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# The Advocate

# eNews

## NCH Newsletter

June 21, 2012



### Preserving Voting Rights, News from the Field, Inspired Giving and Grant Opportunities

Hello {FIRST\_NAME|Friend},

You've heard about the voter registration restrictions many states have been considering that would limit the ease of voting for many elderly, students, minorities and persons who are homeless or poor. In response, this Fall NCH will be organizing the [National Homeless and Low Income Voter Registration Week](#) during the week of September 30th to October 6th, 2012.

People who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless can feel powerless or disenfranchised, but it is important for their voice to heard! In every state there are ways for homeless and low income individuals to overcome obstacles that may prevent them from voting.



This is why the two-fold goal of the week is to raise awareness among the homeless population that they can vote and to aid the registration process for them by helping them with their identification and addresses and to fill out the registration forms. Voting is essential to a democracy, and helping homeless individuals to vote is essential for promoting candidates to care about the issues of homelessness and poverty and to ensure that

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### Upcoming Events

**July 10, 2012** - We've just received word that the [Congressional Caucus on Homelessness](#) is planning to hold a Congressional Briefing on Hate Crimes again people experiencing homelessness! More info to come soon!

**July 16-18, 2012** - Be sure to stop by NCH's exhibitor table at the [2012 Conference on Ending Homelessness](#).

**July 25, 2012** - From 6-7pm, NCH will be hosting **Can You Hear Us?** an open forum on homelessness featuring members of the Faces of Homelessness Speakers Bureau. Outdoors event to be held at 22nd & P St. NW, Wash. DC.

the voices of homeless people are heard in the candidates they elect.

We encourage your community to pledge to take part in this week-long drive. Learn more about how you can participate in our [Voter Registration Manual](#).

### **VISTA Project Update**

This summer is an exciting time for the [NCH AmeriCorps\\*VISTA Program](#). We are currently expanding our project significantly and will continue to add members to our project throughout the summer.

Starting Monday June 25th we will have five new VISTA Members joining our year long program! Myself (Brian Parks, VISTA Leader), Michael Stoops and Andre Colter (NCH Speaker) had the privilege of meeting these new members at their AmeriCorps Orientation this week in Baltimore. We can't wait to see all of the great work that takes place this upcoming year!

- David Justiniano - Charlotte County Homeless Coalition , Ten Year Plan Coordinator
- Sean Dollard- Miami Coalition for the Homeless, Social Media and Web Coordinator
- Chad McMillion- Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County, Social Media and Web Coordinator
- Alicia Olexa- Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County, Speaker's Bureau Coordinator
- Michael Jefferson- St. Vincent de Paul Beans and Bread Baltimore, Speaker's Bureau Coordinator

### **Capella's Inspired Givers**

Helping others is a fundamental aspect of everything we do at NCH. We've recently developed a unique relationship with Capella University that helps us demonstrate this commitment even more. Capella is an accredited, online university that offers graduate and undergraduate programs for working professionals who want to make a greater difference in a variety of fields. Through a program called **Inspire Giving**, Capella students earn points for their hard work—and then use those points to support the good work of nonprofits like ours. Each point represents \$1 that Capella gives on their behalf to NCH and other partner organizations of their choosing. We're excited about this opportunity to connect with others who share a passion and a commitment to making a greater difference. [Learn more](#) about the program.

**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**

**USA Today** (June 10) - [Cities' homeless crackdown: Could it be compassion fatigue?](#)

**Huffington Post Impact** (June 13) - [Rhode Island Passes "Homeless Bill Of Rights"](#)

**New York Times** (June 19) - [After Sweeps, San Jose Stores Property of Homeless](#)

### **Special Thanks to our recent donors and renewed members!**

Aberdeen Foundation, Gaelan Armstrong, Jon Ballew, Ole Behrendtsen, Gorus Bix, Fred Brady, Patrick Breslin, Capella University – Student Inspire Giving Program, Eric Cooper, Laurie Corsello, Gale Cengage Learning, Greater Than Shelter, Ronald Greenleaf Jr., Tina Hayward, Ruth Kahn, Mark Kaiserman, Justin Low, Man Cave Day LLC, Wendy McQuiston, Jule Monnens, Tom Morgan, Mountain of Faith

## Upcoming Grant Opportunities

### Funds for Basic Needs from the TJX Foundation

[The TJX Foundation](#) supports nonprofit organizations in the communities throughout the continental U.S. where TJX Companies, Inc. divisions operate stores. The Foundation's primary mission is to contribute to programs that provide basic-need services to disadvantaged women, children, and families in company communities. Specific areas of interest include civic/community, domestic violence prevention, education, health, and social services. The final application deadline for 2012 funding is **July 16**.

Ministries, National Student Campaign Against Hunger & Homelessness, Peter Orvetti, Kay Pickering, Plasmanet, Rosemarie Poole, David Posner, Carolyn Sechler, Michael and Isabel Spiegel, These Storied Streets, Brian Tiffany, Ginger Wallace

### Grants Enhance Free Clinics in Michigan

[Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan](#) offers two types of support to free clinics providing health care services to the state's low-income, uninsured, and underinsured residents through the Strengthening the Safety Net grant program. [Notice of Intent to Apply](#) forms must be submitted by **June 21, 2012**; online applications are due July 9, 2012.

### Grants to Support Youth Service Projects

Each year, Youth Service America (YSA) supports youth-led service with over \$1 million in YSA Grants. For more information about 5 YSA Grants programs for community organizations and K-12 schools worth more than \$450,000 now accepting applications, visit [www.YSA.org/grants](http://www.YSA.org/grants).

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