ABC 7, "Homeless man beaten to death," 8/10/04; Chicago Tribune, "Homeless man beaten to death on sidewalk," 8/11/04; Chicago Tribune, "Suspect held in beating death of homeless man," 8/15/04

## **Denver, Colorado**

### *Wheelchair-bound Homeless Man Stabbed to Death*

**August 7:** Curtis Gordon Adams, 33, was arrested in the stabbing death of homeless man Clyde Ashcraft, 38.

Neighbors suspect that Adams had paid Ashcraft to let him beat him up in order to impress an ex-girlfriend.

Adams and the ex-girlfriend began arguing in the middle of the street in the late afternoon, as Ashcraft sat nearby in his wheelchair. Witnesses reported that Adams then pulled out a knife and began punching and stabbing Ashcraft, finally killing him with a stab to the throat.

After Ashcraft collapsed back into his wheelchair, Adams whipped his hands down Ashcraft's body, then licked the blood from his fingers. A neighbor stood by Ashcraft's side, comforting him as he died.

Adams, according to someone who had taken him in, was obsessed with the desire to win back his ex-girlfriend and had already served time for first-degree assault. Ashcraft had lived on the streets for five years. Frostbite claimed half of his right foot and all the toes on his left; he used a wheelchair for support. Ashcraft and his dog were close to finding a permanent home through Section 8 housing.

Friends of Ashcraft believe it was far-fetched for him to agree to a paid beating. Police had no comments.

Sources: The Denver Post, "Painful life, brutal ending in city street. A Denver homeless man is slain in a possibly planned attack to "impress" the accused killer's ex-girlfriend. It escalated into a bloody death," 8/08/04; The Denver Post, "Homeless man slain in bizarre stabbing," 8/10/04

## **Greenville, North Carolina**

### *No Pattern in Attacks Near Shelter*

**August 25:** Officials at the Greenville Community Shelters stated that shelter residents have reported attacks that ranged from egg throwing to violent assaults.

The police have only received one official report of an assault against a homeless person. Major Kevin Smeltzer, with the Greenville Police Department, said that if there are other similar incidents, the police need to hear about them. "There's not any pattern of one group of people going around and beating up people that we've been made aware of," Smeltzer said.

However, Lou Williams, shelter operations manager, said that there have been five incidents involving homeless people in or near the shelter. In one case, four residents were sitting at a playground near the shelter when a group of youths threw rocks at them in late May. In June, a group of youths threw rocks at the shelter and vehicles in an adjacent parking lot, but no damages were reported. In another case, a shelter resident reported that on August 18<sup>th</sup> a group of kids threw rocks at a shelter entrance and tried to push the door open as an employee held it closed.

Source: *The Daily Reflector*, "Police: No pattern in attacks near shelter," 8/25/04

## **Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico**

### *Homeless Man Wounded in Pre-Dawn Shooting*

**August 10:** According to police reports, homeless man Meftali Mojica was wounded in a pre-dawn shooting. The unidentified attacker stepped out of his car and shot Mojica in the abdomen before speeding away.

Source: *The San Juan Star*: "Homeless man wounded in pre-dawn shooting" 8/10/05

## **SEPTEMBER**

## **Aurora, Illinois**

### *Homeless Man Shot and Beaten*

**September 28:** Up to six men attacked a 56-year-old homeless man behind a church. The man had been sleeping in a tent when he heard approaching footsteps. Upon leaving his tent, he was blinded by a light and then shot twice in the stomach with a pellet gun. In addition he was punched in the arm and the head, causing him to fall to the ground. The man was treated at a local hospital for his injuries.

Source: *Aurora Beacon News*, "Homeless man beaten behind church," 9/30/04

## **Clinton Township, Michigan**

### *Youths Attack Two Homeless Men*

**September 24:** Three youths, aged 12, 14, and 16, attacked two homeless men by pelting them with rocks under a bridge. Each teen has been charged with two counts of assault with a deadly weapon and disturbing the peace.

Source: *The Detroit News*, "Seniors may be targets of attacks," 11/15/04

## **Gettysburg, Pennsylvania**

### *Teens Kill Homeless Man Over \$5 Dispute*

**September 21:** Three teenagers were arrested for the murder of 48-year-old homeless man Thomas Hardy. All three teens will be tried as adults.

Jason Schwartz, 17, Anthony Glacken, 17, and Dustin Moser, 18, were all charged with second and third-degree murder, robbery, and criminal conspiracy. Moser is also charged with first-degree murder.

Police say that Glacken and Schwartz had attended a party at the campsite where Hardy's body was later found. Hardy gave several beers to the teens, for which Glacken says he paid for. An argument soon broke out in which Schwartz hit Hardy several times.

The two teens left the campsite and returned later with Moser to "finish the fight" and get Glacken's money back. The three teens repeatedly beat Hardy over the head with their fists and a wooden log until he was unconscious. They then rifled through his pockets, stealing his money, wallet, ID, and lottery tickets. Hardy ultimately died of blunt force trauma to the head. Prosecutors expect the trials for all three teens to begin in September 2005.

Sources: *Gettysburg Times*, "Homeless man murdered," 9/24/04; *Patriot News*, "3 face trial in beating death; Teens Robbed Homeless Man of \$4 at his campsite, police say," 9/30/04; *Evening Sun*, "Hardy murder trial on docket," 12/30/04

## **Loiza, Puerto Rico**

### *Homeless Man Target of Drive-by Shooting*

**September 27:** Edwin Vazquez Parrilla, 30, was wounded Saturday night in a drive-by shooting. An unidentified gunman pulled up and shot the homeless man in the leg before driving off. He was taken to Carolina Regional Hospital, where he was listed in stable condition.

Source: *The San Juan Star*: "Homeless man target of drive-by shooting," 9/27/04

## OCTOBER

### Albany, New York

*Teens Beat Homeless Man, Then Torch His Belongings*

**October 18:** Two sixteen-year-old girls, Princess Gause and Tyleisha Dutton, pleaded guilty to misdemeanor criminal mischief after they attacked 50-year-old homeless Navy veteran Michael Coene. The girls were arrested after they bragged to friends at school about the attack.

The teens admitted buying gasoline, pouring it on Coene's belongings, and lighting them on fire as a 14-year-old companion beat Coene with a shovel handle. Coene lost everything he owned, including his Bible, his insulin, and his clothes.

