

NATIONAL HUNGER & HOMELESS AWARENESS WEEK

Sponsored by
National Coalition for the Homeless
National Student Campaign against Hunger & Homelessness

November 10-18, 2012

RESOLVE TO FIGHT POVERTY



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Introduction

As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, people take time to consider what they're thankful for and donate some of their time, attention and resources to those less fortunate. In the spirit of thankfulness and giving, each year the National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Student Campaign against Hunger and Homelessness set aside the week prior to Thanksgiving to sponsor the National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week. Last year during this week, more than seven hundred and fifty high schools, colleges, communities group and faith based groups from cities across the United States came together to bring awareness to the issues of hunger and homelessness. This manual serves as a tool to inspire your community to get involved with National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week!

Considering Participation

If you and your group are considering participating in the *National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week*, first think about why this week is so important. According to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's 2010 annual report to Congress, each night there are approximately 770,000 people in the United States who are homeless. The US Department of Education reports that there are an additional 700,000 children without a place to call home and who go to bed hungry nightly. Participating in *National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week* raises awareness and promotes ending hunger and homelessness in your community and strengthens the national endeavor to end these social ills.

One in six American families live below their respective poverty thresholds. Three out of four states saw an increase in both the number and percentage of people living in poverty. Fifty million Americans live in food insecure households, including more than seventy million children who go to bed hungry nightly. Three and a half Americans will experience homelessness this year. Seven and seventy thousand are school aged children. One hundred and seven thousand are United States military veterans.

Bringing attention to the national disgrace of homeless is something for which you can be proud. Your participation in H&H week will help build your community and leadership skills, while fostering a greater understanding and solidarity among your friends and peers. Events such as hunger banquets and "One Night without a Home" helps people realize the difficulties that the hungry and homeless people face daily. Approach a community leader or school administrator about participating in National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week. Together we can work to eliminate the myth that hunger and homelessness is someone else's problem and embrace the reality that ending hunger and homelessness is possible.

Planning Ahead

Early planning is important. November 10-18, 2012 will come before you know it. Begin by enlisting interested individuals, outlining and planning events, and contacting organizations that may be willing to participate and/or offer assistance. The more time you spend brainstorming, planning, and organizing now, the better your week will go in November. *If this will be your first time participating in National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week, remember that you do not need an event for each day. It might be better to choose one or two events that will be well-*

planned, focused and vibrant. Hunger and homelessness cannot be eliminated in a week, but a creative, dedicated, and timely effort will contribute greatly to the national endeavor.

How?

First things first, you need a team. A small, dedicated group of people can create the main planning team, but you will definitely need a larger support system, and you must always be recruiting people by creating an interest in the issues of hunger and homelessness, as well as an interest in the events that you are planning. Most likely you already know people that will be interested in participating, but never be afraid to promote it to other individuals and ask for their assistance. Some people may surprise you. Consider any community that you may be involved with. Even if you have not been active in a particular community, take the initiative to assume a leadership role. Consider any groups that may already be interested in hunger and homelessness issues/programs. It is imperative not only to promote interest, but also to consider all feedback. Discuss the events that you are planning and be open to changes and new ideas.

It is immensely important to know the community that you are working with: children, the elderly, college students, etc., so as to create the events accordingly. After establishing a team, it is important to decide on the logistics as soon as possible.

Here is a sample checklist of some, but not all, questions that you will need to answer:

- How many and which events should we plan for?
- When and where should the events take place?
- How many people should coordinate each event?
- Who should handle publicity?
- What is the best meeting time (preferably weekly) for everyone?
- What community organizations would help us by co-sponsoring the week?
- Who is knowledgeable about organizing events within the community?
- What are creative ways to educate the public on the events and the issue?

REGISTRATION

Before you get started please take a moment to register your Awareness Week on the Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness' website:

<http://www.studentsagainsthunger.org/awareness-week>

And the National Coalition for the Homeless website:

<http://www.nationalhomeless.org/projects/awareness/index.html>

It is very important for you to register your week so that we have accurate records of participation across the country. We would also benefit from any feedback you can provide on events you hosted during Awareness Week.

Good luck as you begin organizing!



EDUCATION

In any endeavor, education is key. Be able to speak confidently about why you want to, and why you think your community should, participate in National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week. Be aware that statistics do inspire interest; listed below are a number of websites that you can utilize to educate yourself and your public about hunger and homelessness issues. Try to be creative when you educate your public!

National Coalition for the Homeless
<http://www.nationalhomeless.org>

National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness
<http://www.studentsagainsthunger.org>

Videos and books are a great tool with which to educate yourself and the public about hunger and homelessness. Listed below are movies, adult books, and even children's books that focus on the issues of hunger and homelessness.

Books on the history of homelessness:

Hopper, Kim. Reckoning with Homelessness, 2003.

A recent history of homelessness in which the author argues for the elimination of homelessness.

Levinson, David. Homelessness Handbook, 2007.



The historical aspect of this handbook covers the topics of vagrancy, workhouses, poorhouses, hobo and tramp literature, the great depression and the skid row era. The remaining portion of the book contains research and analysis of the leading historians and social scientists in the field of homelessness. The Homelessness Handbook elucidates, motivates, and empowers—making it the ideal reference for students, professionals, activists, and anyone who needs to understand this vexing social problem.

Adult books:

Kennedy, Michelle. Without a Net: Middle Class and Homeless (with Kids) in America, 2005.

At age twenty-four Michelle was suddenly single, homeless, and living out of a car with her three small children. She waitressed night shifts while her kids slept out in the diner's parking lot. She saved her tips in the glove compartment, and set aside a few quarters every week for truck stop showers for her and the kids. With startling humor and honesty, Kennedy describes the frustration of never having enough money for a security deposit on an apartment—but having too much to qualify for public assistance.

LeMieux, Richard. Breakfast at Sally's: One Homeless Man's Inspirational Journey, 2008.

One day, Richard LeMieux had a happy marriage, a palatial home, and took \$40,000 Greek vacations. The next, he was living out of a van with only his dog, Willow, for company. This astonishingly frank memoir tells the story of one man's resilience in the face of economic disaster. Penniless, a failed suicide, estranged from his family, and living "the vehicular lifestyle" in Washington state, LeMieux chronicles his journey from the Salvation Army kitchens to his days with "C"—a philosopher in a homeless man's clothing—to his run-ins with Pastor Bob and other characters he meets on the streets. Along the way, he finds time to haunt public libraries and discover his desire to write.

