

The Doorway

A Newsletter for

Homeless Missourians Information System

...a tool towards housing all Missourians.

Vol 2

Iss 1

Another Day in Paradise

By Phil Collins

She calls out to the man on the street

"Sir, can you help me?

It's cold and I've nowhere to sleep,
Is there somewhere you can tell me?"

He walks on, doesn't look back

He pretends he can't hear her

Starts to whistle as he crosses the street

Seems embarrassed to be there

Oh think twice, it's another day for

You and me in paradise

Oh think twice, it's just another day for you,

You and me in paradise

She calls out to the man on the street

He can see she's been crying

She's got blisters on the soles of her feet

Can't walk but she's trying

Oh think twice...

Oh lord, is there nothing more anybody can do

Oh lord, there must be something you can say

You can tell from the lines on her face

You can see that she's been there

Probably been moved on from every place

'Cause she didn't fit in there

Oh think twice...

[Lyrics by Astraweb](#)

[View the Video](#)



"THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE SHALL BE THE SUPREME LAW"

MISSOURI ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL WELFARE – SINCE 1901

Cusps

The Ides of March have pasted, Girl Scout Cookies have been distributed and the Taxman has come and gone. Yes, change is in the air. The Homeless Missourians Information System has a new Project Assistant, Rosanna Cassidy.

As many of you know by now, Dirk Cable who was our Project Assistant for the past two and a half years, has taken a new job as Housing Specialist with the Missouri Department of Mental Health. We will all miss Dirk's skills and demeanor though, in fact, I feel he is still on our team, still working to end homelessness, just playing a different position.



Dirk Cable



Rosanna Cassidy

Rosanna comes to us from Springfield where she got her Bachelor's in Computer Information Systems from Southwest Missouri State University and worked most recently for Alternative Opportunities there. She brings a wealth of pertinent talents and experience to the position but I'm going to let her get into that later. Suffice it to say, it's great to have her with us.

Speaking of *The Doorway*, which is the newsletter of the Homeless Missourians Information System (click [Past Issues](#) to view) we are striving to release them more regularly. If anyone has an article, a bit of news, some shameless self-promotion, we'd love to be able to run it in our upcoming issues.

I know many of you are troubled by the proposed budgets currently under discussion in the State Legislature. I encourage you all to take a look at masw.org to see the latest news in social policy legislation and to see the responses being developed by citizens hard at work in the various MASW Task Forces and Chapters around the State. And I encourage you to support them in every way you can.

The Missouri Association for Social Welfare has been responding to challenges to social justice since 1901. This citizen-driven organization has a tradition of being led by creative, hardworking, principled, adaptable folks - but there are never enough! To use one of Senator Wheeler's favorite sayings, "Let's go folks and the More the Merrier!"

Balance-of-State
Continuum of Care
HMIS Participation
690* Total Beds
398 (58%) on-line
39 (6%) in progress
253 (37%) not enrolled
McKinney-Vento Funded
Emergency and Transition Shelters
41 Total Shelters*
28 (85%) on-line
8 (20%) in progress
5 (11%) not enrolled
<small>*Includes non-Domestic Violence shelters, Community Action Programs (CAP) shelters, and those Domestic Violence shelters that have chosen to be partner agencies in HMIS.</small>

So following a cold legislative winter, with budget cuts and rumors of budget cuts still echoing, new strategies are being developed to deal with new environments. A new generation of girl scouts has delivered cookies, the old favorites with new varieties, too. A terrific Project Assistant has transitioned and, just in time, a promising new one has arrived.

--Tom Gould,
Project Director
Homeless Missourians Information System
Missouri Association for Social Welfare





"I don't see the situation getting any better with our economy the way it is. Gas prices are increasing; overall living expenses are increasing, while wages don't increase." And, with a saddened tone of voice, "Homelessness, I see it escalating and that makes me very sad!"

In the small town of Salem, you'll find a woman with a big heart and a home open to those in need of a warm bed, a hot meal, and some understanding. The woman, Pat Stahl, welcomes homeless people into the small two-story home, called the Agape Home, with open arms. The home can accommodate seven individuals (three men and four women) and one family (up to a family size of six). Though the reported "norm" is nine to ten people a night, the Agape Home has taken in as many as 17.