Coene suffered an injured knee and hand in the attack, and needed stitches in his left ear. The local Homeless Action Committee and private donors have started a fund to help Coene.

Gause and Dutton must now undergo psychiatric evaluations and complete 100 hours of community service in nearby homeless shelters. The boy has been charged with felony assault.

Sources: Times Union, "After beating, homeless man grateful for help," 10/21/04; Capital 9 News, "Fund started for homeless man," 10/21/04; WTEN, "Two More Arrested In Homeless Man Beating," 10/22/04; Fox 23, "More Teens Charged In Homeless Man Attack," 10/24/04; Street Roots, "Teens admit involvement in attack on homeless man," 11/22/04; Times Union, "Teenage girls admit roles in beating, fire," 12/1/04

### Corvallis, Oregon

*Teens Brutally Beat Homeless Man to Death*

**October 20:** Three teenagers were arrested and charged with murder, first-degree manslaughter, and second-degree assault in the beating death of 52-year-old Mark Miller.

Miller, who friends say began to turn his life around by doing odd jobs for local families, was found beaten to death under a bridge. His injuries ranged from broken ribs and a broken nose to a lacerated liver and a collapsed lung.

Cruise Cassidy, 19, Michael Martin, 19, and Tyler Boyce, 15, allegedly had several confrontations with Miller in the weeks before his death. All three will be tried as adults.

Sources: KEZI, "Homeless Man Beaten to Death," 10/21/04; Corvallis Gazette-Times, "Negotiations under way in homicide case," 1/5/05

## **Denver, Colorado**

*Numerous Homeless Deaths Recall Killings of 1999*

**October 17:** As of October 2004, at least nine homeless men have been murdered in Denver, eclipsing the seven murders of Denver homeless men in 1999. Three of this year's cases have been solved; yet only one of the cases from 1999 has been solved.

Richard Darwin Torres, David Tricola, Mark Iverson, Gary Trujillo, Clyde Ashcraft Lee Goldsmith, Anastacio Rodriguez, Stephen Nye, and Michael Weibel have all been killed in the past several months. They were variously beaten, shot, run over, or stabbed.

Only one suspect, Steven Frank Lucero, 38, has been arrested. He will be tried for the stabbing death of Michael Weibel.

Many non-lethal attacks on the homeless have occurred as well. Five teens beat a homeless man with a two-by-four near the South Platte River. Another group beat a man in a wheelchair, stealing his prescription pain medicine. Ned Sokolovic, during his first night homeless, was robbed of all his money and then beaten with a tire iron.

Homeless people have expressed alarm about the escalating violence often initiated by thrill-seeking youths. One homeless man reported that three youths recently pummeled him just for fun while he was having a seizure. Another homeless man said he was beaten by a group of young men and women after he tried to stop them from hitting a girl.

Ed Valerio, a police officer who has worked with homeless people for seven years, said Denver's homeless know that at night they must group together to avoid young drunks who prey on them. The police do not believe a link exists between the recent homicides of homeless men and the 1999 murders.

*Sources: Denver Post, "Deaths of 2 men being investigated," 6/30/04; Denver Post, "Another homeless man killed. Second body is found; police believe slayings are not related," 7/1/04; Denver Post, "On Denver's streets, the homeless are easy prey," 10/17/04; Denver VOICE, "Violence on the Street," October 2004; Denver VOICE, "It's 1999, all over again!" November 2004*

## **Fairfax, Virginia**

*Teen Attacks Homeless Man*

**October 28:** A 51-year-old homeless man was found bleeding and unresponsive after being beaten by a teenager as he crossed a street. The man was flown to Inova Fairfax Hospital for treatment.

The suspect, who remains at large, is a white male, approximately 17 years old, 6 feet tall, 170 pounds, with short brown hair and a black leather jacket.

*Sources: NBC 4, "Homeless Man Beat In Fairfax County," 10/28/04; Washington Post, "Fairfax Homeless Man Beaten by Youth," 10/29/04*



## **Keizer, Oregon**

### *Homeless Woman Suffocated*

**October 24:** Homeless woman Patricia Ann Harkey, 38, was found suffocated outside the home of 30-year-old Ryan Lee Vetter. Vetter, who has a criminal history including kidnapping and assault, was arrested and charged with the murder.

Sources: KATU, "Keizer man charged in death of homeless woman," 10/24/04; Associated Press, "Keizer Woman Was Suffocated," 10/26/04

## **Lawrenceburg, Tennessee**

### *Homeless Man Attacked By Park Rangers*

Two park rangers accosted a homeless man, who had been allowed to use the state park shower facilities free of charge, when he attempted to take his weekly shower.

The rangers, who were not wearing official uniforms and did not identify themselves, asked to search the man's backpack and frisk him. Fearing an assault, the man asked for a senior ranger or a police officer to be present.

The rangers refused, and insisted that he hand over his backpack. When he did not, they began to kick and wrestle with him. One ranger struck him with a flashlight, cracking his collarbone.

The man was then handcuffed and taken to the Sheriff's Department. His bicycle and belongings were confiscated and not returned for several days. The homeless man was only allowed to leave the jail after his pastor posted bail.

Source: Incident Report Form, Davy Crockett State Park, Lawrenceburg, TN, October 2004

## **Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

### *Teens Brutally Beat Homeless Man to Death*

**October 10:** Three teenagers have been arrested and charged as adults with first-degree intentional homicide in the beating death of Rex Baum, 49.

Andrew Ihrcke, 17, Luis Oyola, 16, and Nathan Moore, 15, admitted to killing the homeless man, who died of multiple blunt force trauma.

Ihrcke told police that the three teens went into the woods looking for "where the bum lived." They came across Baum in the forest, and asked him to buy them beer. He agreed, and the four drank together.

As Baum went to get a sandwich from his cooler, Ihrcke began throwing leaves and wrappers at Baum's head, while another teen smeared feces on his ear. Moore threw a stick at Baum's face, causing him to bleed.

The beating soon escalated, as the teens attacked Baum with rocks, a flashlight, a grill, a pipe, a bat, and their feet. More feces were smeared on Baum's head. Baum tried to escape, but the teens decided to kill him to keep him from going to police.

