

# 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](mailto:INFO@NATIONALHOMELESS.ORG) | [WWW.NATIONALHOMELESS.ORG](http://WWW.NATIONALHOMELESS.ORG)

Hello,

This is the October edition of NCH News.

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## "Bum Hunting" Premieres on 60 Minutes?

"BUM HUNTING"

It's a perverse national trend. Across the country, packs of teenage boys are stalking homeless people and attacking them. Over the last five years, at least one homeless person has been killed each month for no apparent reason. So what motivates the teens to attack? And how big a role are "Bumfights" – a series of popular DVD's in which real homeless people perform degrading stunts – playing in egging the kids on? Ed Bradley will take a close look at this disturbing trend on this week's 60 MINUTES (Sunday, Oct. 1, 7PM ET/PT on CBS.)

The National Coalition for the Homeless' longstanding work on this issue is featured in this broadcast.

Guests include:

Ed Bradley, Host

Jeffrey Spurgeon, 19, along with four other teens, who killed a Michael Roberts in May of 2005 in Holly Hill, Florida.

Brian Levin, criminologist, California State University and an expert on hate crimes.

Ryan McPherson, a creator of the Bumfights videos series

## NCH is Hiring! Check out our Americorp\* VISTA positions?

**Development Coordinator (2 Positions)**

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**National Coalition for the Homeless:**

Founded in 1984, the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) is the nation's largest and oldest national homelessness advocacy organization whose goal is to end homelessness. Toward that end, NCH concentrates on four issue areas: affordable housing, universal health care, living wages, and civil rights. We use the following strategies: public education, policy analysis, advocacy, research, community organizing and technical assistance.

**Project Job Description:**

The National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) has an AmeriCorps\*VISTA position open for an exciting opportunity to work in resource development/fundraising. The AmeriCorps\*VISTA member will take responsibility for NCH's development and membership outreach program. The project involves raising funds, increasing membership, and creating/implement a permanent development department. The member will be working with NCH's Director of Development who will provide direct supervision and training. The member will be based at NCH's downtown Washington, DC office.

**Position Responsibilities:**

- \* To assist the Development Director in implementing the fundraising work plan
- \* To develop, maintain and update a funding deadlines calendar
- \* To assist the Development Director in writing a monthly development report to be submitted to NCH's Board Executive Committee
- \* To submit inquiry letters and/or full proposals to foundations and corporations
- \* Fundraising and advertising through NCH's e-commerce initiatives
- \* To increase individual and organizational membership for NCH
- \* Database development and maintenance
- \* Participation in local/national charity campaigns
- \* Representing NCH at conferences/events both in the DC area and nationally
- \* Working with state government agencies to ensure that NCH complies with consumer protection/solicitation laws
- \* To submit and coordinate NCH's applications to register for solicitation drives with state agencies
- \* To write direct mail appeals
- \* To coordinate NCH's participation in the annual Help the Homeless Walkathon
- \* To coordinate NCH's annual fundraising event
- \* To assist in the staffing of a Board Development Committee

**Preferred Skills & Qualifications:**

- \* Interest and commitment to working for long-term solutions to homeless
- \* Familiarity with homelessness/poverty issues
- \* Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- \* Strong proficiency with computer programs
- \* Strong research skills and experience
- \* Excellent Organizational skills
- \* Self-motivation and ability to motivate and inspire others
- \* Ability to work independently
- \* Ability to work in a diverse working environment and with members of the community-at-large

**Compensation and Start Date:**

This is a full-time position and requires a one year commitment. Compensation includes: a living allowance of \$10,728, relocation expenses, travel reimbursement, health insurance, an education benefit of \$4,725 or a \$1,250 exit stipend is provided after successfully completing a one year term of service. This education award may be used for loan repayment or tuition reimbursement. Your qualified, federally backed, student loan repayment will be deferred during your term of service with AmeriCorps\*Vista.