The Agape Home has only two paid staff, Pat herself and Lana Williams, who is part-time. Lana, a former homeless person, is also a member of the Board of Directors for the home. The remaining members of the staff are volunteers, most of whom are residents. Calling what the residents do daily at the house "volunteer work" may not be accurate.

The Agape Home is not like a *shelter*. To the contrary, it is much more like a home...like your home or even mine. When someone makes a mess, that someone is expected to clean it up. When furniture needs to be moved, Pat finds the biggest, strongest, healthiest men available. If dinner needs to be cooked, one of the able bodies with cooking knowledge comes forward. This is the way it is at the Agape Home as well. Everyone takes care of the home like it is their home, because in all fairness, it is.

Pat really wants to recognize one of the volunteers, a non-resident, at the Agape Home. When Fran first came to the home, she spent just two hours a week helping out, mostly driving residents to and from places. Gradually, she began showing up everyday, participating in all the various activities, doing each diligently and tirelessly. The Agape Home thanks you Fran!

Another great lady Pat wishes to recognize is Lorri Brown, a member of the Board of Directors and the Treasurer. She donates an ample amount of her time, energy, and tenderness to the home and its residents. She is always available to lend a helping hand and a sympathetic ear. Lorri, we applaud you!

Pat and the local law enforcement work in-concert to keep the community safe. The on-going communication and cooperation between the two help maintain that safety.

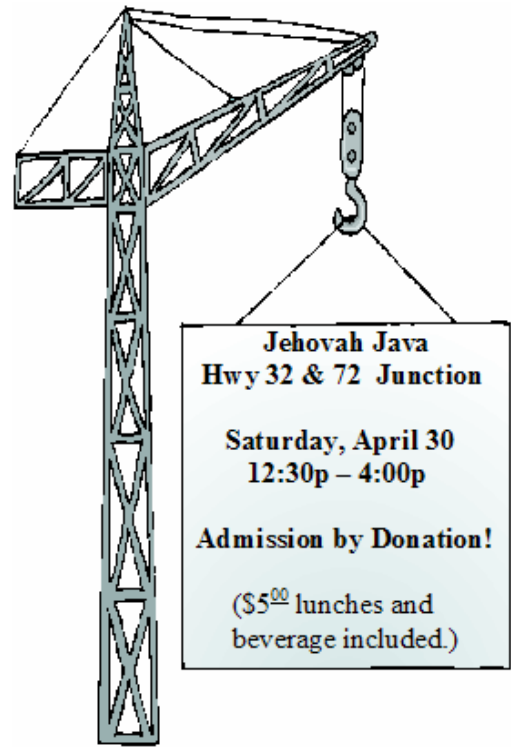
In response to a question about the faith-based environment of the home, Pat said "I think that it helps people feel more stable – safer." While the home is Christian in nature, no one is shunned for not participating in religious-type activities.

Most of the funding for the Agape Home comes from local individuals, businesses, churches, and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Funds. Funding for the Agape Home, like most agencies, is a challenge. In response to this, the Board of Director's, along

with participating groups such as New Highway and Ozark Alliance and Freedom, have put together a fundraising event, called the Jehovah Java. It is billed as "An afternoon of fun!" Folks are invited to come out and help the Agape Home.

"Agape" is a Greek word for transcendent love. There is no word quite like it in English, and no place quite like the Agape Home.

--Rosanna Cassidy
Project Assistant,
Homeless Missourians Information System



Continuum of Care

The Continuum of Care Training for 2005 Applications was held in Jefferson City on April 14th at the Department of Mental Health. This training was specifically for addressing funds available to serve homeless in the HUD Targeted Homeless Assistance Programs/Continuum of Care. We went through the application process, requirements, and deadlines.