They continued beating Baum until they suspected he was dead. According to a criminal complaint report, the teens beat the man for fun, and then "hit the victim one last time to see if he would make a sound like in Grand Theft Auto. He didn't." Ihrcke then pulled out a knife and cut Baum twice to see if he was still alive. "He didn't move or nothing," Ihrcke said.

After they killed Baum, the teens wiped the bat clean and covered Baum's body with plastic and rocks, hoping animals would eat him before the body was discovered. Another homeless man found Baum two days later.

Over 100 friends, relatives, and strangers attended Baum's funeral. He was a familiar and welcome face for many in the town; remembered as a hardworking, friendly, helpful and generous man. Faisal Bhimani, a local storeowner for whom Baum often did odd jobs, said that he had just lost his best friend.

Baum is not the first homeless man to be murdered in the area in recent months. A 43-year-old homeless man was found beaten to death under a viaduct in July.

In March of 2005, two of the teens entered guilty pleas. Ihrcke pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of first-degree reckless homicide, as did Nathan Moore. Sentencing is expected in late spring of 2005. Both face up to 60 years in prison. The third defendant, Luis Oyola, has an upcoming hearing for a possible plea deal on a charge of first-degree intentional homicide, which carries a mandatory life sentence.

*Sources: Milwaukee Channel, "3 Milwaukee Teens Charged With Beating, Killing Homeless Man," 10/15/04; Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, "3 teens charged in homeless man's death," 10/19/04; Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel "Death of Homeless Man Leaves Many in Bay View Shaken and Saddened," 10/20/04; Associated Press, "Teens charged in slaying of homeless man," 10/21/04;*

## **New York City, New York**

### *Homeless Man Critically Beaten*

**October 30:** Jose Cantue, a 61-year-old homeless man, was attacked after speaking to a woman passing by. Witnesses said the woman's companion became extremely upset and hit the homeless man with a garbage can, despite the woman's pleas for him to stop. The injured man was taken to St. Vincent's Hospital for treatment. He died on November 11. No arrests have been made. The suspect, in his 20s, was with three women at the time. Neither the suspect nor the women have been identified. John Caserta, a friend of Cantue's, said, "He helped kids cross the street. He gave them candy and toys. He didn't deserve what he got."

*Source: Newsday, "Homeless man critical after attack," 10/31/04; New York Daily News, "Pushed Panhandler Dies," 11/12/04*

## **Toms River, New Jersey**

*Five Teens Beat Three Homeless People in “Bum-Hunting” Attacks*

**October 22:** Five Toms River High School seniors have been arrested for allegedly attacking three local homeless people because they were “bored.” Frank Novak, 18, along with two 17-year-olds, were charged with aggravated assault. Two other 17-year-olds were charged with aggravated assault and criminal mischief.

The most recent of the attacks occurred when 50-year-old homeless man Larry Radomski reported being beaten with pipes and baseball bats as he slept in the woods. The teens also threw hockey pucks at him. He suffered five broken ribs, a fractured arm, and a punctured lung. This was the second assault against him by teens that day.

Earlier in October, the group allegedly threw bricks at a 42-year-old homeless woman, who required hospitalization after being hit twice in the head and suffered from facial lacerations.

In June, a 44-year-old homeless man was attacked by a group of teens that hit him with their hands and a golf club, causing injuries to his shoulders, arms, and face. Local police chief Michael Mastronardy was reported as saying, “‘Apparently they were actually searching people out who are homeless...merely because of their stature in life.’”

The teens later bragged about their so-called “bum-hunting” at school.

*Sources: Newsday, “5 teens held in ‘bum hunting’ attacks on homeless,” 10/28/04; International HomelessNess, “Beating of homeless stun most TR students,” 10/31/04; Asbury Park Press, “Homeless Man Injured Again,” 11/7/04; Asbury Park Press “Adult trial sought in homeless assaults” 11/13/04; Ocean County Observer “‘Bum Hunters’ could be tried as adults” 11/14/04;*

## **Waverly, Ohio**

*Gay Homeless Man Beaten, Stripped, Left to Die in Dumpster*

**October 2:** Matthew Ferman, 22, James Trent Jr., 19, and Martin Baxter, 28, were arrested for the beating death of Daniel Fetty, 39.

Fetty, who had a hearing impairment and had recently lost his apartment in a fire, was living out of his car and working as a dishwasher to save up money for a new apartment.

He was found naked and beaten in a dumpster. He died 12 hours later at Grant Medical Center in Columbus. Ferman, Trent, and Baxter allegedly robbed Fetty and beat him with boards and bricks before stuffing him into the dumpster and leaving him for dead.

Pike County Prosecutor Robert Junk called Fetty’s case one of the most gruesome he has ever seen. He believes that Fetty’s sexuality may have played a role in the attack.

Trent was convicted on December 6<sup>th</sup> of involuntary manslaughter. He is expected to testify against Baxter and Ferman. Baxter and Ferman, whose crime is now being called a hate crime by Junk, are facing the death penalty with two charges of aggravated murder, aggravated robbery, tampering with evidence, and abduction. Baxter's trial is set to begin October 11<sup>th</sup> while Ferman's will begin January 9, 2006.

Sources: NBC 4, "Homeless Man Found Beaten, Later Dies," 10/4/04; Associated Press, "Three men charged with murder in beating of homeless man," 10/5/04; NBC 4, "Men Charged In Homeless Man's Death Won't Face Death Penalty," 10/15/04; Street Vibes, "Two men in Ohio have been indicted in the beating death of a homeless man," November 2004; WXIX, "Homeless Man Killed," 12/11/04; Chillicothe Gazette, "Baxter, Ferman arraigned again," 12/11/04; AkronBeacon Journal, New charges in homeless slaying: Prosecutor says killing was hate crime because Ohio victim was gay," 12/13/03 New York Blade, "Two face hate-crime charges in beating death of homeless man," 12/17/04; www.gaypeopleschronicles.com, "Trial dates set in killing of waverly deaf gay man," 3/25/05

## NOVEMBER

### Bradenton, Florida

#### *Group of Men Beat a Sleeping Homeless Man*

**November 23:** According to a police report from the Manatee County Sheriff's Office, a group of men kicked and beat a sleeping homeless man around 1 a.m. Damon Morgan, the victim, told deputies the men stole his clothes, fifteen dollars, and a bicycle. Morgan's left eye was cut.