LeMieux's quiet determination and his almost pious willingness to live with his situation are only a part of this politically and socially charged memoir. The real story of an all-too-common American condition, this is a heartfelt and stirring read.

Street Sense. Street Verses: Poems by the Homeless Writers and Vendors of Street Sense, 2007.

The poems inside this book come from the pages of Street Sense over the course of its first three years of operation. Homeless and formerly homeless men and women, many of who also sell the paper, wrote all of these pieces. While some are directly about homelessness, many are far from this topic and describe love, work, friendship, sorrow and pain. These poems reflect their deepest thoughts, creative dreams, complicated pasts, and immediate needs.

Harris, David. Street Corner Majesty. 2009

Street Corner Majesty is the title of David Harris' first published book of poetry. This book is about a few years of David's life and how he tells his story through poetry. David says the most interesting years of his life started in the Winter of 2001 when he found himself homeless on the streets of Washington, D.C., cold, hungry and scared. After a few weeks on the streets, David discovered the creative writing group at Miriam's Kitchen, a soup kitchen that serves breakfast to the hungry and homeless in D.C. The group provided David with a network of friends, who were also homeless and wrote poetry. David was finding that poetry gave him a way to express his feelings and experiences on the streets.

Children's books:

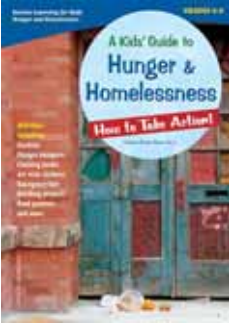
Bunting, Eve and Ronald Himler. Fly Away Home. New York: Clarion Books, 2004.

A homeless boy who lives in an airport with his father, moving from terminal to terminal and trying not to be noticed, is given hope when he sees a trapped bird find its freedom

Johnson, Jerrilyn J. Mommy, Are We Homeless? Winston-Salem: PSG Printing Services of Greensboro, Inc., 2003.

This is a story about a young girl whose entire life changes when she becomes homeless. She still goes to the same school, but she now lives in a shelter. She is unaware of the other children like her, until she meets a girl on the school bus one day. They talk and Molly discovers that she is not unique and she makes new friends but also keeps her old ones.

Kaye, Cathryn B. *A Kids' Guide to Hunger & Homelessness : How to Take Action*. Minneapolis: Free Spirit Publishing, Inc., 2007.



This is a book used to teach children about what causes homelessness. They are also taught what they can do to help the homeless in their neighborhoods. It gives ideas and facts on how to better the current situation.

Movies/Documentaries

“Easy Street,” 2006.

Easy Street is a feature-length film that documents one year in the lives of homeless people in St. Petersburg, Florida. The viewer sees and hears, first hand, how people scratch out an existence on the streets of America’s urban centers. We learn how they got there and what keeps them there. This is a must-see film for anyone who feels compelled to learn more about an underclass of American society whose ranks continue to grow every year.

“Homeless to Harvard: The Liz Murray Story,” 2006.

At 15, Liz Murray finds herself living on the streets after her mentally ill, drug-addicted parents falter in their attempts to keep their family together. Instead of crumbling, the troubled teen clings to hope and determination, and works her way up out of homelessness— all the way to Harvard University. This three-time Emmy-nominated film is based on an incredible true story.

“Pursuit of Happyness,” 2006.

A heartwarming film that demonstrates how good, hard-working people can become homeless overnight. This film is a tour-de-force showcase for Will Smith, who convincingly portrays a down-and-out dad trying to better his family’s life. A chain of circumstances left Gardner jobless and homeless at age 30, and he found himself and his son living in a bathroom at a San Francisco train station. Despite the negative situation, Gardner continued to fight toward his goal of becoming a broker, and would eventually become a self-made millionaire.

“The Soloist,” 2009.

In 2005, the only thing hurting Los Angeles Times columnist Steve Lopez more than his face from a recent bike accident was his pressing need for story ideas. That is when he discovers Nathaniel Ayers, a mentally ill, homeless street musician who possesses extraordinary talent, even through his half-broken instruments. Inspired by his story, Lopez writes an acclaimed series of articles about Ayers and attempts to do more to help both him and the rest of the underclass of LA have a better life. However, Lopez's good intentions run headlong in the hard realities of the strength of Ayers' personal demons and the larger social injustices facing the homeless. Regardless, Lopez and Ayers must find a way to conquer their deepest anxieties and frustrations to hope for a brighter future for both of them. (IMDB).

“The Blind Side,” 2009

Based on the true story of Leigh Anne and Sean Tuohy who take in a homeless teenage African-American, Michael "Big Mike" Oher. Michael has no idea who his father is and his mother is a drug addict. Michael has had little formal education and few skills to help him learn. Leigh Anne soon takes charge however, as is her nature, ensuring that the young man has every opportunity to succeed. When he expresses an interest in football, she goes all out to help him, including giving the coach a few ideas on how best to use Michael's skills. They not only provide him with a

loving home, but hire a tutor to help him improve his grades to the point where he would qualify for an NCAA Division I athletic scholarship. Michael Oher was the first-round pick of the Baltimore Ravens in the 2009 NFL draft. (IMDB)

"Faces of Homelessness I"

The highly regarded NCH video that features images of America's homeless people. This 13-minute video features images taken by award-winning photographers from around the country accompanied with powerful homeless-themed music that enables the viewer to get a sense of who is homeless in America. Available on YouTube.

"Faces of Homelessness II"

DVD was done by a trio of student filmmakers who interviewed a number of homeless people in the nation's capital. Available on YouTube.

"The National Coalition for the Homeless: Bringing America Home"

DVD was sponsored by the Homewood Suites by Hilton. A short documentary that outlines the history and promotes the work of the National Coalition for the Homeless. Contact the National Coalition for the Homeless for more information if you wish to obtain a copy.

And... The National Coalition for the Homeless highly recommends...

"Have You Seen Clem: A True Story... Sorta" 2005



Jaymo, an aspiring filmmaker, suddenly finds himself homeless and living out of his car. Desperate to find a way out, he begins shooting a documentary about the overlooked homeless people in this sharply divided society. When he stumbles across a mysterious bum named Clem, Jaymo realizes that every homeless person has a cart full of secrets and a unique story of personal collapse to tell. Together they embark on a cross-country road trip meeting a cross section of forgotten homeless people that struggle to live on and find contentment on the streets of America.

