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The Advocate

eNews

NCH Newsletter

September 27, 2011



Police Charged with Murdering California Homeless Man

Dear {FIRST_NAME|Friend},

Every American has the right to self defense, even against police officers, and no one in law enforcement has the right to use unreasonable force in the performance of their duty. That was the [final determination](#) made by Tony Rachauckas, Orange County's (CA) District Attorney, after examining evidence of the July 5th beating murder of Kelly Thomas, a mentally ill homeless man whose life was brutally cut short by at least two on-duty Fullerton police officers, Manuel Ramos and Jay Cicinelli. A total of six officers were put on paid administrative leave after Thomas' death.

Thomas died because six officers of the Fullerton Police Department didn't know how to react or respond to a mentally ill person in distress and crisis. When faced with a situation that caused confusion, law enforcement at the scene chose brutal force to subdue Mr. Thomas. This was not an example of appropriate police procedures gone awry. This was a clear case of criminal ignorance, which caused the death of another human being. This could have all been avoided by the appropriate training of law enforcement in engaging a variety of types of individuals with various mental illnesses. It should have been avoided by Mr. Thomas receiving the appropriate treatment in a place he could call home.

- Read [Neil's full article](#).
- Professor Brian Levin's perspective on the [Huffington Post](#).
- NCH's [factsheet on Mental Illness](#).
- Examples of [Constructive Alternatives to Criminalization](#) of people experiencing homelessness.



You can also text NCH to 85944 and reply YES to make a \$10 donation.

Up Coming Events

October 13-16: [National American Street Newspaper Association](#) is holding their 2011 Conference-Back to Our Roots in Nashville, TN.

October 2011: The USA-Canada Alliance of Inhabitants encourage you to [hold an action](#) in your community for International Housing Rights/Zero Eviction Days in October.

November 12-20: [National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week](#) Learn more about holding events and engaging your community!

Madeleine Peyroux Fall Tour Dates

Update: US Senate Voting Rights Hearing

The recent push by some state governments to fight what they have dubbed “voting fraud” prompted Senator Dick Durbin to call a [hearing earlier this month](#) of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights.

Supporters of the new legislation say that these new laws prevent our democracy from being threatened by voter fraud. Opponents of the new legislation (NCH included) argued that voter fraud is nearly nonexistent, and our current system protects our democracy just fine. In addition, they condemn the laws, which make it increasingly difficult for vulnerable populations—homeless, low-income, elderly, disabled, and minority groups—to vote.

Intensifying voter identification laws, and restricting early voting and voter registration unequally affects marginalized populations in America, as it is much harder for these groups to get proper identification to vote. Advocates and political opponents of these new stricter laws argue that these laws are an attack on marginalized people’s civil right to vote, one of our nation’s dearest rights.

What can YOU do?

- Visit our [voting rights page](#) to learn more about how these laws restrict the right to vote.
- Learn what [your state](#) may be doing to suppress voter registration.
- Contact the [Department of Justice](#) and tell them to stop states' action that are suppressing your vote!

NCH is offering recommendations to its readers for free and low cost resources for grant writing, technical assistance, capacity building and other useful and cost effective suggestions.

Today's Recommendation...

Youth Service America (YSA) offers several ways for youth to be more involved in their communities. Here are two upcoming Service Learning Grant opportunities:

[UnitedHealth HEROES Service-Learning Grants - \\$500 or \\$1,000](#)

Deadline: October 17, 2011

The UnitedHealth HEROES program is a service-learning, health literacy initiative developed by UnitedHealthcare and YSA. The program awards grants to help youth, ages 5-25, create and implement local, hands-on programs to fight childhood obesity.

The lovely and talented [Madeleine Peyroux](#) is donating \$1 of every concert ticket sold to a local charity of her choice. Find the closest concert and [buy your tickets](#) today!

NCH in the News

Bradenton.com (Sept. 7) - [Volcom and National Coalition for the Homeless Strive to Collect 50,000 Jeans and Jackets for the Homeless!](#)

DNAInfo.com (Sept. 21) - [Pedestrian Plazas Remain Magnet for Homeless at Night, Despite Outreach](#)

Special Thanks to our recent donors and renewed members!

The Aberdeen Foundation, Kimberly Allard, Gaelan Armstrong, Jon Ballew, Capella University - Inspire Giving Program, Charlotte County Homeless Coalition, Sean Cononie, Marcia Covington, Stephane Dahan, Peter Danelski, Lou Dahong, Robin Denegal, Sherri Downing, Len Druskin, Escarosa Coalition on the Homeless, Joanna Fabrikant, Patricia Fabrikant, Fargo Moorhead Coalition For Homeless Persons, Florida Keys Outreach Coalition, Greater Wheeling Coalition for the Homeless, Zach Jupin, Justin Low, Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance, Wendy McQuiston, Jule

State Farm Good Neighbor Service-Learning Grants - \$1,000**Deadline:** November 9, 2011

State Farm™ is proud to team up with YSA in a dynamic partnership to offer grants of up to \$1,000 for the promotion of service-learning projects in K-12 public schools in all fifty US states and the District of Columbia, and in the Canadian provinces of Alberta, Ontario and New Brunswick.

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