Source: Sarasota Herald-Tribune, "News Updates," 11/23/04

### Corpus Christi, Texas

#### *Man Beaten With Belt Buckles*

**November:** A homeless male, believed to be in his 60's, was attacked and beaten by numerous assailants while he slept. The four assailants crept up on the man in the middle of the night and proceeded to whip him with a belt buckle. He sustained injuries on his back, as he was able to cover his face and head.

Source: Cynthia C. Contreras, Paralegal/Community Education Coordinator, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Inc. 5/31/05

### Fairfax County, Virginia

#### *Homeless Man Robbed at Gunpoint*

**November 1:** A 37-year-old homeless man was robbed at gunpoint. The man had accepted a ride to a pawnshop from the suspect, whom he had just met. After leaving the pawnshop, at which the suspect's transaction was denied, he pointed a gun at the homeless man and tried to rob him. Upon seeing that the homeless man had no money, the suspect allowed the man to leave unharmed. The suspect was described as a 6' tall white male in his 40s with brown hair and brown eyes, weighing about 215 pounds.

Source: Fairfax County Police Department, 11/1/04

## **Key West, Florida**

### *Homeless Man Critically Beaten*

**November 16:** James Boyts, 52, was severely beaten early in the morning by William Willis, 18, and Jeffery Carbonell, 19. Carbonell was charged with aggravated battery, while Willis was charged with aggravated battery, possession of marijuana with intent to sell, and possession of drug paraphernalia. Boyts suffered severe facial injuries after he was hit and kicked several times by Willis and Carbonell. Bleeding heavily from head wounds, he was airlifted to Baptist Hospital in Miami where he was listed in critical condition. Before that attack, Boyts had previously been harassed and had rocks thrown at him by two other men. Both Willis and Carbonell had blood on their shoes when police accosted them.

Sources: The Miami Herald, "Teens charged with beating homeless man" 11/17/04;  
Key West Citizen, "Homeless beating victim stable after surgery," 11/18/04

## **Minneapolis, Minnesota**

### *Rapists Target Homeless Youth*

**November 17:** At least seven female transgender African American youths have reported being raped in Minneapolis in recent months. Many of the victims are homeless. Police have made no arrests.

Source: Bath Holger, The Bridge, 11/17/04

## **THE LINK BETWEEN VIOLENCE AGAINST HOMELESS PEOPLE AND THE CRIMINALIZATION OF HOMELESSNESS**

There is a documented relationship between increased police actions and the rising number of hate crimes/violent acts against homeless people. Michael Stoops, acting executive director of the National Coalition for the Homeless comments that “it seems violent citizens become emboldened to attack homeless people because their city has responded negatively to the homeless population,” furthermore, “these violent attacks occur especially where the city has portrayed homeless people as the cause of unemployment, decreasing property values, vacant storefronts and/or other problems.”

For six years, the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) has tracked a frightening increase in crimes targeting homeless people perpetrated by young people and severely disturbed individuals. These are well-documented violent attacks on a vulnerable population that result in injury and in many cases death.

Advocates from around the country have cited the relationship between municipal actions to restrict visibility of homeless people and hate crimes/violence. This overly broad enforcement of the law or laws passed by city governments specifically targeting homeless people are documented in NCH’s *Illegal to be Homeless: The Criminalization of Homelessness in the U.S.* (November 2004). The report also ranks the 20 “Meanest” Cities in the U.S. for the civil rights violation of homeless people.

## **VIDEO EXPLOITATION OF HOMELESS PEOPLE**

### **“Bum Videos”**

The release of “Bum Fights” in 2001 has led to a proliferation of bum videos. Six different videos have been produced in the past five years: “Bum Fights,” “Bum Fights 2,” “Bum Hunts,” “Bum Show.com,” “Bag Lady Beatings,” and “Bum Fights III.” In these videos, homeless people are coerced to perform degrading and dangerous stunts for money, alcohol, or food. The video producers also use parodies of famous TV shows to demoralize homeless people.

Craig Walton, a professor of ethics and policy studies at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, said, “even if the homeless aren’t forced to perform, it’s inaccurate to describe people without adequate shelter, food or clothing as having choices.”

Dehumanizing videos such as these solely add to the trends of violence and mistreatment of people who suffer from homelessness. According to the May 13, 2004 issue of the Las Vegas Sun, Jeanne Corcoran, production manager for the Nevada Film Office, called the producers of these videos “cockroaches (who) only come out at night. None of us in the government sanction or support this type of exploitation.”

Meanwhile, Sgt. Eric Fricker, Las Vegas supervisor of two Metro Police officers who work with homeless people, said he was trying to “educate the homeless and talking to advocates in order to stop future filmmakers.”

The first video released in 2001, “Bum Fights,” was banned in several other countries. It has been condemned on the floor of the United States House of Representatives. The filmmakers of the video, Ty Beeson and Ray Laticia, initially faced seven felony and four misdemeanor charges for the production of the video. The final court verdict required them to serve sentences of 250 hours of community service and three years probation. Yet “Bum Fights 2” was still released in 2003.

Since last year’s report, “Bum Fights III” has been released.

### **Bum Fights III: The Felony Footage**

The release of Bum Fights III: The Felony Footage is the third installment of the Bum Fights DVD series and its release in 2004 portrays the most degrading, sickening, and offensive material to date about the country’s homeless. Homeless men, women, and children are coerced into performing dangerous stunts for money and drugs, reinforcing negative stereotypes about homeless people and homelessness. The footage portrays homeless people as drug addicts, alcoholics, bums, and worst of all worthless. The filmmakers continually mock and demoralize homeless people by filming some of the following scenes:

- A homeless man named “Bling Bling” smokes crack in various crowded settings such as a casino and a public river.