**Application Process:**

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Send a cover letter, resume, writing sample, and references to:

Michael Stoops at [mstoops@nationalhomeless.org](mailto:mstoops@nationalhomeless.org)

## **Crimes Against the Homeless on the Rise?**

Each year the number of crimes against the homeless increases as communities watch apathetically. America's growing indifference became more apparent this past month in light of the recent deaths of Tara Cole and Jose Perez, two homeless individuals who died after being attacked. Yet despite the increase in numbers, efforts to correct America's increasing detachment to these outrageous crimes have failed to emerge.

The latest incident occurred in a Little Havana neighborhood the first week of September. Eighteen year old Janice Guillen ran down to her car to fetch a pack of cigarettes. While on the street, Guillen claims Jose Perez, a local homeless man, made an inappropriate remark. Police report Guillen then assaulted Perez, punching him in the face. She was soon joined by her boyfriend, Magdiel Wingfield, 28, and two friends, who on hearing the commotion, rushed to the scene. Guillen and Wingfield, along with Jason  
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Cardenas, 19, and Kevin Stone, 27, viciously beat Perez. The foursome attacked Perez with items ranging from a piece of steel rebar to a chair before throwing the 67 year old into a glass window. Stone and Cardenas attempted to flee the scene but were picked up by police when they crashed into a nearby construction zone. Perez was taken to Jackson Memorial Hospital where he later died from his extensive injuries. All four participants in the beatings were charged with second-degree murder. Miami police department spokesman, Lt. Bill Schwartz maintained that the incident was "...bloodlust, pure and simple", describing Perez as "not...the most refined or most polite gentlemen that ever walked on the planet, but he didn't deserve to die in this vicious way."

The brutal attack follows on the heels of the highly publicized August 11<sup>th</sup> incident in Tennessee. In Nashville, 32 year old Tara Cole, a homeless woman, was pushed into the Cumberland River while she slept. The two attackers, later identified as 21 year old Timothy Weber of Lebanon and 22 year old Josh Dotts of Lafayette, also assaulted another man. Jesse Masters, 26, another homeless man from the area, claims he was also hit in the face with a bottle by the young men. The beatings were captured on a nearby Metro police surveillance camera which helped lead to the eventual arrest of Weber and Dotts. Cole's body was recovered from the river 11 days after the occurrence. The body's recovery sparked controversy among investigators, particularly amongst members of the Emergency Managements Volunteer and K-9 Search and Rescue Unit. Investigator Nikki Ivey voiced concern over the length of time taken to find the body. In a letter to the Vice Mayor of Nashville, Ivey states that "Tara Cole should have been recovered within 15 hours of her reported drowning...This recovery should have never taken 12 days." Yet despite the accusations of indifference directed toward city investigators, officials maintain they were ignorant of the body's location prior to its recover and did everything in their power to recover Ms. Cole's body as quickly as possible.

The rise in attacks targeted against America's homeless sparks the question among the homeless population and advocates alike: What exactly is being done to help alleviate the threat of attacks? As of September 18th, NCH reported 86 documented crimes against homeless individuals this year, already an increase from the number of beatings in 2005, with three months still remaining until the year's end. With such staggering statistics, it is apparent that the time to take action has already arrived. To date, homeless individuals remain unprotected under the Hate Crimes Statute and crimes against the homeless are not tallied in annual crime reports. Without any clear punitive measures for the actions of attackers, homeless individuals are more vulnerable then ever to the prejudice of their communities. With attacks increasing yearly, communities and city officials should remember that all Americans deserve the right to feel safe on the streets, homeless or not.

## **NCH on the Road**

*Stay up to date on NCH's upcoming speaking engagements throughout the country!*

### **SPEAKERS' BUREAU**

The Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau is a program of the National Coalition for the Homeless that is comprised of people who are or have been homeless and seeks to educate the public about homelessness and what can be done to end it.

