

# Faces of Homelessness: A Manual



National Coalition for  
the Homeless

2201 P Street NW  
Washington, DC 20037-  
1033

Ph: 202.462.4822

Fax: 202.462.4823

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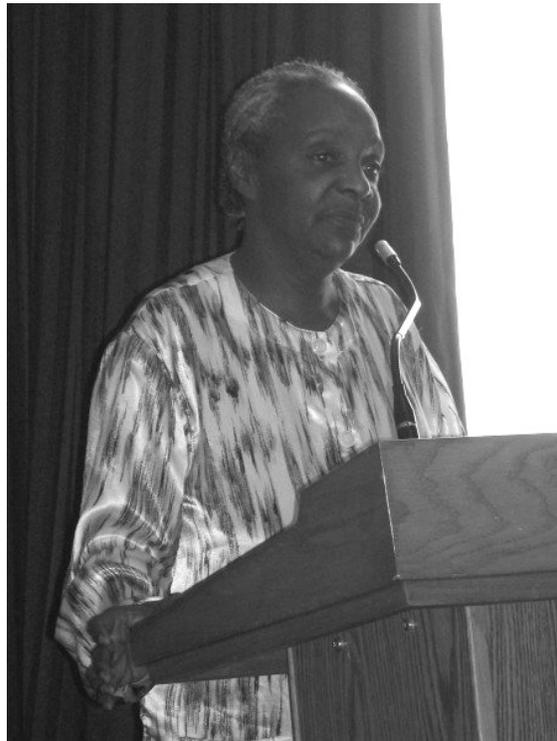
## Why I Speak

Upon meeting Executive Director Michael Stoops and listening to his ideas for the Speakers' Bureau in 1996, I thought it was a dynamite idea. Who else can tell about being homeless but a homeless person? Anyone can get up and speak on the issue, but if they weren't homeless or had never been homeless they would only be speaking about things they had heard. The ladies and gentlemen who are on the Speaker's Bureau speak from experience.

I've been speaking for eleven years and wish I could speak for eleven more. It has helped me grow strong and be proud, because I know that hearing my story has helped several people, and I have letters and cards to prove it.

I've also received a lot of help from the interns that volunteer with us. It's always sad when they leave, because I become attached to everyone. They are such lovely kids and dedicated to what they believe in.

The Speakers' Bureau has really grown since 1996 and is still growing every day. I wouldn't trade being a speaker for all the tea in China. My life has been really good knowing that I have such a big and lovely family. Thanks, Michael Stoops, for helping me realize that I could speak.



JoAnn Jackson

## Overview

*“One of the most valuable things we can do to heal one another is listen to each other’s stories.” - Rebecca Falls, Student*

The Faces of Homelessness Speakers’ Bureau is a program of the National Coalition for the Homeless that is comprised of people who are or have been homeless. It works to educate the public about homelessness and what can be done to end it. This approach is a unique and necessary tool because it establishes a significant platform for those whom homelessness affects directly to talk personally about their experiences. Additionally, the Speakers’ Bureau creates opportunities for members to advocate for themselves and others, as well as build the necessary bridges with the rest of society so that we may work cooperatively to end this disgrace called homelessness.

Public perceptions and attitudes toward persons experiencing homelessness or in danger of becoming homeless need to change in order for positive, long-term



solutions to be realized. Most Americans rarely interact with people who are or have been homeless. The lack of interaction between different groups of our society, combined with impersonal or inaccurate descriptions of homelessness posed by the media and public officials, contributes to a distancing of those who have housing from those who do not. As a result, homelessness is

perceived as an abstract social problem. Those who experience homelessness are seen as the sources of their own misfortunes, and the socio-economic policies and practices that give rise to homelessness are then too easily ignored. This abstraction, in turn, lessens the degree of urgency and commitment needed to work strategically and consistently toward solutions to end homelessness that are long-term, outcome-based, and not simply responses to crises. The Speakers’ Bureau is both an accurate and dynamic tool to teach and challenge tomorrow’s leaders as

well as empower those who have experienced homelessness first-hand. By fostering an environment of self-worth, respect, and understanding for all people, the Speakers' Bureau challenges us to believe that we can and should end homelessness.

