

# The Advocate

NCH Newsletter

March 28, 2013



## Hitting New Records in Outreach, Homeless Bill of Rights, AmeriCorps Week & Grant Opportunities

### Happy Spring Friend,

As advocates, we understand the importance of disseminating information and the wisdom of sharing it as broadly as possible. The [Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau](#) is a program that works to educate the public about homelessness and what can be done to prevent, reduce and ultimately end the widespread condition of being un-housed.

NCH's "first person" approach is a unique and necessary tool for establishing significant platforms for those affected directly by homelessness. Each bureau creates unique local opportunities for its members to advocate both personally and collectively for building bridges to their greater community.

[During the month of March](#), NCH's bureaus were busy supporting students who chose to take an "Alternate Spring Break". While many students were at the beach or back home with friends, students from more than three dozen universities and colleges came to our Nation's capitol to take on the "Homeless Challenge" of sleeping on the streets for a few nights with our homeless guides, listening to a speakers panel and taking on the goal of an "Outreach Run".

NCH's programs are becoming increasingly more and more popular with students, corporate members and throughout our membership. These programs are now reaching a broader more diverse audience with its message and experiences.

This month, NCH had success with record-breaking [March Madness](#) impact:

34 Faces of Homelessness Speakers Panels Held

### Connect with NCH



### Upcoming Events

April 26-28, 2013 - Global Youth Service Day

Learn more about how to take part or register your event at [GYSD.org](#). Here are [10 ways you can end hunger](#):

1. Find ways to put surplus food to better use.
2. Organize food drives or fundraisers.
3. Plant or spruce up a school or community garden.
4. Volunteer at a local food bank, pantry, shelter, or community kitchen.
5. Start or support a backpack feeding program.
6. Support and raise awareness of summer feeding programs.
7. Increase use of SNAP (formerly called food stamps) and/or Free and Reduced-Price School Meals programs.
8. Help teach families about healthy eating and

18 Policy and Lobbying Presentations Given  
9 Outreach Runs Conducted  
8 Homeless Challenges (2 nights) Led

58 Total Events  
39 Schools/Organizations Engaged  
1,986 Audience Members Engaged

Thank you for your continued help in making this advocacy possible!

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## Update on Homeless Bill of Rights Initiatives

The first statewide [Homeless Bill of Rights](#) was passed in June 2012 by the Rhode Island state legislature. We applaud Rhode Island for its efforts to ensure that everyone has access to equal treatment under the law!

NCH is now providing support to advocates in five more states where legislatures are considering similar Homeless Bill of Rights bills. Here is why NCH supports Homeless Bill of Rights initiatives in [California](#), [Connecticut](#), [Missouri](#), [Oregon](#), [Vermont](#) and more!

- We believe that it is important to pass protections against segregation, laws targeting homeless people for their lack of housing and not their behavior, and restrictions on the use of public space.
- NCH supports privacy protections for those experiencing homelessness, and the ability to vote or feel safe in the community.
- We support broad access to shelter, social services, legal counsel and a quality education for the children of homeless families.

Read more about the [California Homeless Bill of Rights](#) efforts from the Western Regional Advocacy Project.

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## AmeriCorps Week

The Corporation for National Community Service's annual celebration of service - [AmeriCorps Week](#) - was held from March 9th - 17th. NCH was proud to celebrate AmeriCorps' powerful impact on critical problems and on the lives of its members and alums.

NCH's talented VISTAs shared the highlights of their service in [this video](#), released during AmeriCorps Week. Learn more about the AmeriCorps\*VISTA volunteers working to end homelessness through the [NCH VISTA Project](#).

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## Upcoming Grant Opportunities

cooking.

9. Raise public awareness of childhood hunger in your community.
10. Advocate for policies and programs that will help end childhood hunger in your community.

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## NCH in the News

The Commonwealth Times (March 10) - [On streets of D.C., students gain perspective on privilege](#)

Inside Vandy (March 13) - [On the streets: day one of the homeless 'plunge'](#)

New England Cable News (March 17) - [Changing face of the homeless challenges Richmond](#)

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

The Aberdeen Foundation, Robert Adams, Kimberly Allard, Claudine Altvater, Gaelan Armstrong, Tewoderos Ayele, Jon Ballew, Betty & Eddie Barrett, Angela Bascombe, Gorus Bix, Justin Brown, Oanh Bui, Becky Burley, Lee Burns, Coalition To End Homelessness, Sean Cononie, Joseph Cook, Michael DeGregory, Archibald Denny, George Dunn, Carol Eckstein, Ronald Encarnacion, Amanda Fagan, Joelle Farrell, Sadie Gary, Steven Glashower, Hugh Grogan, Nick Gueguen, Yesvy Gustasp, Michael Hajjar, Harris County Hospital District, Amy Henderson, Janet Hostetler,

#### Support for Financial Education Programs

The mission of the [Foundation for Financial Planning](#) is to help people take control of their financial lives by connecting the financial planning community with people in need. The Foundation awards grants to nonprofit organizations nationwide for community outreach and pro-bono activities that utilize financial planning practitioners in the delivery of services. Concept papers must be submitted by April 30, 2013. Application guidelines and forms are available on the Foundation's [website](#).

#### Low-Income Financial Services Supported

The [Assets for Independence Demonstration Program](#) provides support for community-based organizations to offer Individual Development Accounts, financial education, and related services to low-income individuals and families in order for them to accumulate savings and invest in appreciating assets such as a first home, small business, or higher education or training. The application deadline is May 24, 2013.

Amanda Jones, Jacquelyn Kelley, Lauren Knight, Maureen Knipschild, Andrew Kolstad, Nii-Lantei Lamptey, Will Lerner, Jay Levy, Sharon Lovelace, Marion McFadden, John Melcher, Jule Monnens, Peter Orvetti, Plasmanet, Rosemarie Poole, Arash Razavi, Evan Rogers, Jacqueline Rosier, Carolyn Sechler, Gregory Simmons, Anita Smith, Albert Sweigart, Donna Thomas, Lateefah Thompson, Brian Tiffany, Chaz Tyler, Allyn Wall, Stacy Weires, Eric Weires, Bradley Wells, Conney Williams, Timothy Witt, Kathleen Yasuda, Lowre Young

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