Their eye-opening journey culminates in Nashville, where Clem seeks his ultimate revenge against the unscrupulous banker who caused his fall from grace. The soundtrack is a riveting mix of original songs performed entirely by the street musicians that the filmmakers met as they traveled across America. (IMDB)

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

Below is a list of suggested events for National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week. Please feel free to develop new activities for your unique community. If your idea is a great success, please let us know so that we can add your event to next year's manual!

Popular Awareness Week Events

- Organize a "One Night without a Home" awareness sleep out in front of city hall or on a nearby college campus. (See the detailed description included on p.21)
- Organize Oxfam America's *Hunger Banquet* or *Dining Hall Fast* in your community. (See the detailed description included on p. 27-28)

Educational Events

- Host educational forums on hunger and homelessness. Invite speakers, such as homeless persons, service providers, and community speakers to share their experiences. Show videos and distribute fact sheets or other informational material (refer to the National Coalition for the Homeless' website: www.nationalhomeless.org).
- Organize a movie night and show one of the movies listed above in the Education section (p. 5-8). Request a non-perishable food item an admissions fee. Have a local business or group donate popcorn and other refreshments.
- Organize a book reading and discussion group. See listed books in the Education section above (p. 5-8). Helpful hint: see if there are any local authors in your community who have written on hunger and homelessness who would be willing to host a book signing.
- Arrange to go into an elementary school and read a children's book on hunger or homelessness and have the teacher facilitate an age-appropriate discussion.
- Homelessness Saturday or Sunday. Have religious institutions such as churches, synagogues, temples, and mosques focus their religious services on homelessness/poverty issues. Prayer breakfasts/meeting and candlelight vigils are also good ways to involve religious institutions.

Community Building Events

- Organize a potluck dinner in which community members bring in a dish for themselves and three other persons. Invite homeless persons as guests in order to encourage community interaction. Remember to choose a neutral site for the dinner — a convenient place with no religious affiliation.
- Arrange a Community Service Day where people can volunteer at different local organizations and learn about their activities. Suggested contacts: food pantries, homeless shelters, and soup kitchens.

- Organize a Cardboard Brigade in your community. Miami-Dade County, FL successfully organized 40 cardboard brigades across the community encouraging citizens and students to make cardboard signs and take to the streets stressing the importance of ending homelessness and raising awareness.
- Host an Open-Mic Night in a local coffee shop. Invite all community members to share poetry, prose, and thoughts on homelessness and hunger.
- Organize a Food Stamp Challenge in which participants attempt to eat on a food stamp budget for a week or a day. In 2009 the national average benefits were \$33.28 a week, or \$4.75 a day. Some Congressional members and elected officials have taken the challenge; invite your local government officials to take the challenge with community members.
- Construct a community quilt. This is great for classrooms/students. Each person can contribute a square that relates to an aspect of homelessness and poverty that is meaningful to them. For more information view this example from Ms. Rhoads' 4th grade class in Yarmouth, Maine: <http://voicethread.com/#q.b1014788.i5411859>
- Organize a "We are All Homeless" event in your community during which non-homeless individuals hold-up signs asking for money, in order to raise awareness of homelessness. Volunteers can also give out information directing individuals to local homelessness/hunger charities/service providers. For more information view this example from Dallas, Texas <http://www.the33tv.com/news/kdaf-we-are-all-homeless-story,0.6452650.story>
- Organize a "Living in a Car" event in which volunteers take shifts living in a car for twenty-four hours in a public area to simulate how some homeless live and to raise awareness about the plight of the homeless. A great example can be seen at: <http://www.tcpalm.com/news/2010/oct/04/hfc-joins-national-hunger-and-homelessness-awarene>
- Organize collection of non-perishable items such as food, hygiene products, clothing, blankets, books, toys etc at local business. Also inquire if the local businesses are willing to donate a percentage of their profits during the week to a local homelessness/hunger organization.

Fundraising and Drives for Hunger and Homelessness Causes

- Organize a drive to collect non-perishable items such as food, hygiene products, clothing, blankets, books, and toys. Involve the community organizations in a competition to see which group can collect the most donations. Helpful hint: talk with local service providers to research what items are most needed in your community.
- Designate one day for community members to skip a meal. Instead of purchasing lunch that day, they can donate the money that they would have spent to hungry people in your community.

- Sponsor a bake sale. Donate collected money to a local shelter.
- Sponsor a benefit concert with local musicians. Donate collected money to a local shelter.
- Arrange a walk or a run. Have each participant collect sponsorship money; set a minimum, such as \$20 per participant. Donate collected money to a local shelter. Encourage local businesses to donate food and drinks. Encourage local bands to provide entertainment.
- Sponsor a Gallery night by selling artwork created by homeless individuals, the proceeds to be donated to local homelessness/hunger organizations or directly to the homeless whose artwork is being sold.
- Organize an “Empty Bowls” fundraiser, in conjunction with an art department or local art center. Volunteers create ceramic bowls which are then used to serve a simple meal of soup and bread. Guests at the meal give a suggested donation of ten dollars in exchange for the meal and the bowl which they keep as a reminder of their experiences at the meal. The money raised is used to support local, national, or international hunger relief efforts. Empty Bowls is an ideal fundraiser to be combined with an educational event. Contact Empty Bowls at www.emptybowl.net

Advocacy Events

- Register homeless and low-income people to vote.
- Have a booth where people can write to their Congressional representatives about the importance of programs for homeless persons. (See Bread for the World Offering of Letters description included in this packet).
- Think Globally, Act Locally- Washington, D.C. isn't the only place that lobbying is possible! Gather a group of students and homeless/formerly homeless individuals and visit your city hall, county commission, state legislature and/or a local office of your Congressional representative or Senator. Focus on educating your audience on homelessness issues and what ideas you have to better the situation. Lobbying doesn't have to have a negative connotation, think about what you are doing as merely an educational, hopeful conversation. For more tips on lobbying effectively see the lobbying FAQ section in this packet.
- Have people come together and discuss the issues surrounding homelessness and then write their opinions in Letters to the Editor in their local, state, and national newspapers.

