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The Advocate

eNews

NCH Newsletter

July 26, 2012



Membership Matters, Can You Hear Us? and Updates from the Field

Hello {FIRST_NAME|Friend},

If you haven't heard, NCH has launched [Membership Matters](#), a new campaign to help American better understand homelessness as a national problem with local solutions.

There's a building sense among advocates and academics that the current national levels of funding and services is only enough to manage the problem of homelessness in America. The sustained lack of **affordable housing, living-wage jobs** and **access to affordable healthcare** is preventing America from moving towards a permanent and lasting solution to homelessness.

NCH believes that there are profound consequences to managing this social crisis for too long: the United States is at risk of producing the first generation of chronically homeless individuals and families who are housing resistant and a nationwide network of social supporters who questions whether homelessness can be ended.

During [Membership Matters](#), we are adjusting the cost of joining or renewing your membership in NCH. If you are or were homeless or living in poverty, your membership fee is waived. All other membership rates have been reduced and are also negotiable to ensure the greatest levels of involvement and participation in NCH.

Your [Membership Matters](#)! As a member you'll receive access to valuable resources, and you'll be supporting a leading

Follow us on your favorite social media site!



Upcoming Events

July 27-29, 2012 - The [2012 Street Soccer USA Cup](#) is taking place in New York City! Come see the action at the nation's premier sport for social change event!

Sept. 30- Oct. 6, 2012 - Start planning now to register your community to vote during [National Homeless and Low-Income Voter Registration Week](#).

NCH in the News

NPR (July 6) - [Laws That Target Homeless Imperil Programs That Feed Them Outdoors](#)

Huffington Post (July 13) - [As Violence Against Homeless Rises, Congress Considers](#)

organization in the fight to end homelessness.

Thank you to all our sustaining members, and those who have signed up in the last week! **Together**, we will [Bring America Home!!](#)

Can You Hear Us? A Public Forum on Homelessness

Yesterday evening, the National Coalition for the Homeless hosted an event called "[Can You Hear Us?](#)" outdoors in Shevchenko Park, in the Dupont Circle neighborhood of Washington, DC . Four members of our [Speaker's Bureau](#) presented their personal stories and advice to a group of young, well-engaged activists.

[Read more about the event!](#)

NCH Hosts Congressional Briefing for the Congressional Caucus on Homelessness

On July 10, 2012, NCH hosted a [briefing for the Congressional Caucus on Homelessness](#) regarding violence against the un-housed. The [briefing](#) was attended by all four co-founders and co-chairs of the Congressional Caucus, staffers, advocates, and the media.

Each of the caucus members gave brief remarks, noting the remarkable number of violent acts against the homeless that have been recorded, as well as the overwhelming lack of data currently available. Representative Johnson also [discussed HR 3528](#), the bill she introduced in the House of Representatives that would include "homeless status" in current Anti-Hate Crimes legislation and require the collection of data on hate crimes committed against the homeless.

Neil Donovan, Executive Director of [NCH](#), moderated the panel of experts, which included: Captain Rick Wierzbicki of the [Broward County \(FL\) Sheriff's Department](#); David Pirtle, a formerly homeless Advocate who has experienced violence; and Maria Foscarinis, Executive Director of the [National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty](#) and former staff member of NCH.

[Read more about the briefing!](#)

VISTA Project Update

Farewell and Good Luck to Jeremy, Caitlin, Ashley, and Tiffany! A big **thank you** and good luck to our VISTA members ending their service with NCH.

[Legislation To Protect Them](#)

Washington Post (July 20) - [Homeless penchant for solitude creates risk while serial street stabber lurks in LA](#)

Huffington Post (July 25) - [The Seen and Unseen Consequences of This Summer's Weather Assault](#)

Special Thanks to our recent donors and renewed members!