The "Faces of Homelessness" Panel standard presentation format includes: a short video about homelessness in America, a moderator to present the facts about homelessness, and up to three panelists who are or have been homeless. Afterwards, the moderator and the panelists will offer ways for people to get involved, from volunteering at shelters to influencing legislation. Finally, the moderator will conduct a question and answer session. Each presentation can last anywhere from 30 minutes to two hours.

The panel has a very powerful impact on all participants. It allows people to personalize homelessness, dispel stereotypes, and inspire hope by presenting the first-hand experiences of the panelists, and allowing the general public to interact with these "experts" through question and answer sessions, and one-on-one discussions after the presentations. It also works to inspire student and community involvement and activism through volunteerism and grassroots advocacy. The panelists and moderator will discuss the importance and impact of volunteer efforts, and act as a resource for people interested in getting involved. Finally, it serves as an empowerment tool for those people who are or have been homeless to realize their potential to have an impact and inspire others through their personal stories and advocacy. By linking the individual lives and stories with broader systemic and structural factors, we are then able to more clearly see the need for change.

## NCH AmeriCorps\*VISTA

### Faces of Homelessness, Speakers Bureau Coordinator

#### Job Description

As an AmeriCorps\*VISTA Volunteer, you will establish and run a “Faces of Homelessness” Speakers’ Bureau in your community via your host site/agency. To establish a Speakers’ Bureau you will need to immerse yourself in the community by attending local coalitions, housing and homelessness advocacy meetings, meet with case managers, talk to people in the parks, streets, visit shelters and soup kitchens. Learn about homelessness in your community as much as possible. Your Speakers’ Bureau will be comprised completely of people who have experienced homelessness.

As you are working on Speakers’ Bureau brochures, creating fliers and training materials, recruiting potential speakers, and getting to know your homeless community, at the same time you will need to visit the schools to meet with teachers. You will need to visit pastors and rabbis at churches, synagogues etc to promote the Speakers’ Bureau in hopes of eventually bringing the Faces of Homelessness presentation to those organizations.

Through the work that you will be doing in developing a Speakers’ Bureau, you will be playing a key role in educating your community about the issues surrounding homelessness. You will also be raising awareness about the great work that your host site/agency does and fundraising to support the Speakers’ Bureau and your host agency long-term.

#### Program Benefits

- Childcare assistance if eligible
- Choice of Education Award or End of Service Stipend
- Health Coverage
- Living Allowance
- Relocation Allowance
- Training

#### Terms

- One year commitment
- full time service without outside commitments

#### Skills

- Communications
- Community Organizing
- Computers/Technology
- Education
- Fundraising/Grant Writing
- Leadership
- Public Speaking
- Recruitment
- Teaching/Tutoring
- Writing/Editing
- Drivers License is necessary

Summary

**Program Type** : AmeriCorps\*VISTA

**Program**: National Coalition for the Homeless

**Program Start Date**: ongoing

**Work Schedule**: Full-time

**Education Level**: some college

**Age Requirement**: minimum: 18

**Program Locations**: Florida, Georgia, South Carolina

**Accepting Applications**: Ongoing

Contact:

**Michael Stoops**

**2201 P Street, NW**

**Washington, DC 20037-1033**

**202-462-4822 x234**

**[mstoops@nationalhomeless.org](mailto:mstoops@nationalhomeless.org)**

**[www.nationalhomeless.org](http://www.nationalhomeless.org)**

## Recruiting Speakers

*"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." - Martin Luther King, Jr.*

The first task in establishing a speakers' bureau is finding speakers. In order to accomplish this you need to do some outreach. The task of outreach involves building relationships with the homeless community. Here are a few suggestions that you can utilize when recruiting.

First and foremost, successful outreach is an exercise in respect. When approaching someone who is homeless, it is easy to find yourself talking at the person. Instead, try to have a conversation with them. Asking someone's name is a good way to begin.

Ask them to tell you their story. Not only is this a good way to get to know the person better, but it will also help you to identify whether or not this individual is a good candidate for the Speakers' Bureau.