All of these ideas leave plenty of room for ingenuity. Take one of these ideas and change it as you see fit, or combine components of multiple ideas, such as:

- Organize a carnival: charge a couple of dollars for admission and/or collect canned foods as admission. Have local businesses donate food, drinks,

and other goods or services. Charge very little for each, and donate all proceeds from the event to a local shelter. Have homeless or formerly homeless people attend and speak briefly. Have local bands perform. Have a booth to write letters to Congressional representatives.

Check out the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness website for more ideas that are specifically geared towards college campuses and students, such as the Spare Change for Social Change initiative, and Swipe Twice for Hunger.

<http://www.studentsagainsthunger.org>

A truly successful Awareness Week will inspire people to become further involved with the issues of hunger and homelessness. At the end of this packet is a list of advocacy groups with whom people could work to continue their involvement. These organizations, along with other, local ideas of how people can become more involved with this issue on a more regular basis, should be advertised throughout your Awareness Week events.

MEDIA

An important component of National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week is publicity. The outcome of your event will depend largely on your ability to publicize prior to the event. A good use of the media will get people in your community to start thinking about hunger and homelessness and inspire them to take part in the events during the week. In order to get the word out and involve the community as much as possible, you need to alert your local media early on in your organizing process. *It is important to notify both campus and community media sources. Let them know about the events of Awareness Week.*

How to utilize the Media

- Find multiple media outlets in your community such as newspapers and radio stations.
- Urge media to publish/run/air educational information as well as stories from homeless people and social service agencies.
- Also, have your Awareness Week events published.
- One week before National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week, step up the publicity to make sure that Awareness Week is on everyone's mind. During the week, continue to work full force with the media to gather as many participants as possible for the events. Please see the sample news release we have included as a guide (p.15).

Other Publicizing Techniques

- It is helpful to be creative in advertising your activities. Some suggestions are t-shirts, posters, bookmarks, or door hangers.
- The graphics department at a local school may be willing to help you create flyers and posters for the events and factsheets with information about hunger and homelessness.
- Great places to hang flyers and posters include: local restaurants, businesses, college campuses, and service organizations. Make sure to get permission.
- In addition to the media, radio, and flyers, social network sites such as Facebook are another good way to get the word out.
- Distribute your information (fact sheets and overview of the week's events) to community organizations.
- E-mail can be a great reminder as Awareness Week draws closer. Urge each community organization to participate—interest them in joining a canned food drive, promoting Awareness Week within their organization, and sending at least a few representatives to each event.
- Another idea for publicity, which is inexpensive and effective, is to enlist students or community residents to announce Awareness Week and the events to their

classes or at work. Professors and employers are usually very supportive of this idea and should not mind giving a couple of minutes of class time to promote National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week.

- If you are on a college campus, using chalk on well-traveled sidewalks is another great way to publicize to a large number of people.

Make sure you let the National Coalition for the Homeless know about Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week in your community!

Contact: Speakers' Bureau Coordinator

Phone: (202) 462-4822

Email: speakersbureau@nationalhomeless.org

SAMPLE NEWS RELEASE

ATTENTION LOCAL MEDIA
November 1, 2012

Contact: (Your Name)
(Local Group Name)
(123) 555-HHAW

On (date), 2012, (Local Group Name) will be sponsoring a Faces of Homelessness forum as part of National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week. The forum will be held at (place) at (time). The forum will include the following guest speakers:

Ms. _____, homeless mother of two living in (your city or state).
Mr. _____, homeless man living in (your city or state).
Ms. _____, director of your city or statewide homeless/housing coalition.
Mr. _____, director of a local shelter in (your city or state).
_____, president of your student hunger/homelessness organization

National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week (November 10-18) is a national endeavor to promote education, action, and awareness about hunger and homelessness. (Local Group Name) is sponsoring this important effort in (your community). Other events include a "One Night Without a Home," (date), a canned food drive, and a Hunger Banquet (date).

For more information, please call (Your Name) at (your number).
Thank you for your time and attention.

****Note:** Distribute similar news releases for each of your events. Perhaps you might choose to submit a news release that presents an overview of the entire week and then submit an individual news release for each event.

SAMPLE PROCLAMATION

A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING NOVEMBER 10-18, 2012 AS
NATIONAL HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK IN

_____.

By Your City Council/Mayor/County/Commission: _____

Date Proclamation Issued:_____

WHEREAS, for the past several years the National Coalition for the Homeless and National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness have sponsored National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the proclamation is to educate the public about the many reasons people are hungry and homeless including the shortage of affordable housing in _____ for very low income residents; and to encourage support for homeless assistance service providers as well as community service opportunities for students and school service organizations; and

WHEREAS, there are many organizations committed to sheltering, providing supportive services as well as meals and food supplies to the homeless including:_____, _____, _____; and

WHEREAS, the theme of National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week 2011 is "Bringing America Home," and

WHEREAS, the _____ recognize that hunger and homelessness continues to be a serious problem for many individuals and families in _____; and

WHEREAS, the intent of National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week is consistent with the activities of _____ (local organizations).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the _____ hereby proclaims November 10-18, 2012 as National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the _____ encourages all citizens to recognize that many people do not have housing and need support from citizens, and private/public nonprofit service entities.

SAMPLE WEEK

A major component of scheduling for Awareness Week is to begin with “kick-off” events and work up to the larger events, even if you have only a couple of activities planned for the week. Planning your community’s Awareness Week in this manner allows residents in your community to increase their involvement as the week progresses. By doing this, you should have greater participation for your larger events.

Below is an outline of a possible National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week. This sample has been compiled from campuses and communities that have previously held an Awareness Week. *Your organization should determine how many and which events will be the most appropriate for your community.* Remember, if you are new to planning an awareness week, one or two focused events will be more effective than five or six marginally organized events. Refer back to the “Suggested Activities” section (p. 9) for more event ideas and details about the events listed below.

Weekend

Hold a “Homelessness Saturday or Sunday.” Have religious institutions such as churches, synagogues, temples, and mosques focus their religious services on homelessness/poverty issues.

Monday

Have a kick-off event to start a money-raising or canned food/blanket drive competition.

Tuesday

Faces of Homelessness Speakers’ Panel

Wednesday

“One Night without a Home” Awareness Sleep Out

Thursday

Oxfam America’s Hunger Banquet and/or Dining Hall Fast

Friday

1. Think Globally, Act locally- Washington, D.C. isn’t the only place that lobbying is possible!

2. End-of-the-week benefit festival. Have local musicians, canned food for admission, donation collection, and information on how people can continue to be involved in hunger and homelessness issues.