The Regional Housing Team meetings are scheduled from the end of April through mid-May. These meetings will provide information on Housing Resources available that can be used alone or as matching funds for HUD CoC programs; review the results of the Unsheltered Homeless Count and how to begin preparing for future counts; review of HMIS; provide an opportunity to talk about the need for housing and other services in the region; and, provide further technical assistance for those interested in applying for CoC Funds.

All meetings are scheduled to be held from 9:00a – Noon and the dates are:

Monday, April 25	Sedalia
Thursday, April 28	Kirksville
Friday, April 29	Maryville
Tuesday, May 3	Rolla
Wednesday, May 4	West Plains
Thursday, May 5	Branson
Wednesday, May 11	Portageville
Thursday, May 12	Poplar Bluff
Monday, May 16	Hannibal
Wednesday, May 18	Park Hills
Thursday, May 19	Cape Girardeau (We will be available at their local meeting.)

Folks should watch for a letter about the Regional Housing Team meetings around the beginning of April, which will have the location for meetings. (We don't have those all scheduled yet.)

--Liz Hagar-Mace,
HMIS Steering Committee and Chair, Governor's Committee to End Homelessness



***Coming in November
National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week***

The week of coordinated homelessness awareness activities has spread throughout communities across the country. National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week was first publicized and promoted as a national event by the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness in 1988. Hundreds of schools, agencies, and organizations in the country participate in a week of fasts, sleep outs, educational speakers, canned food drives, and fundraisers. Hunger and Homelessness Week is the week prior to Thanksgiving each year. **This year's dates are November 13-19.**

The main purpose of the National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week is to raise awareness of and action on the problems of hunger and homelessness both locally and statewide. The week promotes both thought and action on an issue that otherwise might escape public attention and national recognition. Hunger and homelessness continue to be a serious problem for many individuals and families in Missouri. The Governor's Committee to End Homelessness encourage you and your communities to participate in activities throughout the week as the strength of the movement lies in the collective efforts of local communities.

Special Event "One Night Without a Home" Awareness Sleep Out is one example of a suggested activity for those planning events during the awareness week.



The "One Night" is an opportunity for residents to spend a night outside to discuss, think, and learn more about homelessness. Although one night outside can in no way simulate homelessness, however this awareness-raising activity can promote advocacy, protest, and education. The "One Night" is scheduled as a 12-hour get-together, such as, 7:00pm to 7:00am. Ideas for the get-together include: coffee and/or a meal; speakers, candlelight vigils, and music; discussion groups; late night food line; and breakfast, with closing remarks, and wrap-up.

Watch for more details on the special events the *Governor's Committee to End Homelessness* will be planning during the week in the next issue of *The Doorway!*
--Stacey Owsley,
Governor's Committee to End Homelessness, Sub-Committee



Springfield's One Night Count

On January 25, 2005 between the hours of 5:00am and 6:30am, 30 volunteers padded out into the early morning hours to complete a count of the number of homeless people in the city. This count included those living on the streets, in transitional housing, and in shelters.

They found a total of 34 people, 29 of them men and 5 women. The count does not fully reflect homelessness in Springfield. People were living in parking lots and

garages, in wooded areas, in tents, in abandoned buildings, in vehicles, in alleys, along railroad tracks, and in parks. The total estimated number of unsheltered homeless people is 115. It is common for people living in the streets to move about unnoticed and to avoid contact with others. The areas targeted by the count were areas that homeless people had been seen in throughout the year. Volunteers also reported seeing 26 deserted campsites.

Summary of the count findings:

	Men	Women	Total
Unsheltered*	98	17	115
Emergency Shelters	157	173	330
Transitional Housing	30	96	126
Total	285	286	571

* Numbers determined based on the actual count percentage of men vs. women.

These numbers do not include those homeless people who may have been *doubled-up/over-crowded* (staying with acquaintances, friends, or family). It also does not include those living in substandard housing or places where there is no running water or electricity or those living in motels.

Survey planning, preparation, and implementation of the count was completed by the Springfield Area Continuum of Care through Housing Collaborative Community Partnership of the Ozarks.