Explain your program in full. Let prospective speakers know what your mission is and why you are involved in the program. Give them the details upfront about what will be expected of them if they choose to join the Speakers' Bureau, and what the benefits are.

Make sure not to pressure the person into revealing personal information about themselves that they do not wish to offer. Not everyone feels comfortable telling their life story to a stranger. Let them know that they do not have to discuss anything that makes them uncomfortable. Some speakers may participate in several presentations before they are ready to share their whole story.

Apart from doing street outreach, you can recruit speakers at shelters and soup kitchens. Get to know the people who provide services for the homeless in your community. Set up meetings at locations where services are provided and talk to the clients about your program. Have shelters post flyers informing residents of the opportunity to become a speaker.

After you have recruited a few speakers, you will find that they can be an excellent source for finding more prospective speakers. Ask your speakers if they know of anyone else who might want to participate, and ask them to tell their friends about the program.

One final point to consider when recruiting is diversity. Make sure that you recruit participants of various ages and ethnic backgrounds. Try to have at least one female speaker for every two male speakers, and make sure that your speakers have varied backgrounds and stories. With a more diverse Speakers' Bureau, you will be able to set up stronger and more successful panels.

Join the



**SPEAKERS' BUREAU**

**What does the Speakers' Bureau do?**

- Speak to youth, civic groups, religious groups, and service clubs about issues surrounding homelessness
- Dispel myths/stereotypes
- Educate people
- Personalize, individualize and put a “face” on “homelessness”

**If you would like more information please contact:**

**[Your Name] • [Your Phone Number] • [Your E-mail address]**

**Co-Sponsoring Organizations**

Local Agency Logo  Here
----------------------------------



**[Name of local host organization]**

**[Local host organization address]**

*National Coalition for the Homeless*

2201 P Street, NW Washington, DC 20037-1033

Phone: (202) 462-4822 Fax: (202) 462-4823

Email: [info@nationalhomeless.org](mailto:info@nationalhomeless.org) Website: [www.nationalhomeless.org](http://www.nationalhomeless.org)

---

Date:

«ORG»  
«ADD1»  
«CITY», «STATE» «ZIP»

Dear «FNAME» «LNAME»,

I am writing to inform you about a public education program called the “Faces of Homelessness” Speakers’ Bureau. The ((local coalition)) firmly believes that we cannot truly end homelessness or advocate for change without the direct and continued involvement of persons who have experienced homelessness. The mission of the “Faces of Homelessness” Speakers’ Bureau is to “provide a forum for homeless and formerly homeless individuals to share their personal stories with others; break down the myths/stereotypes about homeless people; to foster a greater awareness of the reality of not having a home in America; and to spark interest in becoming involved in the struggle to end homelessness on the local, state and national levels.”

The ((local coalition)) “Faces of Homelessness” Speakers’ Bureau will be speaking to various groups including: youth and religious groups, middle schools, high schools, colleges and civic groups. The Speakers’ Bureau is comprised of homeless and formerly homeless individuals.

We are looking for speakers who are interested in sharing their stories, talking openly about the issue of homelessness, and inspiring others to action to bring an end to the injustice of homelessness. Speakers receive a small honorarium each time they speak. Travel costs for the speakers will also be covered.

I have included a flyer that you can put up in your office, shelter, or any other common area. I would very much like to come and speak to your organization/residents to answer any questions they may have and to talk a little bit more about ((local coalition)), as well as the Speakers’ Bureau’.

Please contact me via phone: ((number)), or email: ((address)) with any questions, recommendations for speakers, or requests for more information.

Thank you very much for the work you do everyday for those in need. I look forward to hearing back from, and working with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

((local coordinator))

((local coalition))



## “Faces of Homelessness” Speakers’ Bureau

### *Speaker Agreement Form*

#### **Mission**

The National Coalition for the Homeless was founded in 1982 and is the nation’s oldest and largest homeless advocacy group of individuals and organizations committed to preventing and ending homelessness. Creating systematic and attitudinal changes necessary to prevent and end homelessness has been central to our mission of NCH since its inception.