Saturday

Organize a group to work at various community service sites as part of Community Service Day. Throughout the week, have sign-up sheets available.

Saturday/Sunday

Set up a Homeless Challenge Project, see pages 23-25 for details.

Remember!

During National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week, as community members begin to really think about hunger and homelessness issues, it is crucial that you provide information on how they can take action after Awareness Week has concluded. Provide them with the following information and any other material that you believe is important for your own community.

- The name, address, email, and phone number of a local shelter at which they can volunteer.
- The names, addresses and phone numbers of local, state, and national homeless coalitions and advocacy groups which they can join. Contact the national organizations listed at the end of this packet to be referred to their local affiliates.
- Information about writing Members of Congress.
- Information about Alternative Breaks, which allow community members to spend a weeklong break doing service. Call **BreakAway at (800) 903-0646** or at **<http://alternativebreaks.org>** for more information.

Wrapping-Up Awareness Week

When National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week has concluded, there will still be a few loose ends that you will need to tie up. First, remember to send thank you letters to all of your contacts and your support network. You or other Awareness Week organizers will probably refer to these same people in the future. Also, meet with your team to discuss what went right and what went wrong during Awareness Week. Make sure everyone evaluates their own project, as well as how they viewed Awareness Week as a whole. Gather these individual and group evaluations to comprise a resource folder—one that you and other groups will be able to refer to in following years. This resource will allow you to have a foundation upon which to build your future Awareness Weeks.

AND...

Contact the National Coalition for the Homeless and let us know how your Awareness Week was received by the community — send us newspaper clippings, posters, commentary and other news!

FACES OF HOMELESSNESS PANEL

What is a Faces Panel?

A Faces Panel provides an opportunity for dialogue between homeless or formerly homeless persons with those who want to learn more about homelessness. The Panel members speak about their experiences and answer questions from the audience.

Why do a Faces Panel?

The Faces Panel makes a very powerful impact on those who attend. People are provided with a personal connection to the homeless statistics that they have heard. Myths can be dispelled and stereotypes can be broken down as the audience gets a chance to interact with homeless people. Audience members can listen to the perspectives and stories of those who are homeless and hear their ideas for solutions to hunger and homelessness issues.

Tips for Recruiting Homeless People as Speakers:

- If you know homeless people who would like to speak, ask them directly.
- Send letters to/call your local shelters asking them if someone from their shelter would like to speak. It's good to get a few "success stories" of people who are no longer homeless, as well as stories of people who are currently homeless. If you contact the shelter, you need to make follow-up calls to make sure the speakers will come. Sometimes shelters are not willing to let their clients speak. Shelters that house women fleeing domestic abuse, families, or youth, often want their clients to concentrate on their own problems and are sometimes protective. If possible, organize a diverse group of speakers (age, race, sex, homeless/formerly homeless).
- Make sure to arrange transportation for your speakers; this can include giving them bus/cab fare or simply picking them up. Sometimes the shelter will assign a staff member/volunteer to transport the client to and from the event.
- Make sure to contact the shelter and inform them that a resident will be speaking on your campus, and ensure that the speaker(s) will not lose their beds for the night if they return late.
- Be sure to compensate the homeless/formerly homeless speakers with an honorarium: \$40 is a suggested amount for local speakers, but feel free to give more.
- Invite the homeless/formerly homeless speakers to eat in your school cafeteria before the event.

Other:

- Make sure to get the community and campus media to cover the event. Consider videotaping the panel.
- To get the speakers started, meet with them beforehand and ask that they address the following in their presentations:: if they are formerly homeless — what their life was like before homelessness, what their life was like while they were homeless, what brought them out of homelessness, and how their life is

currently. If the speakers are currently homeless, have them share what their life was like before homelessness, what it is like to be homeless, and what their hopes and dreams are for the future. Ideally, each speaker should talk for 10-15 minutes.

- Take questions from the floor. Let the audience know that no question that is off limits. You should mention that some speakers will get a little emotional or riled up if posed with certain questions. Expect tears when people are asked about their contact/relationships with family. Francine, a speaker for the National Coalition for the Homeless, invited a student to give her a hug after the student said, with tears running down her face, that she was sorry that her mother gave her the wrong perception of homeless people. Another speaker, John, wrote a song about being homeless and not one eye in a room was dry after it was performed.
- Obtain a moderator to introduce the speakers. This moderator should be someone that knows about homelessness on a local or national level. It can be a student homeless activist. It is sometimes hard for homeless people to relate to people with homes, and vice versa. Therefore, it is necessary for the moderator to act as a bridge between the two. The moderator can also interject statistics and other important information in between the stories of the speakers. Generally, the moderator is a local advocate/student who is working on homelessness issues.

For more information, contact with the National Coalition for the Homeless at (202) 462-4822 or speakersbureau@nationalhomeless.org



“ONE NIGHT WITHOUT A HOME”

“One Night Without a Home” Awareness Sleep Out takes place nationally during Awareness Week.

The “One Night” is an opportunity for residents to spend a night outside to discuss, think, and learn about homelessness. Although one night outside can in no way simulate homelessness, this awareness-raising activity can promote advocacy, protest, and education.

Format

- “One Night Without a Home” usually lasts for about 12 hours, such as from 7pm until morning.
- Develop your mission statement. Address the questions of who, what, where, when, and why?
- Make sure to receive permission right away from your city or county officials and community/school administrators concerning location, security, and other logistics.
- Invite homeless/formerly homeless people, community leaders, residents and community spokespersons to speak.
- Choose an appropriate site (central to community activities).
- Ask local businesses for donations (food, drinks, supplies, money).
- Ask other groups to co-sponsor the event, such as organizations (e.g. Food Not Bombs, Habitat for Humanity) that can serve food to homeless guests.
- Prepare group discussion topics that will promote interaction among all participants.
- Begin the night with a vigil or a march to draw attention, and participants, to the event.
- Include information for participants to act upon what they’ve learned (community service, letter writing, advocacy organizations).
- In the morning, allow time for participants to share their thoughts and concerns.

