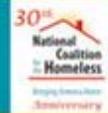


# The Advocate

NCH Newsletter

June 21, 2013

**It's Our 30th!**  
Click Here to Join us for a Year of Reflection, Action, & Education



## Welcoming a new Executive Director, Homeless Bill of Rights, Highlights from Field & Grant Opportunities

### Dear Friend,

The Board of Directors of the National Coalition for the Homeless is pleased to [announce](#) the appointment of Jerry Jones as its new Executive Director. Jones follows the successful work of [Neil Donovan](#), who stepped down from this role in May.

Board President John Parvensky announced the new hire: "Homelessness in America is a national tragedy that has been tolerated for far too long. We can no longer stand quietly while budgets are cut and our political leaders try to manage the problem rather than solve it. We intend to escalate pressure to demand a response that is proportionate to this crisis, and we have hired an Executive Director with a strong background in grassroots mobilization to lead this effort. We are especially committed to making sure that the voices of those experiencing homelessness themselves and others living in extreme poverty are heard in this debate."

Jones has a twenty-five year background in community organizing, issue advocacy and national-level campaigns. He is a former aide to the late Mitch Snyder, a prominent advocate for the homeless during the 1980s. More recently, Jones comes to the National Coalition for the Homeless from the Center for Community Change, where he has served as the Director of Special Initiatives. His roles there included founding the Center's electoral program in 2004, helping to launch the National Campaign for Jobs and Income Support, and coordinating a national progressive coalition in response to last year's Fiscal Cliff.

"Jerry has been a key member of our senior staff for nearly ten years," said Deepak Bhargava, Executive Director of the Center for Community Change. "We congratulate him on this new assignment and wish him the very best."

For more information about the National Coalition for the Homeless, please visit our website: [www.nationalhomeless.org](http://www.nationalhomeless.org)

### Connect with NCH



### Upcoming Events

July 15-16, 2013 - Midwest Health & Housing Conference  
[Register today](#) for this training that also offers networking opportunities for providers of health care and shelter services throughout Illinois and the rest of Region V.

August 14, 2013 - Health Care for the Homeless Day  
Held during National Health Center Week is August 11-17, 2013, this is a day to meet with your elected officials. [Learn more.](#)

July 22-24, 2013 - NAEH Annual Conference, Washington, DC  
[Learn more.](#)

November 2-5, 2013 - NAEHCY Annual Conference  
Registration is now open for the 25th Annual National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) Conference. [Register for the conference](#) or [learn more.](#)

## Homeless Bill of Rights Passes in CT & IL!!

Grassroots organizations, service providers, homeless advocates, students, and politicians are rallying across the country to convey the message that homeless individuals have civil rights that must be fully respected and protected.

In June, it became clear to us that a national civil rights movement is forming under the legislative banner "Homeless Bill of Rights." Following the stall of California's Homeless Person's Rights and Fairness Act (AB-5) in the state's Assembly Appropriates Committee, we saw two wins with the passage of bills by [Illinois](#) (May 28th) and [Connecticut](#) (June 5th). Both bills ensure that homeless individuals have the right to:

- move freely in public spaces without threat of harassment or arrest from law enforcement
- receive and maintain fair housing and employment
- access to emergency medical care
- register to vote

Other states, including Delaware, Missouri, Oregon, Tennessee, and Vermont, are working to pass similar legislation in their communities. Rhode Island and Puerto Rico have already enacted Homeless Bills of Rights.

The National Coalition for the Homeless understands the weight and value [Homeless Bill of Rights](#) hold. Unfortunately, without these essential documents, un-housed persons face harassment or criminal charges for resting, receiving meals, asking for monetary assistance, and having personal property in public spaces (just to name a few).

## Highlights from the Field

- In late August the [Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau](#) will be speaking to incoming first-year students at American University, George Washington University, and Georgetown University. These students come to school a week early to do community service. Their "first professors" will be people who have experienced homelessness. Since 1989, we have spoken each August at Georgetown University's [First-Year Orientation to Community Involvement](#) (FOCI) program, our longest, continuous speaking arrangement.

Media Highlights:

- VISTA Alicia Olexa in Palm Beach County organized an amazing Flash Mob for Homeless Youth. Watch the [full video on YouTube](#).
- NCH VISTA in Tampa, FL, Darren Steptoe, is featured in

## NCH in the News

Mint Press News (June 15) - [Anti-Discrimination Legislation Protects The Homeless In Connecticut](#)

Think Progress (June 17) - [Baton Rouge's New Plan For Its Homeless Population: Give Them One-Way Bus Tickets](#)

## Special Thanks to our recent donors, and new and renewed members!

Aberdeen Foundation, Kimberly Allard, Barbara Anderson, Gaelan Armstrong, Gorus Bix, Tjoman Buditaslim, Capella University - Inspire Giving Program, Sean Cononie, Stephane Dahan, Ronald Encarnacion, GMB Direct Inc., Amanda Jones, Fred Karnas, Maureen Knipschild, Mary Knox, Will Lerner, Santiago and Melinda Moncada, Jule Monnens, Peter Orvetti, Suresh Paul, Rosemarie Poole, Sara Powell, Jonathan Rivers-Moore, Shane Rock, Evan Rogers, Carolyn Sechler, St. Luke's Health Initiatives, Albert Sweigart, Brian Tiffany, Chaz Tyler, Allyn Wall, Bradley Wells, Andrew Williamson, Kathleen Yasuda

[this article](#) about local students learning from homeless and formerly homeless speakers.

- Alisa Bazo, Capacity Building Coordinator in Key West, FL, was featured recently on the [local morning news program](#)!

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## Upcoming Grant Opportunities

### [Summer Meals Program](#)

Summer is fast approaching, and many families facing food insecurity still don't know about the free, nutritious summer meals available to children 18 years old and younger in areas with a high percentage of low-income families. Spread the word about summer meals so that no child goes hungry this summer when school is out. Organizations and local governments across the country serve free summer meals through at sites like parks, recreation centers, schools, places of worship, summer camps, libraries, and mobile buses in low-income communities. Tell families you work with how to find sites in their community that serve free summer meals by telling where they can send their children.

### [Food Programs in Low-Income Communities](#)

The Community Economic Development Healthy Food Financing Initiative Projects program provides support to implement strategies to address food deserts, increase healthy food access in low-income communities, foster self-sufficiency for low-income families, and create sustained employment opportunities in low-income communities. The application deadline is July 2, 2013.

### [Tom's of Maine 50 States for Good](#)

The Tom's of Maine 50 States for Good initiative supports grassroots organizations throughout the country working to do good in their communities. In 2013, the program will provide 15 grants of \$10,000 each to nonprofit organizations that address healthy, human, or environmental goodness. Eligible organizations must have operating budgets under \$2 million. A review panel will select a finalist from every state and Washington, DC, and a public vote will determine which 15 of the 51 finalists will receive a grant. The deadline for submitting online nominations is 5pm ET July 8, 2013.

### [Program Helps Runaway and Homeless](#)

The Basic Center Program offers support to provide an alternative for runaway and homeless youth who might otherwise end up with law enforcement or in the child welfare, mental health, or juvenile justice systems. The application deadline is July 22, 2013.

### [Self-Sufficiency Grants](#)

The Self-Sufficiency Grant is designed to prevent normally self-

sufficient but low-income households from entering the cycle of poverty by helping them to afford short-term emergency expenses that would otherwise pose a tremendous hardship for the grant applicant. Payment grants is made directly to a creditor of the grantee. Applicants should keep in mind that they will be asked to document information they provide regarding their identities, incomes, housing costs, and the expense with which they would like to apply for help to afford during the application process.



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