The Aberdeen Foundation, Kimberly Allard, Gaelan Armstrong, Jon Ballew, Colin Bayley, Billings Forge Community Works, Gorus Bix, Kierei Broadus, Broward County Homeless Initiative Partnership, Naomi Brown, Oanh Bui, Capella University - Inspire Giving Program, Center For Ethical Living & Social Justice Renewal, Central Presbyterian Outreach and Advocacy Center, Johane Cherico, Community Voices in Action, Sean Cononie, Heather Couture, Christopher Cunningham, Stephane Dahan, Archibald Denny, Ronald Encarnacion, James Esterson, Jordan Foley, Nathan Fox, Gifts That Give, Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center, Elizabeth Grim, Hands On Hartford, The Haven, Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County, Jerry Howard, Integrated Community Solutions Inc., Ann Jalonen, Journey Home, It's A Wrap

- Jeremy Weatherly served one year as Speakers' Bureau Coordinator in Macon, Georgia. He worked diligently to build the Bureau and is passing on its success to community volunteers. Jeremy always had a hard working, creative attitude toward the project.
- Caitlin Donnelly served as Jeremy's partner in crime in Macon. She successfully moved the Bureau toward sustainability and was never afraid to ask for help for the betterment of the project and the community.
- Ashley Trapp served as Educational Advocate in Jacksonville, Florida. Her outgoing, professional personality allowed her to make a big difference in children's services in Jacksonville.
- Tiffany Adams served as Speakers' Bureau Coordinator in Jacksonville, Florida. Tiffany continuously asked for suggestions on improving the Bureau and worked hard to serve her volunteers and her community. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with each one and am excited that they will be bringing their skills to new positions.

By Margaret Djekovic
VISTA Project Leader, Hillsborough County, Florida

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

Christopher D. Smithers Foundation

The Foundation focuses its grantmaking on a wide range of issues related to alcoholism, including prevention, treatment, research, public education, and creating awareness of alcoholism problems in the nation's work world. Grant proposals are reviewed throughout the year. Guidelines for submitting requests are available on the [Foundation's website](#).

Grassroots Organizing for Social Justice Supported RESIST offers support to grassroots groups engaged in activist organizing for economic, social, and environmental justice in the United States. Grants of \$300 to \$4,000 are provided to small budget groups who struggle towards a broad vision of social justice, while continuing to oppose political and institutional oppression. Upcoming application deadlines are August 3 and October 5, 2012. Application guidelines and forms are available on the [RESIST website](#).

Cisco Global Impact Cash Grants

Cisco Global Impact Cash Grants support nonprofit organizations in the U.S. and worldwide that provide assistance to underserved populations. Categories of projects funded include Education, Economic Empowerment, and Critical Human Needs. Visit the

Ideas, Lauren Karl, Dominic Koh, Brenda Lattuca, Brenda Lee-Wilson, Allan Lindrup, Lisa Lindsey, Justin Low, Lisa Lozano, Martin Van Buren High School, Maryland School For Jewish Education, Wendy McQuiston, Miami Coalition for the Homeless, Jule Monnens, Tom Morello, National Health Care for the Homeless, National Nurses United - California Nurses Association, Peter Orvetti, Partners to End Homelessness, Suresh Paul, Matteo Pelo, Porfirio Peña, Pinellas County Coalition for the Homeless, Jordan Pinneke, Plasmanet, Rosemarie Poole, Project Lazarus, John Real, Pamela Reeves, Alexander Reyes, Ken Richardson, Arlene Rosenblatt, Michael Rossi, Carolyn Sechler, The Shelter, James Shelton, Linda Smith, Michael and Isabel Spiegel, St. Vincent De Paul Of Baltimore - Beans and Bread Center, Brian Tiffany, UNITY Of Greater New Orleans, Upstate Homeless Coalition of S.C., James Vasey, Venhood Victor and Shreemati Budhan, Volunteers Of America Greater New Orleans, Ginger Wallace, Sue Watlov Phillips, Grover Wehman, Archie Williams, Brent Wilson, Michael Wozniak

[Cisco website](#) to learn more about the grantmaking criteria and to take the [Eligibility Quiz](#).

Delta Dental Community Mini-Grant Program

The Delta Dental Foundation is currently accepting applications for the 2012 Community Mini-Grant Program. Community-based oral health programs in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana are encouraged to apply for grants up to \$5,000 for programs designed to improve oral health. Special consideration will be given to those applicants whose programs focus on improving the oral health of low-income children. Submission Deadline: September 3, 2012. To apply, [visit the company foundation website](#).

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