- “Bling Bling,” is later “rehabbed” by being chained to a light post, taunted, tortured, and teased with money and crack just out of his reach. As he goes through withdrawals from his drug addiction, the filmmakers inch a plate of goods closer and closer to him. “Bling Bling” is finally rewarded with drugs when he bungee jumps off a tower into a swimming pool.
- A homeless man (Donnie) gets spanked on his birthday by a prostitute and another homeless man named Rufus. These two individuals repeatedly and severely spank this homeless man with sex whips in the buttocks, genital region, and across the forehead. Throughout this process he is gagged and in pain.
- A homeless man runs in a marathon pushing his shopping cart while being antagonized and asking for donations from the crowd.
- Several individuals continuously attack a homeless man in the face. The victim is screaming in pain.
- Many homeless individuals are seen in the video doing illegal substances on the sidewalk or in public bathrooms.
- Numerous fights caught on amateur film are shown throughout the movie. Many of these fights are the brutal beatings of a single individual by two or more people.
- Many homeless individuals are shown vandalizing properties such as kicking garbage cans and defecating publicly.
- A homeless man jumps off the roof of a house onto a piece of wood.
- Rufus uses profanity against Bruce Helgland, the district attorney of San Diego, who is trying to shut down Bum Fights.
- Rufus is later shown getting a Mohawk haircut with hair dye. He shaves his eyebrow and reveals a painful tattoo written on his stomach that reads “Bum Life.”
- A homeless man runs into a big piece of glass and is later shown bleeding.
- A homeless man punches another man in the face and repeatedly kicks him even when he is down.
- A trap was set to lure homeless men by putting a \$20 bill on top of a slippery painted pole. Homeless men step on each other’s heads and backs trying to climb up the pole to retrieve the money.
- Homeless men and women are pretending to have sex on the sidewalk in a scene the filmmakers dub “Bum Luv.”
- A homeless woman is being interviewed but is quickly called a “shitty interview” because she expresses her appreciation for homeless people.
- Several individuals beat a single homeless person and the victim pleads for the attackers to stop.

## **Stop Selling Hate**

Even more disconcerting are major corporate retailers who have found it acceptable to sell these videos and DVDs in their stores and on the internet that show homeless people participating in the acts of self mutilations, drinking urine or Windex for money or alcohol, and fighting. For a current list of these vendors and/or online stores selling these videos, please visit NCH’s website at [www.nationalhomeless.org](http://www.nationalhomeless.org).



Fortunately, a few corporations (Amazon.com, Borders, Ebay, and Best Buy) have stopped selling the disturbing videos as per NCH's request. These are retailers that depend on their public image, yet find it acceptable to traffic violent and dehumanizing films and videos. They are taking advantage of a vulnerable, minority population to make a profit. The first video, "Bum Fights," grossed over six million dollars in one month, and those recently produced continue to bring in profit at the "expense of the homeless people who are exploited and aren't paid one cent," said Michael Stoops, acting executive director for the National Coalition for the Homeless. Years ago, these films were relegated to the adult video world, less reputable stores, or some dark corner of the internet – not the brightly-lit shelves of retail stores.

NCH considers the sale of these films as approval of this illegal behavior, and possibly encouraging the further development of these exploitative films. It perpetuates the rise of hate speech and hate crimes/violence directed against homeless people in the United States. NCH will continue to monitor these videos.

If you discover the distribution of such items in your community, take ***personal action*** by contacting your local retailer. Demand the following:

- a. That they *immediately* stop selling these videotapes or DVDs and destroy the current inventory.
- b. That they turn over the profits from the sale of these violent videotapes to an agency of their choosing that serves homeless people.

Please also send a copy of your letter, email or fax to:

Michael Stoops  
Acting Executive Director  
National Coalition for the Homeless  
Phone: (202) 462-4822 ext 19  
Fax: (202) 462-4823  
Email: [mstoops@nationalhomeless.org](mailto:mstoops@nationalhomeless.org)

**A CALL TO INVESTIGATE HATE  
CRIMES/VIOLENCE COMMITTED AGAINST  
PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS**

Over the past six years (1999-2004) advocates and homeless shelter providers from around the country have received news reports of men, women and even children being harassed, kicked, set on fire, beaten to death, and even decapitated. From 1999 through 2004 there have been 386 acts of violence, resulting in 156 deaths of people experiencing homelessness, and 230 victims of non-lethal violence. These incidents took place in 140 different cities from 39 states and Puerto Rico. The perpetrators were housed individuals overwhelmingly teens and young adults.

NCH calls on Congress for a Government Accountability Office (GAO) investigation into the nature and scope of violent acts and crimes that occur against people experiencing homelessness. People who are forced to live and sleep on the streets for lack of an appropriate alternative are in extremely vulnerable situations. We must ensure protection of civil rights for everyone, regardless of their economic circumstances or housing status. Please take a moment to sign on below.

**ORGANIZATIONAL ENDORSEMENT FORM**

(PLEASE PRINT)

**Name of Organization** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fax** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

Send this form to:

**National Coalition for the Homeless  
2201 P St. NW  
Washington, DC 20037-1033**

**Phone: (202) 462-4822 ext. 19**

**Fax: (202) 462-4823**

**Email: [mstoops@nationalhomeless.org](mailto:mstoops@nationalhomeless.org)**

***Or sign on online at [www.nationalhomeless.org/hatecrimes/signon.html](http://www.nationalhomeless.org/hatecrimes/signon.html)***

# **HATE , VIOLENCE, AND DEATH ON MAIN STREET USA**

**June 2005**

Please personalize this letter to your U.S. Representative and two U.S. Senators, including any personal stories that are relevant. Send this letter via email or fax as they are the most effective ways of reaching your representative due to the post 9/11 anthrax concerns regarding posted mail. You can find your representative's fax machine numbers and email addresses on [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) and [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) by searching their names. Please send a copy of any letters and responses you receive to Michael Stoops at the National Coalition for the Homeless at [mstoops@nationalhomeless.org](mailto:mstoops@nationalhomeless.org) or by fax (202) 462-4823

Date

The Honorable [insert full name]  
United States Senate

The Honorable [insert full name]  
United States House of Representatives

Dear Senator/Representative [insert full name],

I am requesting your assistance in seeking a U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) investigation into the nature and scope of hate crimes and violent acts against people experiencing homelessness. The National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) is supported in this request by nearly 500 organizations, including the Anti-Defamation League, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, National Council of La Raza, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, National League of Cities, National Organization of Women (NOW), and Volunteers of America.

Throughout the nation, people experiencing homelessness, advocates, and service providers report an alarming increase in the number and scope of violent acts against people who lack permanent housing. These accounts include beatings, murders, arson, harassment, and damage of personal property. Homeless men, women, and children around the nation are particularly vulnerable to crimes against them because they represent an easy, visible target and often lack a place to retreat for safety and protection.

A GAO investigation would assist Congress and the public in obtaining much-needed information on the extent and scope of violent acts and crimes against people experiencing homelessness. Furthermore, such an investigation would help federal, state, and local officials identify actions that could be taken to prevent and reduce such crimes.

