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The Advocate

NCH Newsletter

February 29, 2013

National Coalition for the Homeless

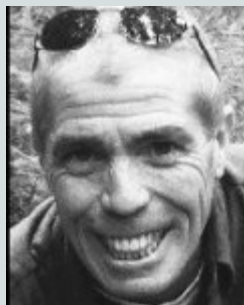


Remembering an Advocate's Advocate, News from the Field & Grant Opportunities

Hi there Friend,

If homelessness is a national problem with local solutions, then John Joyce was Rhode Island's answer to the question "Who will fight the good fight against homelessness in our community?"

This past week, the city of Providence, the state of Rhode Island and the nation lost an advocate's advocate when John Joyce lost his battle with cancer at the age of 50. The National Coalition for the Homelessness and its membership, both housed and un-housed, wish to express a profound sadness for a friend lost too early and thanks for a life that was truly special by any measure.



Many years went into the making of this courageous homeless advocate. Like many before him, John's path through homelessness made him a genuine soldier for the war on poverty. His testimonials were spoken from the heart and rendered clearly in first person experiences. John led Rhode Island through an important process that resulted

in the enactment of the nation's first "Homeless Bill of Rights", a state legislative success that has been emulated nationwide.

We will miss John for his courage and his commitment. But perhaps most of all, we will miss him as a true sign of hope that one day we will live in a fully housed nation.

Please read more about John's life and death at <http://news.providencejournal.com/breaking-news/2013/02/homeless-advocate-joyce-dies-after-cancer-battleready.html>

-Neil Donovan, Executive Director

News from the Field: NCH VISTAs are Getting Things Done

Connect with NCH



NCH in the News

The Western Front (Feb. 1) - [Young and homeless: Man crosses country to find a better life](#)

WBUR 90.9 FM's Here & Now (Feb. 12) - [Is Change in a Cup the Best Way to Help the Homeless?](#)

Central Florida Future (Feb. 13) - [Orlando rated meanest city toward homeless](#)

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

Aberdeen Foundation, Kimberly Allard, Dorothy Allbritton, Gaelan Armstrong, Jon Ballew, Baltimore Health Care for the Homeless Inc., Gorus Bix, Capella University - Inspire Giving Program, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, Sean Cononie, Stephane Dahan, Julie Downs, Ronald Encarnacion, Samuel Garcia, Wenona Harding, Hillel Foundation At Brandeis University, Hilton HHonors, Amanda Jones, Ruth Kahn, Will Lerner, Tracy Matsko, Jule Monnens, Mutual Housing

- On February 28th AmeriCorps*VISTA Leader, Margaret Djekovic, based at the Homeless Coalition of Hillsborough County in Tampa, Florida who has served in the NCH AmeriCorps*VISTA project for four years, two as a Speaker's Bureau Coordinator & two as a VISTA Leader, will be terming out of her four years of service. She will be heading back to her native Chicago to work with the Corporation for Supportive Housing. We will truly miss Margaret and wish her all the best with her future endeavors.



- Devon Williams, AmeriCorps*VISTA serving as a Capacity Building Coordinator at the Central Outreach and Advocacy Center in Atlanta, Georgia, was honored with UNCF Young Alumnus of the Year Award on February 15th.
- Michael Jefferson, AmeriCorps*VISTA serving as the Faces of Homelessness Speaker's Bureau Coordinator at the Beans & Bread Center in Baltimore, Marland. "Several of our speakers have been featured on local news programs recently for their own personal advocacy work. I am proud to see that Baltimore's Speakers' Bureau has created a supportive and empowering organization that has helped our speakers excel as local activists. Here's a [link](#) to a local radio program featuring two of our speakers Damien Haussling and Tony Simmons. Here's another [news story](#) that features one of our most outspoken members Bonnie Lane talking about a homeless camp threatened with eviction. I'm proud to see how speaking has helped our speakers become leaders in many ways."
- [AmeriCorps Week](#) will take place on March 9th - 17th. The purpose of the week is to communicate AmeriCorps' powerful impact on critical problems and on the lives of its members and alums. If you would like to learn more about our AmeriCorps*VISTA Program please visit our website [here](#).

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

Innovative Community-Police Collaborations Recognized
[MetLife Foundation: Community-Police Partnership Awards](#)
The Community-Police Partnership Awards, sponsored by the MetLife Foundation and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), recognize innovative partnerships between community groups and police to promote neighborhood safety and

California, Annouchka Ondias-Souna, Janet O'Rourke, Peter Orvetti, Marlene Perez, Plasmanet, Rosemarie Poole, Michael Rickicki, Evan Rogers, Monika Roseo, Sargent Memorial Presbyterian Church, Carolyn Sechler, Cristina Semi, Rosalind Smith, Albert Sweigart, Eleanor Taylor, Brian Tiffany, Upstate Homeless Coalition of S.C., Enrique Vazquez, Venhood Victor and Shreemati Budhan, Allyn Wall, Bradley Wells, Kathleen Yasuda, Christine Yates, Lowre Young

revitalization. Five Neighborhood Revitalization Awards, ranging from \$20,000 to \$30,000, will celebrate exemplary collaboration between community groups and police that yield crime reduction as well as economic development outcomes such as real estate development, business attraction, and job growth. Five additional awards of \$15,000 each recognize exemplary collaboration between community and police partners who have achieved significant public safety outcomes in eight targeted categories. The preliminary application deadline is March 17, 2013. Program details are available on the LISC website.

Support for Environmental Health Programs

[The Kresge Foundation: Healthy Environments](#)

The Kresge Foundation's Healthy Environments grant program seeks to improve the health and well-being of vulnerable populations by making the places they live, learn, work and play safe and conducive to overall good health. The Healthy Homes Initiative supports innovative efforts to address the impacts of housing on health. The Transportation and the Built Environment initiative addresses the health effects of freight transport, especially on vulnerable communities and workers, as well as efforts to re-examine aspects of the built environment that create barriers to physical activity, air and water quality, and safety. The Healthy Food initiative strives to improve food system policies, especially those that provide better access to healthful foods, fruits, and vegetables and reduce the emphasis on products without positive nutritional benefits. Preliminary applications may be submitted at any time. Visit the Foundation's website to review the application guidelines.

Support for Volunteer Projects That Serve Vets

[Home Depot Community Impact Grants Program](#)

The Home Depot Community Impact Grants Program provides support to nonprofit organizations, public schools, and public service agencies in the U.S. that are using the power of volunteers to improve the physical health of their communities. Proposals for the following community improvement activities will be considered: repairs, refurbishments, and modifications to low-income and/or transitional veteran's housing or community facilities (schools, community centers, senior centers, etc.); weatherizing or increasing energy efficiency of low-income and/or transitional veteran's housing or community facilities; and planting trees or community gardens and/or landscaping community facilities that serve veterans. Priority is given to projects for veterans that include housing repairs, modifications, and weatherization work. Grants of up to \$5,000 are made in the form of The Home Depot gift cards for the purchase of tools, materials, or services. Requests will be accepted from February 1 through August 13, 2013. Visit the Home Depot website to submit an online application.

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2201 P Street NW
Washington, DC 20037
Tel: (202) 462-4822
Email: info@nationalhomeless.org

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