Hi there Friend,

Every year on the longest night of the year (December 21st) advocates nationwide gather to remember those we’ve lost to homelessness.

Over 700 people die of Hypothermia each year

This year’s National Homeless Persons’ Memorial Day, held in most locations on or around December 21st, served to raise awareness of the hundreds of people who pass away while they are homeless.

Nationally, over 150 communities commemorated their lost neighbors with candlelight vigils, marches, proclamations and other remembrance services.

In Washington, DC, Assistant Secretary of HUD Mark Johnston, and Linda Kaufman of the 100,000 Homes Campaign joined local clergy in making renewed commitments to ensuring no more of our neighbors die alone on the streets. Over 125 communities members joined in remembering nearly 50 of our homeless and formerly homeless neighbors, including NCH Speaker Jesse Smith.

See more pictures of the event on our Facebook Page.
Serving to Remember Martin Luther King, Jr.

In 1994, Congress designated the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday as a national day of service and charged the Corporation for National and Community Service (which oversees the AmeriCorps Program) with leading this effort. To many of us, MLK Day is now known as a "day on, not a day off."

This year, our AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers across the country created and participated in special service projects to benefits their communities over the MLK Day weekend. Some highlights include:

- Olivia Gardner (Daily Planet in Richmond, VA) was featured in a news segment about a "Bread Breaking" community building event she helped to organize.
- All VISTA volunteers in Washington, DC, including new full time Project Director, Brian Parks, volunteered at Burrville Elementary in Northeast DC along side the first family!
- Ashleigh Eubanks (Bums Latino Studies Academy, Hartford, CT) helped to organize AmeriCorps volunteers from across the city to makeover the gym at the school where she works as a Homeless Liaison for youth.
- Stephanie Sheeley and Marlene Theberge (Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center) helped to organize the annual Fit For King Housing Summit, a one day conference that addressed issues in housing discrimination through workshops, guest speakers and round table discussions.

Learn more about the MLK Day of Service.

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

Youth Service America and Sodexo Foundation

YSA and Sodexo Foundation are calling on young people to join the fight to end childhood hunger. Grants of $500 grants are available for youth ages 5-25 that live in the U.S. Deadline Jan. 31, 2013. Find out how you can end childhood hunger.

The Rockefeller Foundation

The Foundation accepts funding inquiries from nonprofit organizations in the U.S. and internationally that address one of the following targeted initiatives: Protecting American Workers' Economic Security; Promoting Equitable, Sustainable Transportation; Transforming Health Systems; Enabling Environment; Harnessing the Power of Impact Investing; Strengthening Food Security. Funding inquiries are accepted throughout the year. Visit the Foundation’s website to learn more about each initiative and to submit an online funding inquiry.