NCH has done annual reports on this problem over the past six years (1999 – 2004). These reports document hate crimes and violent acts committed against people experiencing homelessness. These reports can be found at [www.nationalhomeless.org/hatecrimes](http://www.nationalhomeless.org/hatecrimes). Between 1999 and 2004 there were 386 acts of violence against homeless people resulting in 156 deaths and 230 victims of non-lethal violence. These incidents took place in 140 cities from 39 states and Puerto Rico. The youngest victim was four months old, the oldest was seventy-four years old. (Insert relevant information from your city/state). A study by the GAO would aid in protecting one of the most vulnerable populations in our society.

If you would like further information on this critical issue please contact me at:

Thank you for your time.  
Sincerely,

June 16, 2004

## **Help Fight Violence Against the Homeless**

***Deadline: June 24, at 5:00 p.m.***

Dear Colleague:

The June 2001 killing of Hector Robles in Patterson, NJ by a mob of high school boys saturated the press with a story both horrible in its brutality and inexplicability of motivation. Hidden from most Americans, however, is the number of shocking crimes committed nationwide against people experiencing homelessness each year.

For the last five years, the National Coalition for the Homeless has tracked a disturbing increase in crimes targeting homeless people. Since 1999, more than 157 people have died in hate attacks, with hundreds more injured in other violent assaults.

Please join me in requesting an investigation by the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) into the nature and scope of violent acts and hate crimes against people experiencing homelessness. This investigation would assist Congress and the public in obtaining much-needed information to help federal, state, and local officials identify actions that could prevent and reduce such crimes.

Homeless men, women, and children around the nation are particularly vulnerable to crimes against them because they represent an easy, visible target and often lack a place to retreat for safety and protection. Across the nation, people experiencing homelessness, advocates, and service providers report an alarming epidemic of hate crimes and violent acts against people who lack permanent housing. These accounts include beatings, murders, arson, harassment, and damage of personal property. Thrill seekers, primarily in their teens, are the most common perpetrators of the violence. This trend has been exacerbated by the proliferation of "Bum Videos," in which homeless people are coerced to perform degrading and dangerous stunts for money, alcohol, or food.

A study by the GAO would aid in protecting one of the most vulnerable populations in our society. This request has been endorsed by nearly 500 local, national and foreign organizations, including the Anti-Defamation League, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, National Council of La Raza, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, National League of Cities, National Organization of Women (NOW), and Volunteers of America.

Please contact Keenan Keller of my Judiciary Committee staff at 5-6906 to join me in taking the first step to ending hate crimes against people experiencing homelessness.

Sincerely,  
John Conyers, Jr.  
Ranking Member  
Judiciary Committee

**ORGANIZATIONAL ENDORSEMENTS FOR A GAO  
INVESTIGATION INTO HATECRIMES/VIOLENCE AGAINST  
PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS:**

**National Organizations:**

Alliance for Children and Families  
Americans for Democratic Action  
Anti-Defamation League  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Corporation for Supportive Housing  
Families United Against Hate (FUAH)  
Health Care f/t Homeless Clinicians' Network  
Housing Assistance Council  
Leadership Conference on Civil Rights  
Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs, ELCA  
National AIDS Housing Coalition  
National Alliance to End Homelessness  
National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium  
National Center for Hate Crime Prevention  
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
National Coalition for Homeless Veterans  
National Coalition for the Homeless  
National Consumer Advisory Board  
National Council of La Raza  
National Fair Housing Alliance  
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force  
National Health Care for the Homeless Council  
National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty  
National League of Cities  
National Leased Housing Association  
National Low Income Housing Coalition  
National Network for Youth  
National Organization for Women  
National Resource Ctr. On Homelessness & Mental Illness  
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays  
Presbyterian Church (USA), Washington Office  
Southern Regional Council  
UCC/Ministries for Criminal Justice & Human Rights  
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice  
United Church of Christ Justice & Witness Ministries  
United for a Fair Economy  
Universal Living Wage Campaign  
Volunteers of America

## **Local/State Organizations:**

### **AK**

Peer Properties, Inc.

### **AL**

15 Place/Homeless Coalition of the Gulf Coast  
Alabama Council on Human Relations  
Birmingham Coalition of the Homeless  
Federation of Southern Coops/Land Assistance Fund  
Mobile Fair Housing Center, Inc.  
Montgomery Community Action Committee, Inc.

### **AR**

Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays/AR  
The Arkansas Hunger Coalition  
Women's Project

### **AZ**

Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness  
Compass Health Care  
Ecumenical Chaplaincy for the Homeless  
HomeStart  
Primavera Builders, Inc.  
The Primavera Foundation

### **CA**

Agorua High School/Human Rights Club  
Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency  
California Coalition for Rural Housing  
Capitol City SDA Church  
Central Coast Rescue Mission  
Child Care Voucher Program (Catholic Charities)  
Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County  
County of Mendocino Department of Mental Health  
Emergency Service Network  
Freedom Clothing and Art  
Homeless Empowerment Project West  
Homeless Help  
Housing California  
Justice for Homeless San Francisco  
L.A. Coalition to End Hunger and Homelessness  
Lutheran Social Services of Southern California  
New Opportunities  
Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California  
Ocean Park Community Center  
Orange County Community Housing Corp.

Religious Witness with Homeless People  
Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee  
Sacramento Loaves & Fishes  
San Diego Coalition for the Homeless  
San Diego Youth and Community Services  
San Francisco Coalition on Homelessness  
Sonoma County Task Force on the Homeless  
SRO Housing Corp.  
The Salvation Army  
Union Station Foundation  
Windows Support Center

## **CO**

Colorado Coalition for the Homeless  
COMITIS Crisis Center, Inc.  
Denver Voice  
Mercy Housing  
Rocky Mountain Hebrew Academy  
SPIRIT-Human Services, Inc.