The mission of the Faces of Homelessness Speakers’ Bureau is to provide a forum for homeless and formerly homeless individuals to share their personal stories with others; to show who becomes homeless and why; to foster a greater awareness of the reality of not having a home in America; and to spark interest in becoming involved in the struggle to end homelessness on both a local and a national level.

#### **History**

The Faces of Homelessness Speakers’ Bureau began in Washington, DC over 13 years ago and has grown to now where we have over 80 speakers who have shared their stories to over 17,000 people, traveling to seventeen states and speaking to groups from over forty states and to 340 groups (high schools, middle and elementary schools, youth and religious groups, colleges and at various conferences) in 2007.

#### **Project Goals**

Public perceptions and attitudes toward persons experiencing homelessness need to change in order for a positive, long-term solution to be realized. Members of the Faces of Homelessness Speakers’ Bureau play an important part in educating young people today by breaking down those stereotypes and that many people have about those experiencing homelessness.

*The Faces of Homelessness Speakers’ Bureau gives audience members an opportunity to:*

- Put a human face to homelessness. Most people have never had a conversation with a homeless person and so they have not heard why that particular individual became homeless. The “Faces of Homelessness” panel gives audience members a chance to hear a personal story, ask questions and learn about the various issues surrounding homelessness and hopefully in the process educate themselves.
- Build bridges with the homeless/formerly homeless individuals. Formerly homeless speakers have effectively described what made the difference for them personally in breaking out of the cycle of homelessness.
- Challenge the myths of homelessness so that they may understand its realities.
- Educate their community about homelessness by CARE-ing (Contributing, Advocating, Reaching out, Educating).
- Challenge themselves to end homelessness in America.

*The Faces of Homelessness Speakers’ Bureau gives speakers an opportunity to:*

- Let their voices truly be heard nation-wide

- Play a key role in breaking down myths/stereotypes, as well as educating the public about the realities of homelessness.
- To share their stories, provide insight, thoughts, and ideas related to homelessness and what individuals can do to make a difference.
- Speak to youth from different ethnic, religious, economic and cultural backgrounds.
- To empower others to action.

## **The Panels**

The standard presentation format includes a discussion of statistics and stereotypes by the moderator, showing a video, speakers sharing their personal stories and a Q&A session.

1. Introduction (ask audience questions, discuss statistics and stereotypes- 7-10 minutes)
2. Show a short video
3. Panelists share their stories (up to 3 panelists – speak for 10 minutes each—depending on time provided)
4. Q&A (15 minutes)
5. Discuss Reports, Legislation and Ways to get involved (CARE-ing) – 5 minutes

## **Speaking**

Each speaker has 10 minutes, sometimes more and sometimes less time to share their story with the audience. This depends on the amount of speakers on the panel and the amount of times given by the group.

Often times speakers are requested from groups we speak to monthly/annually etc. We spread out the speaking engagements as fairly as we can to the members of the Speakers' Bureau. Sometimes groups ask for a homeless youth or family, someone who is a homeless veteran or single women with kids etc.

## **Honorariums**

Each speaker will receive a honorarium for local speaking engagements. NCH will give you money for travel (metro bus and train only). The only time the coordinator will reimburse you for a taxi would be if he/she called you last minute to replace another speaker. Each speaker will sign a Speakers Bureau invoice form stating that you received an honorarium for that engagement.

## **Speakers' Bureau Behavior Policy**

1. Please do not show up to any speaking engagement under the influence of alcohol.
2. Please do not show up to any speaking engagement under the influence of drugs.
3. Be respectful of the other speakers, the group we are speaking to and the staff/interns working for the National Coalition for the Homeless.
4. If you cannot make a speaking engagement please contact the coordinator at least 5 hours in advance for a local speaking engagement, and 24 hours for an out-of-state speaking engagement.
5. If you have an issue with the Speakers' Bureau coordinator, please wait to address the issue until after the speaking engagement. When we are speaking we need to be professional and if you are unhappy and feel you are being treated unfairly or if you have a problem with another speaker please approach the coordinator after the engagement.

