

NCH . NEWS . . .

NATIONAL COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS | 2201 P St NW | Washington, DC 20037
 Phone: 202.462.4822 | Fax: 202.462.4823 | INFO@NATIONALHOMELESS.ORG | WWW.NATIONALHOMELESS.ORG

Hello,

This is the November issue of NCH News.

Information on how to unsubscribe is found at the bottom of this email. If you would like to receive a print version of this newsletter, please contact: swaite@nationalhomeless.org

In this issue:

1. NCH Launches Candidate Homeless Challenge
2. National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day Dec. 21
3. Give US Your Poor CDs Now at NCH
4. NCH on the Road
5. House Approves National Affordable Housing Trust Fund
6. National Fair Housing Policy Conference April 8-11
7. Poll: People Worry About Being Homeless
8. Cushing Niles Dolbear Media Awards Recognize Outstanding Journalists
9. Feeding Intolerance: Cities Cracking Down on Groups Feeding Hungry, Says New Report

NCH Launches Candidate Homeless Challenge

NCH is launching a new project challenging candidates for local, state and federal office to live on the streets. This is a spin-off of NCH's well known Urban Plunge program, in which primarily college students spend 48 hours on the streets. It is also patterned after recent the Food Stamp Challenge where at least a half dozen Members of Congress lived on a food stamp budget for a week.

To aid in this project, NCH is creating a permanent staff position based in Washington, DC. The Urban Plunge Project Director will be responsible for creating and maintaining the Urban Plunge manual and providing training to organizations across the country on how to administer the Urban Plunge program. Other duties will include writing press releases for local and national media, coordinating plunges nationwide with local homeless advocates, recruiting Plunge guides, keeping a calendar of events and updating the NCH website, promoting the Urban Plunge program, and fundraising.

The position will require some nationwide travel. Candidates who have experienced homelessness are encouraged to apply. Send your resume to NCH's Acting Executive Director Michael Stoops at mstoops@nationalhomeless.org.

National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day Dec. 21

On December 21, NCH and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council (NHCHC) will co-sponsor the 17th annual National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day. Held on the first day of winter – the longest night of the year – the observance serves to commemorate those who have died as a result of homelessness and reaffirm our commitment to ending it.

To mark the occasion, NCH and NHCHC will hold a vigil in memory of those affected by homelessness that passed away this year. The vigil will take place in McPherson Square Park in Washington, DC at 5:00 p.m., and will include words from local homeless advocates and clergy.

In addition, NCH is assisting homeless advocates outside the DC area to hold memorials of their own. Last year, more than 100 such events were held in communities across the country.

NCH's Organizing Manual for National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day is available at <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/getinvolved/projects/memorial/memorial07.pdf>.

Give US Your Poor CDs Now at NCH

Appleseed Recordings' *Give US Your Poor: 17 New Recordings to Help End Homelessness* can now be ordered from NCH. The CD includes songs by artists who have experienced homelessness, as well as previously unreleased tracks by Bruce Springsteen, Jon Bon Jovi, and Bonnie Raitt.

Proceeds benefit both NCH and Give US Your Poor, a University of Massachusetts based program focused on raising public awareness of the problem of homelessness in the US.

To order the CD, visit <http://nationalhomeless.org/publications/publist.html>.

NCH on the Road

Upcoming Faces of Homelessness Speaking Engagements:

December 2nd - PANIM - DC

December 10th - Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church - DC

December 12th - PANIM - DC

December 12th - Fort Defiance High School - Fort Defiance, VA

House Approves National Affordable Housing Trust Fund

By Dana Sherry

In Mid-October, the House of Representatives voted 264-148 to approve H.R. 2895, the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act of 2007. The legislation will fund the construction or rehabilitation of 1.5 million units of affordable housing over the next 10 years. At least 75% of the funds will be dedicated to extremely low-income households (those that earn below 30% of an area's median income).

Between \$800 million and \$1 billion a year will be available to states and local communities to increase their supply of affordable housing. If enacted, the measure will create a Treasury account that can only be used to construct, repair, or rehabilitate affordable housing units and assist first-time home buyers with their down payments. Money from Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the Federal Housing Administration will be used for the Housing Trust Fund.

The passage of the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund marks a key milestone in affordable housing policy. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, only 69% of the 9 million extremely low income households in the US have access to adequate affordable housing. The Housing Trust Fund will significantly decrease the nation's current shortage of 2.8 million affordable housing units. Housing is considered affordable if it costs no more than 30% of household income.

Along with other affordable housing advocates, NCH calls upon the Senate to introduce a trust fund bill with bipartisan co-sponsorship before the end of 2007.

National Fair Housing Policy Conference April 8-12

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) will be holding its National Fair Housing Policy Conference April 8 through April 12, 2008, in Atlanta, Georgia. This year's conference will commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act's passage.