A special thanks to the volunteers from the agencies that participated in the count: Bill's Place Drop-In Center; Springfield Police Department; Sheriffs Departments for Greene, Christian, and Webster Counties; AIDS Project of the Ozarks; National Alliance for the Mentally Ill; Missouri Career Center— Veteran's Services; The Kitchen, Inc; Springfield Victory Mission; Salvation Army; Community Partnership of the Ozarks.

--Carol Thompson,

The Housing Collaborative Community Partnership of the Ozarks

(Above article was written by Rosanna Cassidy based on information received from Ms. Thompson.)



A Story of Triumph!

I understand how hard things are for someone with no where to go. I understand the desperation, the stress, the depression, the fear, and the intense need to "get through." I understand these things so well because I have been in that situation. I've been homeless with no where to go.

In 1994, due to family problems, I picked up my infant daughter and walked out the door. We left with nothing but what we were wearing, her diaper bag, and my purse, which contained the very little bit of money I had. We had no where to go—but I could not take the constant abuse anymore! I walked away, with my daughter fast asleep in my arms, and never looked back.

*And homeless near a
thousand homes I stood and
near a thousand tables I
pined and wanted food.*

--William Wordsworth
Guilt and Sorrow. Stanza 41

Walking as fast as I could, we made our way several blocks to the nearest city bus stop. It was a cold February day and my only jacket was wrapped snugly around my child. I remember standing there along side of Glenstone Avenue praying that the bus would soon arrive. I shivered uncontrollably. There was the usual heavy traffic on Glenstone, and with each passing car came a gush of wind, that chilled me even more. Finally, the bus pulled up at our stop. I had never been so glad to see a bus in my entire life!

We took the bus to old downtown Springfield. Our destination, a shelter on Commercial Street, called the *Missouri Hotel*, known affectionately as the MoHo. Sister Mary greeted us with nothing but kindness, patience, and understanding. She gave us a room on the top floor, where the families lived, and some extra blankets. She told me that the shelter's dinners had already been served, so she personally served us a late meal.

The next day, the first day of the rest of my life, Sister Mary explained to me that while volunteering was just that—*volunteering*, it was still something that was completely expected. She said, "I can see you are very troubled right now. You take some time to get yourself together first, we'll worry about getting you involved in voluntary work when you're ready." I cried.

After a few days, I had pulled myself together, picked up as many of the pieces as I could, and put them back together as well as possible. I volunteered, doing a variety of things—whatever was needed, generally. Within a week, I even found a little part-time job outside of the MoHo.



Daughter, NeSha, asleep on the bed at the MoHo.

We remained at the Missouri Hotel for two and a half months—we were lucky it was available! While Sister Mary assured me that I'd have my room as long as I needed it, I still felt the need to find us a place to live. I felt that another family, possibly one less "recovered," if you will, could use that room more than us. Almost two months after we moved in the MoHo, I got a letter stating that we'd been approved for an income sensitive housing complex called *John B Hughes*. I signed the lease and move in on the 15th of May—my birthday! I couldn't have asked or received any better of a gift...even to this day!

We moved into a 2-bedroom apartment with relatively nothing. We had no furniture, no dishes, no anything. Again, the Missouri Hotel stepped up to plate immediately referring me to *FreshStarts*, an extension of theirs. They furnished my entire apartment. With a bed for both of us, a dining room table and chairs, a living room couch and chair, a coffee table, pots and pans, dishes, utensils, linen, and even a TV. *FreshStarts* volunteers brought all of this to our new apartment and set it all up for us. I felt very grateful.

Though we no longer lived at the MoHo, I still volunteered there. I mostly volunteered at the thrift store adjacent to the shelter, called *Maggie's Boutique*. It was important to me to give back a little of what I had received —kindness, understanding, compassion, and most importantly, an empathetic ear! Yes, empathetic, not sympathetic. I'd been there—I knew all too well what it was like.

Some people that came in recognized me, others did not. When I saw their depressed, saddened gazes, I recognized myself. I would tell them that I knew what they were going through. I had been there, too. My success of "getting out from under" and finding my own place generally gave our patrons hope.