## **CT**

AIDS Project New Haven  
Columbus House Inc.  
Community Renewal Team  
CT AIDS Residence Coalition  
CT Coalition to End Homelessness

## **DC**

Action for Peace through Prayer & Aid  
Change, Inc.  
Community Council f/t Homeless/Friendship Place  
Dinner Program for Homeless Women  
Downtown Cluster of Congregations  
House of Imogene Shelters  
So Others Might Eat (SOME)  
Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless

## **FL**

Broward Coalition for the Homeless  
Catholic Charities  
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami Inc  
Charlotte County Homeless Coalition  
Charlotte County Public Schools/Youth Project  
Clara White Mission  
Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida, Inc  
Coalition for the Homeless of Pasco County

Community Coalition on Homelessness  
David Lawrence Center  
Domestic Abuse Shelter Homes, Inc.  
Emergency Services & Homeless Coalition/St. Johns County  
Family Resources, Inc  
Florida Coalition for the Homeless  
Florida Impact  
HIS Place Ministries  
Homeless Voice  
Lake Community Action Agency  
Lee County Coalition for the Homeless  
Miami Coalition for the Homeless, Inc.  
Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust  
Office of Justice & Peace, Diocese/St. Augustine  
Punta Gorda Housing Authority  
Recovery House of Central Florida, Inc.  
Salvation Army, Sarasota Co.  
Southeastern Network of Youth and Family Services  
Stand Up for Kids  
SW Florida Coalition for the Homeless  
Tallahassee Coalition for the Homeless  
The Cooperative Feeding Program  
The Salvation Army, Melbourne FL Corps  
USFF, Inc.  
Volusia/Flagler County Coalition for the Homeless  
WIN/Coalition for the Hungry & Homeless of Brevard

## **GA**

Athens Area Homeless Shelter  
Georgia Legal Services  
Georgia Task Force for the Homeless  
Jesus & Mohammed's Tree Service  
Living Room, Inc.  
Lowndes Associated Ministries to People  
Macon Outreach at Mulberry  
Mercy Housing  
Mercy Services Corporation  
Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless  
NAMI South Cobb  
NARAL Pro Choice/GA  
Northeast Georgia Homeless Coalition  
The Atlanta Union of the Homeless

## **HI**

A.S.I./Ohana Ola O Kahumana  
Affordable Housing and Homeless Alliance  
Gregory House Programs



Waianae Community Outreach

## **ID**

Terry Reilly Health Services Boise Clinic

## **IL**

Calor/Casa Contreras

Catholic Voices for Economic Justice

Chicago Coalition for the Homeless

Hyde Park & Kenwood Interfaith Council

Illinois Coalition to End Homelessness

Illinois Hunger Coalition

Interfaith House

Lincoln Park Community Shelter

Rafael Center

San Jose Obrero Mission

Southern Illinois Coalition for the Homeless

St. Clair Co. Intergovernmental Grants Department

Statewide Housing Action Coalition

Task Force Against Homelessness

## **IN**

Association of College Unions International

Community Action of Northeast Indiana

Evansville Coalition for the Homeless

Haven House Services, Inc.

Heart House

Indiana Coalition on Housing and Homeless Issues

Michigan City Homeless Shelter

Southern Indiana Housing Initiative

Stepping Stones for Veterans, Inc.

Vincent House, Inc.

## **KS**

Homeless Come Home

Inter-Faith Ministries

## **KY**

Hate Crime Foundation of Louisville

Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky

Kentucky Housing Corporation

Northern Kentucky Homeless & Housing Coalition

St. John Center, Inc.

St. Vincent de Paul

The Coalition for the Homeless, Inc.

## **LA**

Centerpoint  
Operation Enduring Independence  
Providence House  
RHD Voyage House  
Unity for the Homeless Advocacy Committee

## **MA**

Arise for Social Justice  
Casa Myrna Vazquez  
Catholic Social Services  
Community Action Committee of Cape Cod & Islands  
Consumer Advisory Board, Boston Health Care f/t Hormel  
Holy Cross SCOHAA Program  
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law  
New England Network  
Outreach Van Project  
Peace at Home  
Safe Harbor  
Solutions at Work  
Springfield School Volunteers, Homeless Education  
Tripp Consulting  
Union of Minority Neighborhoods  
WWM

## **MD**

AIDS Interfaith Residential Services  
Arundel House of Hope  
Frederick Community Action Agency  
Happy Helpers for the Homeless  
Health Care for the Homeless  
Homeless Persons Representation Project, Inc.  
The Prejudice Institute  
Washington County Community Action Council

## **ME**

Center for the Prevention of Hate Violence  
Preble Street Resource Center

## **MI**

Altrusa Teen SHARE  
Blue Water Center for Independent Living  
Catholic Family Services  
Coalition on Temporary Shelter (COTS)  
Community Capital Development Corporation  
Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries  
Dochas, Inc

Homeless Action Network of Detroit  
Lenawee Emergency & Affordable Housing Corp.  
Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness  
NE MI Coalition f/t Prevention of Homelessness  
Open Door Rescue Mission  
Ostego County Housing and Homeless Coalition  
Ostego County Housing Committee  
Ostego County United Way  
Peoples Progressive Network (PPN) of Washtenaw Co.  
Safe Horizons  
Sequel Mental Health Agency, Inc.  
VISTA  
Waterfalls

## **MN**

Amherst H. Wilder Foundation  
Anoka County Affordable Housing Coalition  
Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project  
CASH  
Celestial Synergy, LLC  
Central Community Housing Trust  
Central Lutheran Church  
Central MN Task Force on Battered Women  
Church of St. Stephens  
Community Home Partnership  
Community Psychologists of Minnesota  
Desera Grimley Consulting  
Duluth Local Initiatives Support Corporation  
Elim Transitional Housing  
Fair Housing Center of Minnesota  
F-M Dorothy Day House of Hospitality, Inc.  
Heartland Community Action Agency  
Housing Access Center  
Housing Coalition of the St. Cloud Area  
Houston County Women's Resources  
Information Alternatives  
Integrated Community Solutions  
Life House  
Mid-Minnesota Women's Center  
Minnesota AIDS Project  
Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless  
Minnesota Housing Partnership  
Minnesota Librarians For Social Responsibility  
Minnesota Library Workers for Peace and Justice  
Model Cities of St. Paul, Inc.  
People Serving People, Inc.  
PEPP  
Project Foundation

Project Off Streets  
Range Transitional Housing  
Residents for Affordable Housing  
Rise, Inc  
ROOF Project  
RS Eden Womens' Program  
Salvation Army Harbor Light Center  
Scott-Carver Housing Coalition  
Simpson Housing Services  
St. Stephen's Human Services  
Tri Valley Opportunity Council Inc  
Volunteers of America Cornerstone  
Zumbro Valley Mental Health