### **OCTOBER**

October 3rd: Allegheny College in Meadville PA  
 October 18th-20th: Flintridge Preparatory School in La Canada, CA  
 October 23rd: Baldwin High School in Bryn Mawr, PA  
 October 26th-29th: University of Southern California (NSCAHH) Conference  
 October 27th-28th: Randolph High School in New Jersey  
 October 30th: CARITAS Congregation Beth Ahabah in Richmond, VA

### **NOVEMBER**

November 6th: University of Tampa in Tampa, FL  
 November 8th: Holyoke Community College in Holyoke, MA  
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November 9th: Suffolk University in Boston, MA

November 12th: University of Notre Dame in Notre Dame, IN

November 12th: Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA

November 14th: Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant, MI

November 15th: DeSales University in Center Valley, PA

November 16th: Washington and Lee University in Lexington, VA

In 2005, NCH spoke to over 280 groups in 43 states and nearly 17,000 people. If you are interested in bringing the Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau to your school or community, please contact Michael O'Neil at [moneil@nationalhomeless.org](mailto:moneil@nationalhomeless.org)

### **OTHER SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

October 7-9th: DeSales University in Center Valley, PA (Urban Plunge)

October 13-15th: Washington and Lee University in Lexington, VA (Urban Plunge)

October 26th: California State University in San Bernardino, CA (Michael Stoops)

October 27-29th: National Student Campaign Against Hunger & Homelessness Conference, University of Southern CA

## **National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week Candlelight Vigil**

### **16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL COVENANT HOUSE INTERNATIONAL CANDLELIGHT VIGIL FOR HOMELESS YOUTH TAKES PLACE THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16 IN 17 CITIES**

Help in the fight to end youth homelessness by participating in the 16th Annual Covenant House International Candlelight Vigil for Homeless Youth, co-sponsored by the National Coalition for the Homeless. Candlelight Vigils will take place in 17 cities throughout the United States, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua on Thursday, November 16 to coincide with National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week (November 12-18). Cities hosting the 16th Annual Covenant House International Candlelight Vigil for Homeless Youth include: Anchorage, Atlanta, Ft. Lauderdale, Guatemala City, Houston, Los Angeles, Managua, Mexico City, Newark, New Orleans, New York City, Oakland, Orlando, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Tegucigalpa and Washington, D.C.

The Covenant House International Candlelight Vigil for Homeless Youth will bring together thousands of supporters who want to create greater awareness for the plight of homeless young people. Covenant House ([www.covenanthouse.org](http://www.covenanthouse.org)) is the largest privately funded agency in the Americas providing crucial services such as shelter, counseling, transitional living, health services and educational/vocational training to homeless and runaway youth under 21 years of age.

The public also can support this cause by participating in the Covenant House Virtual Vigil program from October 10 - December 31. During the Virtual Vigil campaign, supporters can log on to the Covenant House Web site to create personalized Candlelight Vigil pages. Donations are raised through the purchase of virtual candles that will be displayed on the page along with your name and/or message. Supporters hosting a "Virtual Vigil"

will have the ability to invite friends and family to join their vigil, thereby increasing funding for Covenant House programs and services.

For more information about the 16th Annual Covenant House International Candlelight Vigil for Homeless Youth or the "Covenant House Virtual Vigil" program, please visit [www.covenanthouse.org](http://www.covenanthouse.org).

## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS: Homeless Voter Registration Drive

### NATIONAL COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

#### HOMELESS VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE

**October 4th & 5th, 2006**

Equal access to the right to vote is a crucial part of maintaining a true democracy. Voting allows people to play a part in deciding the direction of their communities by voicing their opinion on issues that are important and relevant to their lives. Each election, low income and homeless individuals vote at a lower rate than people with higher incomes, despite the fact that many policy decisions directly impact people who are economically disadvantaged. Currently, issues such as raising the minimum wage and funding certain social welfare and housing programs are being debated in the U.S. Congress and in communities around the country. In order for our government to truly represent the people, citizens must vote-- especially those who are economically disadvantaged.