SMSU Campus

After a few years of self-searching and adjustment, I began at Southwest Missouri State University, majoring in Computer Information System. I graduated in August of 2003 with my Bachelor's degree. I worked at Alternative Opportunities (AO) during my studies until moving to Jefferson City this past August. AO is a non-profit agency assisting persons with disabilities to live independently. While I liked my job as a Primary (i.e. immediate supervisor of a particular home, client, and the staff), I felt it was time to pursue my career in the IS field.

I spent a lot of time looking for just the right job. From the moment I laid eyes on the job listing, I knew it was the one for me. A part of me acknowledges that it's in my field of studies, while another part of me sees the opportunity to contribute to the on-going process of helping end homelessness.



I'm proud to be a graduate and a strong and independent single mother. And now I'm very proud to be playing a role in helping people who are in the same situation I had been—Homeless.



To our HMIS Partner Agencies and our HMIS Steering Committee and to Tom and Dianna I offer a special thanks for giving me this opportunity to contribute to something that is near to my heart.

--Rosanna Cassidy,
Project Assistant,
Homeless Missourians Information System

The following was taken from the Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition Newsletter.

Street Outreach Training Opportunity

The Homeless Services Coalition of Greater Kansas City and Mid America Assistance Coalition are proud to bring you a Street Outreach Training opportunity: Hitting the Streets: Working Effectively with People Experiencing Street Homelessness. This training will be conducted by Ken Craybill from the National Health Care for the Homeless Council.

Reaching Out and Connecting: Working Effectively with People Experiencing Homelessness.
May 11, 2005 ~ 8:00 to 4:30

This workshop is intended for new and experienced staff of all disciplines involved in outreach and working with street homeless populations Based on the curriculum Outreach to People

Experiencing Homelessness, this workshop focuses on the purpose and principles of the Relational Outreach and Engagement Model:

- * Engagement and retention strategies,
- * enhancing motivation, worker safety,
- * Personal and organizational wellness,
- * Ethical guidelines,
- * working in the community, and
- * Advocacy.

Learning to Train Staff: How to Teach the Art of Working Effectively with People Experiencing Homelessness May 12, 2005 ~ 8:00 to 4:30

This train-the-trainer workshop (Which is primarily available at national conferences.) is designed to provide staff experienced in working with street homeless populations and in providing outreach with practical knowledge and skills to effectively train other staff.

Participants will become well acquainted with the curriculum content and adept at utilizing various training methods in order to confidently facilitate trainings in their own communities. Requirement: participation in May 11, Reaching Out and Connecting Training.

For more information download the Brochure and registration materials

at: <http://www.maaclink.org/New%20PDFs/training%20brochure.pdf>

Or contact: Cynthia Larcom at HSC: 816.924.7997 or clarcom@sbcglobal.net or Ladonna Zimmerman at MAAC: 816.561.2727 lzimmerman@maaclink.org

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The HUD SuperNOFA was released on March 21st

The HUD SuperNOFA, which includes the HUD McKinney-Vento/Continuum of Care grants, is now complete and has been published in the Federal Register on Monday, March 21, 2005. You can access the full document online at http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/fr-cont.html under the heading, Housing and Urban Development Department, Grants and cooperative agreements; availability, etc.: Discretionary programs (SuperNOFA), 05-05041. In addition to the Continuum of Care programs, HUD is announcing the availability of \$10 million for "Housing for People who are Homeless and Addicted to Alcohol." In conjunction with the publication in the Federal Register, copies of the SuperNOFA are available on the HUD website at:

<http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/fundsavail.cfm> and on the main federal grants website, <http://www.grants.gov>.