## **MO**

Missouri Association for Social Welfare

## **MS**

Catholic Charities  
Hinds County Human Resource Agency  
JHCHC-Ivory Homeless Clinic  
Mississippi Children's Home Society  
Seashore Mission UMC

## **NC**

AIDS Community Residence Association  
Glory to Glory House of Refuge  
Greensboro Housing Coalition  
Pan Lutheran Ministries of Wake County, Inc.  
The Homeless Coalition

## **ND**

Mercer County Women's Action & Resource Center  
Minot Area Homeless Coalition  
ND Department of Commerce  
YWCA of Fargo-Moorhead

## **NH**

American Friends Service Committee—New Hampshire  
Homeless Center for Strafford County  
New Hampshire Coalition to End Homelessness  
Under The Bridge

## **NJ**

Apostle House Brunswick Community Housing Corp.  
Fair Housing Council of Northern New Jersey  
Garden State Coalition for Youth & Family Concerns

Greater Newark HUD Tenants' Association  
Hygiene Help for the Homeless  
Interfaith Council  
Middle Earth, Inc  
Middlesex County CEAS Committee  
New Jersey Alliance for the Homeless  
Women Rising, Inc

## **NM**

Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless

## **NV**

Department of Veteran Affairs  
NV Health Center  
Poverello House  
Straight from the Streets  
ZanderZink Productions

## **NY**

BIG News  
BMCC  
Center for Youth  
Common Ground Community  
Consumer Information & Dispute Resolution  
Grand Central Neighborhood Social Services  
Homeless in Action  
Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless  
Long Island Housing Services, Inc.  
Nassau-Suffolk Coalition for the Homeless  
Neighborhood Preservation Coalition of NYS  
Penny Lane  
Picture the Homeless  
Poor Homeless Farmers  
Street News  
The Partnership for the Homeless  
Urban Pathways

## **OH**

CAP Harmony House  
Caracole/HMIS  
Cleveland Tenants Organization  
Columbus Health Department  
Columbus Neighborhood Health Center  
Cross Creek Community Church/UCC  
Faith Mission  
Family Services  
Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless

Mary Magdalen House  
Maryhaven-Engagement Center  
Miller Community House  
Neighborhood House Assn. of Lorain  
Netcare  
New Housing Opportunities  
Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless  
Run for Shelter  
Scioto County Homeless Shelter  
The Other Place  
The Salvation Army, Columbus  
Volunteers of America, Family Services  
Welfare Rights Coalition

## **OK**

Greater Love Outreach/My Sister's Keeper

## **OR**

Community Resources and Vital Services  
First United Methodist Church of Portland  
Oregon Farm Worker Ministry  
Oregon Partnership Alcohol and Drug Helpline  
Outside In  
Recovery Association Project  
South Coast Homeless Council  
Street Roots  
SW Oregon Community Action  
T.H.E. House  
YWCA

## **PA**

Bucks County Housing Group  
Community Human Services Corporation  
Community of Caring  
Harrisburg Center for Peace & Justice  
Kensington Welfare Rights Union  
Northside Common Ministries  
Operation Safety Net  
Pennsylvania Lesbian & Gay Task Force  
Project HOME  
United Neighborhood Centers  
YWCA of Titusville, PA

## **PR (Puerto Rico)**

Coalicion de Apoyo Continuo a Personas sin Hogar  
Hogar Padre Venaro, Inc.  
Iniciativa Comunitaria de Investigacion, Inc.

La Fondita de Jesus

## **RI**

Advent House  
Homeless Action for Necessary Development  
Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless  
Statewide Housing Action Coalition of Rhode Island  
Travelers Aid Society of Rhode Island

## **SC**

Crisis Ministries  
GAMES Coalition for the Homeless  
MEG's House  
South Carolina Inst. on Poverty and Deprivation  
Upstate Homeless Coalition of South Carolina

## **TN**

Amnesty International-Rhodes College Chapter  
Chattanooga Homeless Coalition  
Family Life Center  
Greater Memphis Interagency Council f/t Homeless  
Homeward Bound Knoxville  
Memphis Family Shelter  
Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity  
Residential Resources  
S.A.C.H./Rhodes College  
TN Network For Community Economic Development  
VA Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program

## **TX**

Abilene Hope Haven  
Advocacy Outreach  
AHP Mutual Housing Association  
Bay Area Homeless Services  
Butterflies from Heaven Ministries  
Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris Co.  
Families Under Urban & Social Attack  
Fort Bend Co. Social Services  
Fort Bend County Women's Center  
Harris Co. Hosp.Dist.-Health Care f/t Homeless Pro  
Healthcare for the Homeless, Houston  
Holy Rosary Catholic Church  
House the Homeless, Inc.  
Houston Community Voice Mail  
Houston Compass  
Hunger Busters  
New Hope Housing, Inc.

Poetic Healings Production  
Promise House, Inc.  
Samaritan Inn  
The Arrow Project  
The Houston Launch Pad  
The Samaritan Inn  
Trinity Works  
Wesley Community Center

## **UT**

Coalition of Religious Communities  
Homeless Health Care Program  
J.E.D.I. for Women  
Utah Issues

## **VA**

Arlington Street People's Assistance Network  
Homestretch, Inc.  
Project HOPE, NRV  
Virginia Coalition for the Homeless  
Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy

## **VT**

Paula Natlt, Inc  
Rural Vermont  
Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition

## **WA**

African American Community Education Project  
Associated Ministries  
Catholic Community Services  
Cocoon House  
David Lanz Productions  
Friends of Youth  
Helping Hand House  
NAMI Eastside Housing Committee  
Plymouth Housing Group  
Seattle-King County Coalition for the Homeless  
Washington State Coalition for the Homeless

## **WI**

Family Services of Northeast, Wisconsin, Inc.  
Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee

## **WV**

Aid Foundation for Families in Need, Inc.  
Cabell-Huntington Coalition for the Homeless



Covenant House  
Huntington West Virginia Housing Authority  
Information and Referral Services  
Scottie's Place, Inc.

**WY**  
Cheyenne Crossroads Clinic

**Foreign Organizations:**

**Canada**  
L' Itineraire  
Operation Go Home/Winnipeg Chapter  
Street Sheet Canada

**Norway**  
World Home  
International Tenants Union