Open to all, the conference seeks to provide fair housing and civil rights policy guidance to competitive grant and entitlement recipients under the HUD Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP) and the Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP).

The Policy Conference will take place at the Hilton Atlanta, located at 255 Courtland Street NE. For further information, contact alancaster@dixongroup.com.

Poll: People Worry About Being Homeless

By Jennifer C. Kerr, Associated Press

WASHINGTON -- Nearly a third of Americans have at one point worried about becoming homeless and many more are taking in friends and relatives needing a home, a survey found.
more stories like this

The homelessness issue has touched more than those who are living on the streets, according to a Gallup poll released Wednesday.

"People are worried even though it might not ever happen to them," said Michael Stoops, acting executive director of the Washington-based National Coalition for the Homeless. "When people read the news and read about bankruptcies, home foreclosures and auto plants being closed, they worry that they may be next."

Overwhelmingly, those polled -- 92 percent -- said more effort is needed across the nation to address the issue of homelessness. Thirty-five percent said the federal government should take a lead role fighting homelessness, while 25 percent identified state governments as most responsible for addressing the issue.

Editor's Note: To read the rest of the article, click the article title.

Cushing Niles Dolbeare Media Awards Recognize Outstanding Journalists

The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) is seeking print journalists to submit work for consideration in its 2nd Annual Cushing Niles Dolbeare Media Awards. The Awards honor exemplary reporting on affordable housing issues.

Awards will be given for single stories, article series, and editorials. Each first-place winner will receive a prize of \$2,500 and, along with runners-up, be recognized in a reception on February 28 in Washington, DC. The awards were made possible with a grant from Andre Shashaty, editor-in-chief of *Affordable Housing Finance* magazine.

For more information on the Awards, visit <http://www.nlihc.org/template/page.cfm?id=135>.

Feeding Intolerance: Cities Cracking Down on Groups Feeding Hungry, Says New Report

Washington, DC, November 15, 2007 - The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty (NLCHP) and the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) have released a new report entitled *Feeding Intolerance: Prohibitions on Sharing Food with People Experiencing Homelessness*. The report details how local governments across the country are using a wide variety of ordinances, policies, and tactics to restrict groups that share food with poor and homeless people. The report also offers examples of
...bethesdahosting.com/.../397_2007...

5/15/2009

NCH News Email Newsletter

ordinances, policies, and tactics to restrict groups that share food with poor and homeless people. The report also offers examples of more constructive alternatives to these counterproductive laws.

"Punishing charitable groups and people for the 'crime' of feeding their hungry fellow human beings is appalling," said Maria Foscarinis, Executive Director of NLCHP. "It is also counter-productive: cities should be working with these groups, not against them."

The criminalization of homelessness in the United States is a severe problem, with cities across the country implementing measures that ban eating, sitting, or sleeping in public. While these regulations have been on the rise over the past 10 years, laws targeting local churches and other groups who feed or shelter homeless people mark a disturbing new trend that threatens the well-being of America's most vulnerable citizens.

"Restricting the feeding of homeless people in public spaces nationwide is just another veiled effort to push the visible poor out of downtown America," said Michael Stoops, Acting Executive Director of NCH.

The report covers a diverse list of cities around the country in which unfair restrictions on sharing food have been enacted and enforced. These cities are: Atlanta; Baltimore; Chattanooga, Tenn.; Cincinnati; Dallas; Denver; Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; Gainesville, Fla.; Hempstead, N.Y.; Jacksonville, Fla.; Las Vegas; Miami; Orlando, Fla.; Pinellas Park, Fla.; Portland, Ore.; San Francisco; Santa Monica, Calif.; Sarasota, Fla.; Tampa, Fla.; West Palm Beach, Fla.; and Wilmington, N.C.

The report also offers alternatives to these restrictions, including steps that cities like Cleveland, Ohio have taken to combat hunger without criminalizing sharing efforts.

"Constructive programs like Cleveland's suggest that alternatives to food sharing restrictions do exist," said Tulin Ozdeger, Civil Rights Program Director at NLCHP. "They show that local governments can successfully work together with homeless advocates to reach a common goal: ending hunger and homelessness."

The report is available for download at www.nlchp.org and www.nationalhomeless.org.

For more information on the report, contact NLCHP Civil Rights Program Director Tulin Ozdeger (Tozdeger@NLCHP.org, 202/638-2535) or NCH Acting Executive Director Michael Stoops (Mstoops@nationalhomeless.org, 202/462-4822).

NATIONAL COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS | 2201 P St NW | Washington, DC 20037

Phone: 202.462.4822 | Fax: 202.462.4823 | INFO@NATIONALHOMELESS.ORG | WWW.NATIONALHOMELESS.ORG

Powered By



[remove from list](#)
[update profile](#)