Sample Agenda

6:00 p.m.	Gather participants and provide transportation for homeless/formerly homeless guests
7:00 p.m.	Serve coffee and/or a meal
8:00 p.m.	Speakers/candlelight vigil/music
9:00 p.m.	Discussion groups
11:00 p.m.	Late night food line/music
7:00 a.m.	Breakfast /closing remarks/wrap-up

Additional suggestions

- Be mindful of what you bring. Keep in mind the situation that you are simulating; do not bring any objects or goodies that those without a home most likely lack. Do not bring cell phones, laptop computers, I-pads or portable radios. Stay away from having pizza delivered. For college groups, alcoholic beverages are not allowed.
- Contact local shelters or homeless advocates about bringing homeless people to your event. Ask these contacts to participate in the Night as well.
- Ask local musicians to play. Music brings people together.
- Distribute fact sheets and information about hunger and homelessness and the other events for Awareness Week.
- Make sure to recruit other people to participate in your early planning stages. Ask homeless/formerly homeless people, students, faculty, and community members.
- Invite the media.
- Post a list of rules on the night of the event. These may include: 1) no drugs or alcohol, 2) do not interrupt those who are speaking, 3) respect all views, 4) do not leave the site. Also, post and announce the agenda, people in charge, bathroom locations, indoor sites, food and first aid stations. You may choose to put a container out for donations. Have a facilitator to mediate any disputes that may arise.
- Set aside some time for group discussion about hunger and homelessness in your community and/or in our nation. Provide paper and pencils for people to jot down their ideas. This is a good time to promote future projects, such as a day of fasting.

Wrap-Up

Appoint a committee to draft a group resolution based on the discussions that night. Establish a common ground for participants who would like to take future action. Collect names, phone numbers, and email addresses of people for future reference and provide access to information on local service sites.

For more information, contact the National Coalition for the Homeless at (202) 462-4822

HOMELESS CHALLENGE PROJECT

Challenge the people and leaders of your community to take a Homeless Challenge (formerly called the urban plunge), a life-altering experience with the power to effect change. This program asks individuals from economically privileged backgrounds to give up every day things (i.e. cell phones, warm bed, and shelter), and live on the streets as a person experiencing homelessness. The experience typically lasts for 48 hours.

The Homeless Challenge serves as an educational tool providing awareness to those who participate. While a participant cannot experience homelessness entirely, when a bed and food awaits them at home, the Challenge does offer insight into the life of a person without a home – waiting in soup lines, walking great distances to access services, and feeling ‘invisible’ to those who are not homeless.

How to Begin

- For a detailed manual about the Homeless Challenge as coordinated by the National Coalition for the Homeless in Washington, DC contact:

Speakers Bureau Coordinator

Phone: (202) 462-4822; Fax: (202) 462-4823

Email: speakersbureau@nationalhomeless.org

- The Homeless Challenge works best if coordinated with guides (either currently homeless or formerly homeless peoples) who can stay throughout the night with participants for security reasons. Make sure to recruit enough guides such that each guide stays with a maximum of five participants to avoid large crowds which might draw attention. In addition, a small ratio of guides to participants allows for each participant to partake in genuine conversation with a person who is experiencing or has experienced homelessness, as well as share their day’s experiences with their guide and with the other participants.

Contact local shelters for recommendations of potential guides and to notify staff of your plans. For contact information of local shelters or homeless coalitions, contact the National Coalition for the Homeless.

http://www.nationalhomeless.org/directories/directory_advocacy.pdf

Remember to offer an honorarium to your guides – i.e. \$50 per guide, per night

Personal Preparation Tips

- Dress in your worst clothes; they should be old/comfortable, items you won't mind getting dirty.
- Bring along one piece of ID and bury it in your sock
- Wear no jewelry or watches.
- Refrain from taking a shower for at least two days before beginning the challenge. No cologne, deodorant or use of scented soap. Rub unscented baby oil into your hair to

make it look as though your hair hasn't been washed in some time.

For men: don't shave for five days before starting the homeless challenge.

- Wear extra layers of clothes even if it is warm out. Homeless people wear extra clothes as they have no place to store clothes in the daytime and it keeps them warm at night.
- Wear roughed-up old shoes.
- Bring along a sheet of cardboard to use as a mattress. Or this will be one of the items you search for upon hitting the streets.
- Bring along an old blanket. Sleeping bags are okay, such as the flannel ones, but do not use state-of-the-art down sleeping bags. A sheet of plastic or a black garbage bag will also be useful in case of rain or snow.
- Women are encouraged to bring along sanitary napkins, as shelters do not always have these items available for free.
- Bring along a pack of cigarettes, plus matches, to share with homeless people. Giving someone a cigarette is a good way to start a conversation.
- No need for you to take up smoking during the homeless challenge.

Activities to Take Part in During Your Homeless Challenge Experience

- Talk with and listen to other homeless people
- Beg for money. Challenge participants are sometimes reluctant to do this. We're taught that nothing in life is free, that it's better not to ask people for anything. Panhandle rich and poor alike. You're likely to get a better response from the so-called "working poor". Split up, but keep your partner in sight. Panhandle for at least two hours. Re-group to see who was the most successful and what techniques worked best. After completing the challenge, you may give the money that you collect to other homeless people you encounter on the streets or to your local host organization who will see its gets to the unsheltered homeless
- Sleep outside. Don't expect to get much sleep as the police or private security guards might chase you off.
- **Do not stay in shelters** as you may be taking away a bed from someone who really needs it. Sleep outside, regardless of the weather, with the unsheltered homeless. However, hang out in, or in front of, shelters, day centers, etc. to get to know your fellow homeless people.
- Go into cafeterias and fast food restaurants to look for food scraps left on the tables. Don't ask for permission from the manager. Use a plastic bag. Eat the food and stay in the facility until the manager runs you out.
- Go to restaurants and ask if you could sweep the sidewalk for a free sandwich.

- Go into restaurants, hotels, office buildings and ask if you could use the restroom.
- Eat your meals at local soup kitchens. In most cities finding food is a relatively easy endeavor so don't worry about eating food meant for homeless people, as there is plenty of food to be found while on the streets. Even if you are not hungry, go to the soup kitchens anyway. This will allow you to interact with other homeless people and familiarize yourself with the various food programs in the city.
- Some religious organizations nationwide still require homeless people to attend services as a condition for getting a meal or a bed for the night. To feel how homeless people are treated by religious institutions, sit in on a mandatory religious service.
- Find a highly visible place to sleep (e.g. park bench, heat/steam grate, bus stop bench). Go to these places late at night to guarantee you are not taking away someone's favorite spot. If this somehow happens, give up your spot and move somewhere else. Have your partner stay awake at all times. Do this in two-hour shifts.
- Go dumpster diving in search of food and recyclable materials. You might be shocked by the "abundance from the streets." Watch out for needles. Use a stick instead of your hands. If you must use your hands, borrow a pair of gloves.
- Apply for work at fast food restaurants. Tell them you live in a well-known local shelter or live on the streets. Tell them that you don't have an address, but you are willing to come back daily to find out if there are any job openings.