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Surveying Technical Assistance Needs for HUD Programs ICF Consulting, which provides training and technical assistance under HUD's Community Development Technical Assistance program, is currently collecting information on the types of support needed for HUD programs, such as McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Programs, HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). ICF is requesting that homeless service providers and others in the housing and community development field participate in an online survey, which will be used to analyze local, regional and nationwide training and technical assistance needs and propose corresponding training and technical assistance activities to HUD. The survey is designed to take approximately five minutes to complete, and each response is anonymous and confidential. To take the survey, go to: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=50405941169>

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Using the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program to Create Affordable Housing the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program (LIHTC) has become the largest single source of funding for the production of rental housing for low-income families and individuals. The LIHTC program can be used in combination with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) rent subsidy programs such as Section 8 or Shelter Plus Care. This issue of Opening Doors provides basic information on the LIHTC program, information on the state's role in the LIHTC program, and specific approaches that can help people with disabilities benefit from the LIHTC program, including strategies that combine the LIHTC program with other federal housing programs to produce rental housing units affordable to people with disabilities with the lowest incomes. To download the issue of Opening Doors, go to

<http://www.tacinc.org/index/admin/index/uploads/docs/OD26.pdf>

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A new list serve has been created to monitor the issues that homeless persons face when trying to obtain identification. Lack of identification is one of the many reasons preventing homeless people from accessing the benefits (including SSI) to which they are entitled.

The new list serve will be a place where service providers and advocates can share their problems and successful strategies to help homeless persons obtain identification. It will be moderated by NLCHP's Civil Rights Staff attorney, Tulin Ozdeger.

To join the list serve, go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/idbarriers/>

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Section 515 Rural Rental Housing NOFA Released

The Rural Housing Service has released its Notice of Funding Availability for section 515 Rural Rental Housing (RRH) loan funds.

Designed specifically to address housing needs in rural areas, the Section 515 program provides very low interest loans to support the development of housing for renters with the lowest incomes, including senior citizens and people with disabilities. The NOFA includes applications "for the nonprofit set-aside for eligible nonprofit entities, the set-aside for the most Underserved Counties and Colonias (Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act), and the set-aside for Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities (EZ/ECs) and Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP) zones." The NOFA includes information on how the funds will be distributed, the application process, submission requirements, and areas of special emphasis or consideration.

The deadline for applications in response to the NOFA is May 13, 2005.

For complete details, see today's Federal Register at

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/05-4773.htm>

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2005 "MAKE TAX TIME PAY" TAX CREDIT COMMUNITY OUTREACH KIT

This kit is now available from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities to assist organizations wishing to inform communities about the Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, opportunities for free low-income tax preparation assistance and linkages to asset development opportunities. In addition to the updated EITC and Child Tax Credit outreach materials, including easy-to-read fact sheets on both credits; a full range of outreach strategy ideas that have been used successfully in local communities; posters, flyers, and envelope stuffers in English and Spanish; and the essential tax forms workers need to claim the credits, the Kit includes some new sections this

year. The "Facts about the Earned Income Credit" booklet contains a new fact sheet on rules for workers with disabilities and families raising children with disabilities, with information on the impact of EITC and CTC refunds on various public benefits that will be of general use as well. We also describe the new rules which enable military families receiving non-taxable combat pay to include this pay when determining their eligibility for both tax credits. Another new fact sheet concerns how low- and moderate-income workers who wish to save a part of their tax refunds might benefit from opening a Roth Individual Retirement Account.

To order a free copy, send a request to: eickit@cbpp.org or call at 202-408-1080 and ask for Shaunya Owens owens@cbpp.org

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New Resource: Successful Strategies for Recruiting, Training, and Utilizing Volunteers: A Guide for Faith and Community-Based Service Providers

WHO: Faith-based and community-based organizations.

WHAT: The publication is a handbook designed for community groups and faith-based organizations seeking to maximize the skills of their volunteers, expand their services to the community, and enhance their effectiveness. Information provided includes five chapters that outline five steps for implementing an effective volunteer program.