To overcome these obstacles and encourage greater voter participation among low income and homeless citizens, the National Coalition for the Homeless, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty and the National Low Income Housing Coalition are collaborating to co-sponsor National Homeless and Low Income Voter Registration initiatives. By working together with homeless persons, low income individuals, and advocates around the country, our organizations hope to help homeless and low income persons make their voices heard on Election Day.

NCH will be conducting two days of voter registrations at three locations throughout the city. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS to help! If you are interested in helping, please contact Rachele Huelsman at [rhuelsman@nationalhomeless.org](mailto:rhuelsman@nationalhomeless.org) or 202-462-4822 ext. 16.

#### **Voter Registration Drive Locations and Times:**

##### Wednesday October 4th

11:00- 2:00 Dupont & McPherson Metro Stations  
6:00-8:00 Franklin Men's Shelter

##### Thursday October 5th

11:00- 2:00 Dupont & McPherson Metro Stations  
6:00-8:00 Franklin Men's Shelter

## Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walkathon

Please support NCH in the Fannie Mae Foundation Help the Homeless Program, which raises awareness of and funds for Washington metropolitan area organizations that are working to prevent and end homelessness. The Help the Homeless Walkathon on the National Mall will be held on Saturday, November 18, 2006.

Please make a donation to support a walker's participation in the Walkathon, or register to join us at the Walkathon. To make a secure, online donation or to join our team, please visit the Help the Homeless Web page at <http://helpthehomeless.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=183158>

The support you provide is vital to making continued strides in preventing and ending homelessness.

Please click on the title to visit the Help the Homeless Walkathon website and download the registration form. If you have questions please contact:  
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questions please contact:

National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH)

Ms. Rachele Huelsman

2201 P Street, NW

Washington, D.C. 20037-1033

Phone: 202-462-4822 ext. 16

Fax: 202-462-4823

Email: [rhuelsman@nationalhomeless.org](mailto:rhuelsman@nationalhomeless.org)

Web site: <http://www.nationalhomeless.org>

## Calendar of Events

### **OCTOBER EVENTS**

*October 4-5th: Homeless Voter Registration Drive*

Volunteers are encouraged to join NCH to help register homeless people in Washington, D.C. To sign up, please contact Rachele Huelsman at [rhuelsman@nationalhomeless.org](mailto:rhuelsman@nationalhomeless.org) or at 202-462-4822 ext. 16.

*October 12th: Youth and Volunteerism Day- Lobbying on the Hill*

Youth Ages 15-25 are invited to join NCH in lobbying to advocate for the homeless. To sign up, please contact Rachele Huelsman at [rhuelsman@nationalhomeless.org](mailto:rhuelsman@nationalhomeless.org) or at 202-462-4822 ext. 16

*October 14-16th: Board of Directors Meeting*

NCH Board of Directors will be traveling to Washington, D.C. Highlights include a visit to the Hill and a meeting with Interagency Council on Homelessness Director, Phil Mangano.

### **NOVEMBER**

*November 12-18th: National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week*

Each year one week before Thanksgiving, the National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness co-sponsor National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week. During this week, schools, companies and communities take part in a nationwide effort to bring greater awareness to the problems of hunger and homelessness. For more information, please visit [www.nationalhomeless.org/getinvolved/projects/awareness](http://www.nationalhomeless.org/getinvolved/projects/awareness)

*November 18th: Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walkathon*

The Fannie Mae Foundation Help the Homeless Walkathon will be held on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. This is a fabulous way to show your support for ending homelessness and to contribute NCH and other organizations working to end homelessness.

Can come to D.C.? Support one NCH's walkers. Every dollar counts! for more information, please visit

<http://helpthehomeless.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=183158>

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**DECEMBER**

*December 21st: National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day*

National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day is co-sponsored by NCH and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council. For more information, please visit [www.nationalhomeless.org/getinvolved/projects/memorial](http://www.nationalhomeless.org/getinvolved/projects/memorial)

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