Candidate Challenge

When planning a Homeless Challenge extend the Challenge to political candidates, incumbents, and public officials. Contact these local, state, and national political figures to offer them a chance to see how public policy directly affects the homeless and low-income people. In the end, this program might garner the necessary political will to end poverty and homelessness in the United States.

For the Candidate Homeless Challenge, possible alternatives include:

Homeless Challenge (Short Version): Same as the above, but anywhere from *12 to 24 hours*. Participants can eat at soup kitchens and panhandle. We suggest that this challenge be taken at night.

Listening Session: Candidates/public officials, homeless/formerly homeless persons, service providers, and/or advocates have a moderated, frank discussion about public policy, homelessness, poverty issues, etc., as well as the root causes and solutions to ending homelessness/poverty.

“Walk a Mile in My Shoes”: Participants are paired with a homeless or formerly homeless person and will spend a half day, or full day together having lunch at a soup kitchen, going to a day-labor office, sharing where they sleep for the night, or just trying to access social services. This is an opportunity for the participant to share quality time with someone who is homeless, someone that will share their struggles and hardships of life on the streets.



MIDNIGHT RUN

Get a group together and distribute food, clothing or toiletries to those in need on the streets.

1. Find out who is interested and advertise the opportunity
2. Pick a date and time (early evening works best)
3. Decide what you want to distribute-clothing, food, toiletries or a combination. Collect or purchase supplies needed. Then make bags to organize the donations so they are easy to distribute.
4. Go out on foot or via vehicle onto the streets in your community and engage in conversation with those whom you encounter and ask them if they would like what you have to offer them.

The dialogue/conversation you have with each person you meet is the most important part.

For more information please check out this website <http://midnightrun.org/howto.php>

A typical outreach run will last for up to two hours, but it depends on how many things you have and how many people you encounter.



OXFAM AMERICA'S DINING HALL FAST

This event is great for high school and college campuses that offer meal plans.

“Dining halls on most campuses are operated by a food service company that contracts with the school to prepare and serve students’ meals. On the day of your Dining Hall Fast, students agree to give up one meal, and the food service company agrees to donate a percentage of the cost of that meal to Oxfam. In most cases, the company cannot donate the full cost, since it needs to cover their normal overhead expenses, including paying dining hall staff. Some students have successfully arranged to collect the unused portions of student meal plans at the end of each semester and donate those funds to Oxfam.” (www.oxfamamerica.org)

Go to the www.oxfamamerica.org for more detailed information and download a free toolkit.

Guidelines

- *Start early.* Begin your planning four to eight weeks ahead to ensure the dining hall has plenty of time to prepare, and you have plenty of time to publicize.
- *Contact your school's dining service.* Talk with the food service director and explain the details of the fast and what you need from the dining service.
- *Recruit Help.* Gather volunteers to help sign-up fasters, staff information tables, and get the word out.
- *Publicize.* Put up posters, hand out brochures, and set up information tables. Oxfam can provide the materials you need. Send a press release to campus and local media or place an ad in your school newspaper. Get the president of your school or a prominent guest to join your Dining Hall Fast.
- *Educate.* Help participants understand why their involvement is essential. Visit Oxfam's web site— www.oxfamamerica.org/actfast —for free materials you can pass out at your event.

Wrap-Up

- After the Fast, send thank you letters to the food service staff and other contributors. Tell them to include their names and contact information with their donations to Oxfam America. Make sure you receive a photocopy of the check for your records.
- Evaluate your event. Record what went well and what did not for future reference.

If you are interested in this event, please contact:

Oxfam America

Attn: ACT FAST

226 Causeway Street, 5th Floor

Boston, MA 02114-2206

Email: actfast@oxfamamerica.org, Website: www.oxfamamerica.org

Toll Free: 800-77-OXFAM (800-776-9326) Fax: (617) 728-2573

HUNGER BANQUET

Another fund/awareness-raising event recommend by Oxfam America is a Hunger Banquet. An Oxfam America Hunger Banquet dramatizes the unequal distribution of food in the world. The Banquet will leave many hungry, some with just enough, and very few with full stomachs. Money is raised through a standard admission charge and/or by gathering donations.

Hunger Banquet participants are randomly assigned to one of three socio-economic levels that represent proportional global standards-of-living. Out of every 100 people, 15 enjoy a full-course meal complete with royal treatment, 25 sit in a simple setting and eat a meager meal (such as rice and beans), and the remaining 60 share rice, without utensils, while sitting on the floor.

Steps

- Call **Oxfam America at 800-77-OXFAM**. The Fast Team will provide you with materials and help you organize a Hunger Banquet.
- Gather interested people in your Awareness Week team to help co-coordinate the event.
- Establish a time and place. For example, school cafeterias and student unions are ideal locations, but will require agreements with the administration and dining service.
- Invite local celebrities to the event—local media stars will generate publicity and greater public response.
- Ask local restaurants to donate food.
- Send invitations with RSVPs. The invitations should include endorsers, special guests, and sponsors.
- Prepare the materials for the event. These materials include fact sheets (you can get information about global hunger from Oxfam America), menus, posters, a program (check with Oxfam America for a suggested script), and colored or numbered tickets (15% high-income, 25% middle-income, and 60% low-income).
- Publicize! Send out news releases and use other publicity strategies (see the media section in this packet) to gather as many participants as possible.
- On the day of the banquet, set up the room accordingly. Make sure the first group has an elaborate setting and service, while the third group has only the bare essentials.