CONTACT: Copies can be obtained, free of charge, from the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information NCADI) by calling 1-800-729-6686 or electronically at www.samhsa.gov

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New Report on Family Homelessness Released

Freddie Mac joined the National Alliance to End Homelessness to release "Family Homelessness in Our Nation and Community: A Problem with a Solution." The report was produced as part of Freddie Mac's Hoops for the Homeless, a campaign to raise support for efforts to end homelessness in the Nation's Capital. The report primarily attributes the rise of family homelessness to the scarcity of housing that very poor families can afford. For example, in 1970, when there were few homeless families, there were 300,000 more affordable units than there were low-income families who needed them. In 2001, there were 4.7 million fewer units than low-income families. The report also points to the failure of public "safety net" programs to adequately address the housing needs of the poorest families they serve. It further outlines approaches that communities are adopting to provide more resources for homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing. To download a copy of the report, go to <http://www.hoopsforthehomeless.org>

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Funds Available to Assist Veterans Facing Homelessness

The Departments of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Labor have recently announced the availability of funding for programs that serve veterans experiencing homelessness. VA is seeking to award approximately \$15 million in capital grants of up to \$400,000 each under its Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program. Eligible state and local governments, Indian Tribal governments, faith-based, and community-based organizations may use this funding "for (1) remodeling or alteration of existing buildings; (2) acquisition of buildings, acquisition and rehabilitation of

buildings; (3) new construction; and (4) acquisition of vans (in connection with a new or existing Grant and Per Diem Grant project) for outreach to and/or transportation for homeless veterans."

The same applicants are also able to request Per Diem funding, in addition to the Capital Grants, to cover limited living expenses for each veteran served. The deadline for applications under this program is June 8, 2005. For complete information, go to <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/pdf/E5-1437.pdf>

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Audio Training to Focus on Reentry and Access to Housing

On Wednesday, April 20, from 3 to 4 PM EDT, the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty will present an audio training on re-entry and access to housing, as part of its Legal Strategies to End Homelessness Series. The audio training, hosted by NLCHP Legal Director Rebecca Troth, will focus on defining the problems reentering prisoners face in finding housing, and the costs involved in failing to provide housing to these individuals. It will also cover reentry legislation introduced in the House of Representatives last year and strategies to encourage its passage in the current Congress. A portion of the call will also be reserved to address questions from participants.

To register for the training go to <http://c3.econfcall.net/msrsvpform.jsp?refno=5893248> or call 1-800-403-3303. For further information, contact Meagan Leatherbury at mleatherbury@nlchp.org or (202) 638-2535.

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New Materials for Section 8 Advocates

New guide sheets for Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher advocates are now available by accessing www.naeh.org/advocacy. This new series of documents are intended for advocates working with congressional staff, federal officials, or members of the media as part of our continued efforts to maintain a well-funded and better-structured Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program during this year's federal budget and appropriations process. Topics covered include, the basics of Section 8 and homelessness, Section 8 in the federal budget process, responding to the media about the Section 8 program in your community, and answering difficult questions from congressional staff members on the topic of Section 8.

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Paint Donations for Non-Profit Organizations

The National Council on Paint Disposition, Inc. (NCPD), an environmental nonprofit organization, is seeking to identify organizations which may benefit from donations of paint from retailers in their communities. According to NCPD, millions of gallons of paint remain unused or unsold each year by the nation's retailers as a result of mis-tinting or discontinuance of a product. The paint is of first quality and in full containers (quarts, gallons and fives). The paint consists of varying colors, which could be intermixed to create larger batches of a single color.

NCPD is compiling a list of not-for-profit organizations that are interested in receiving the free paint. There is no charge to participate in this program and no requirement to take in quantities more than you can use. To get into the program contact Marv Goodman (marvgoodman@comcast.net or 732-309-2022) with the following information: name of organization, address, telephone number, email address, fax number, and contact person. Each participating organization will receive email a list of participating local retailers once the list is compiled.

Additional Resources

Missouri Websites

[Homeless Missourians Information Systems \(HMIS\)](#)

[Missouri Association for Social Welfare](#)

[Missouri Housing Development Trust Fund](#)

National Websites

[US Housing and Urban Development](#)

[National Alliance to End Homelessness](#)

[National Coalition for the Homeless](#)

[National Low Income Housing Coalition](#)

[National Housing Trust Fund](#)

[US Department of Housing and Urban Development](#)

[US Conference of Mayors](#)

[Washington Research Council](#)

[Association of Gospel Rescue Missions](#)