For more information about this event, please contact:

Oxfam America

Attn: ACT FAST

226 Causeway Street, 5th Floor

Boston, MA 02114 - 2206

Email: actfast@oxfamamerica.org,

Toll Free: 800-77-OXFAM (800-776-9326) Fax: (617) 728-2573

Website: www.oxfamamerica.org

OFFERING OF LETTERS

Bread for the World is an advocacy organization which lobbies for public policies that address the needs of hungry and poor people in our nation and around the world. Each year, Bread for the World sponsors an Offering of Letters campaign. In this campaign, participants write letters to Members of Congress in order to impact policy decisions. Contact Bread for the World for their specific focus for this year, 2012. Start by using their website: www.bread.org/OL

- Publicize extensively before the actual letter writing campaign. As with other events during National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week, send out news releases, post flyers, and utilize other media. This way, community members will know both locations and times to either write a letter or drop one off.
- Decide when you would like to have an Offering of Letters campaign during Awareness Week. Some communities set up a booth for one day, while other communities have distributed letter writing information following the events during Awareness Week.
- Find names and contact information of Congressional representatives for your district.
- Ask local businesses and sponsors to buy postage, envelopes, pens, and paper.
- Handwritten letters are best; draft a sample letter that community members can replicate - please contact Bread for the World for sample letters. Some community members may have never written to their Congressional representatives so make this experience as convenient and straightforward as possible to encourage successive letter writing.
- Provide information about hunger and homelessness during the letter writing so that community members can include compelling statistics/facts in their letters on the need for supportive legislation. You can obtain this information from Bread for the World.
- Urge community members to continue their political action through voting, by writing letters to, calling, and visiting local Congressional representatives.

To receive an Offering of Letters kit and more information about Bread for the World, please contact:

Bread for the World

50 F Street, NW, # 500

Washington, DC 20001

Phone: (202) 639-9400 and (800) 82-BREAD

Fax: (202) 639-9401

Email: bread@bread.org

Website: www.bread.org/OL

LOBBYING FAQ

What is lobbying?

While it may seem complicated, lobbying is simply influencing legislation (local, state, or national) and/or influencing administrative actions. Lobbying can take the form of direct meetings, phone calls, letters, and e-mail. For more information on letter writing as lobbying refer to the Bread for the World Letter Offering section (p.29). This section will focus on how to set up direct meetings and make speak with elected officials.

Who/where can I lobby if I don't live in DC?

Raising awareness and ending homelessness needs to happen at all levels of government. Consider visiting state senators and representatives, mayors, and other local officials. Federal senators and representatives have local offices in their districts as well, if you are really passionate about a piece of federal legislation. Remember, you may not be able to set up a meeting directly with an elected official, but ask to speak with a staffer or aid who deals with homelessness and hunger issues.

How do I Prepare?

You should pick your topics, no more than two or three that you want to address. Then do some research so that you feel comfortable discussing the issue. If you're nervous practice talking to others before you go. Also, consider what your goal for the meeting is, for example, a commitment to cosponsor a bill, vote in favor of a bill, or to take a leadership role on an issue. Also gather some background information on the official you will be speaking with. Find out where they have stood on past issues. Make sure to acknowledge/thank them for past support if applicable during the meeting, this will show them you are informed and serious.

What topics should I bring to elected officials?

You don't have to talk about a specific piece of legislation. It is appropriate to discuss homelessness, hunger, or poverty in general, but do be specific on the actions that you would like to see taken. For current policy recommendations visit the NCH website at www.nationalhomeless.org/advocacy. The website breaks down issues into four different areas: civil rights, housing justice, economic justice, and health care justice.

What Should I Say or Do?

- Make sure you identify yourself as a constituent, and as a participant in a Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week.
- Go in a small but diverse group (no more than five people) to show that a wide range of citizens care about hunger and homelessness.
- Be concise and clear and answer questions as best as possible.
- Make sure to tell them what your opinions are and share any relevant personal experiences.

- It is best to listen closely and provide information when you can. Consider taking a notepad with you and jotting down some key points during the conversation, this will also show you're listening and interested in what they are saying. The meeting should be a dialogue not an attack or a rant.
- Feel free to make a one page fact sheet to leave with the office so they have a reminder of what was said.

What Should I NOT Say or Do?

- Don't overwhelm an elected official or their staffers. Keep your group to five or less.
- Don't be disrespectful, argumentative, or confrontational. They may not agree with you on this issue, but if you're negative they may not listen to you in the future.
- Don't make up facts. It is okay to say, "I don't know, I'll have to get back to you on that" if you can't answer a question. Just be sure to actually follow up with information you promised.

Okay, so I Visited my Elected Official, Now What?

Send a follow-up letter thanking them for their time. Reiterate your opinion, and if they made any commitments during the meeting repeat your understanding of their plan of action.



ORGANIZATIONAL CONTACTS

The following includes a list of national organizations that could provide you further information and support for organizing National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week in your community.

Bread for the World

50 F Street, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: (202) 639-9400 and (800) 82-BREAD
Fax: (202) 639-9401
Email: bread@bread.org
Website: www.bread.org/OL
(Offering of Letters)

Break Away

2451 Cumberland Parkway
Suite 3124
Atlanta, GA 30339
Toll Free (800)-903-0646
Email: breakaway@alternativebreaks.org
Website: www.alternativebreaks.org
(Alternative Breaks)

Church World Service

28606 Phillips Street
P.O. Box 968
Elkhart, IN 46515
Email: info@churchworldservice.org

Phone: 574-264-3102
Toll Free: 1-800-297-1516
Fax: (574) 262-0966
(CROP Walk)

Empty Bowls

P.O. Box 1689
Burnsville, NC 28714
Email: imagineRen@yahoo.com
Phone: 828-675-9636
(Empty Bowls event)

Habitat for Humanity

Contact affiliates in your area.
Information can be found at: www.habitat.org
Phone: 1-800-422-4828
Email: publicinfo@hfhi.org
*For information about youth or collegiate volunteering: www.habitatyouthprograms.org.
(Building/Renovating Homes)

National Coalition for the Homeless

2201 P St., NW
Washington, DC 20037-1033
Phone: (202) 462-4822
Fax: (202) 462-4823
Email: speakersbureau@nationalhomeless.org
Website: www.nationalhomeless.org

National Student Campaign Against Hunger & Homelessness

National Organizing Office:
407 S. Dearborn, Suite 701
Chicago, IL 60605
Phone: (312) 544-4436
Fax: (312) 275-7150
Website: www.studentsagainsthunger.org
Contact: Megan Fitzgerald
megan@studentsagainsthunger.org

Oxfam America

Oxfam America
Attn: ACT FAST
226 Causeway St., 5th Floor
Boston, MA 02114-2206
Toll Free: 800-77-OXFAM (800-776-9326)
Fax: (617) 728-2594
Email: actfast@oxfamamerica.org
Website: www.oxfamamerica.org
(Fast for a World Harvest and Hunger Banquet)