## Public Speaking 101

*“You can speak well if your tongue can deliver the message of your heart.” - John Ford*

Public speaking is not a gift that everyone is born with. Most people need to learn how to deliver a successful speech. You will have to be ready to help your speakers prepare for the experience of participating in a “Faces of Homelessness” panel, and you might also benefit from some pointers on how to give a powerful presentation. The following is a list of a few tips to help you and your speakers get started.



1. Be prepared. Make sure you have a good idea of what you are going to say before you walk into your first gig. Prepare a text if it will help you to stay on track, but make sure to rehearse enough so that you aren't just reading a speech to the audience.
2. Get to know your audience. Greet them as they arrive and ask a few of them what their names are. This way you won't feel like you are talking to a room full of strangers.
3. Use eye contact. This is the best way to hold your audience's attention, and they will feel more involved in the presentation if you are addressing them directly.
4. Focus on your message. Try to make your presentation flow naturally. Don't get sidetracked.
5. Move around. Make your audience focus on you, not on where you are standing. If you are sitting in front of a group, use gestures to keep the audience engaged.
6. Enunciate clearly. Speak slowly and clearly so that your audience can hear and understand you. Use a microphone if available.
7. Understand your audience. While every speaker has his or her own style, try to adapt to the mood of the group you are addressing.
8. Reinforce certain points. Unlike a written presentation, a speech needs to be delivered in a way that reminds the audience of the important points.

- In your opening, explain what you are going to discuss, and in your closing, recap.
9. Avoid debates. While taking a little feedback during your presentation can keep the audience engaged, it can also get you sidetracked. You can always continue the discussion during the question and answer phase.
  10. Practice makes perfect. As you and your speakers become more experienced, your presentation will be more polished, and your panels will be more successful.



## PRESENTATION SPEAKING POINTS:

### Greetings and Introductions:

- Thank hosts, introduce speakers and yourself.
- Introduce Organization as Faces of Homelessness Panel

### Myths/Stereotypes:

- What do you think of when you hear the word homelessness?
- Those experiencing homelessness are often seen as causes of their own misfortunes and the socioeconomic policies and practices that give rise to homelessness are then too easily ignored.

### Statistics:

- It is estimated that 3.5 million people will experience homelessness this year.
- Over 1.3 million are children.
- 40% are women and children and this is the population that is rising the most.
- 400,000 are veterans were homeless last year.
- What do you think is the leading cause of homelessness?
  - Lack of Affordable Housing
- Other leading causes are lack of affordable health care, loss of employment, lack of beds in treatment facilities, domestic violence, natural disasters..

### Criminalization of the Homeless:

- An unfortunate trend in cities around the country has been to use the criminal system to respond to people living in public spaces.
- This trend includes measures that target homeless persons by making it illegal to perform life sustaining activities in public places.
- These measures prohibit activities such as sleeping, eating, sitting, begging in public spaces, usually including criminal penalties for violation of these laws.

### Violence Against Homeless People:

- An epidemic sweeps our nation in violent attacks on homeless people done primarily by our nation's youth and young adults.
- Provide an example or two.

## **"FACES OF HOMELESSNESS" SPEAKING TIPS**

When it comes to public speaking, it is very important to be an effective speaker so that you can get information across to the audience in a clear, concise, logical, and powerful way. We have attached a couple of tips for speaking in public.

Most of you will develop your own speaking styles, but we are happy to work with you on improving the effectiveness of our presentations. We are including a few thoughts that we have compiled that can help structure and effectively convey the message your message. However, these are all just recommendations:

- Think about what kind of introduction you want to have. It could be a catcher, an attention-getter, something that will grab people. But, you don't want to give anything big away. You could start by asking a question that will get their minds thinking or even pull them out of their comfort zone.
- Jokes always work well (if they are good) and it is important to establish a good rapport with your audience. It is important, though, to give an overview of what you are going to be talking about.
- The most important part of your presentation is the body, the main message. This can be chronological, in order of importance, or just generally jumping around. However, if you do jump around, be careful as often times you will lose your audience.
- Ask questions and involve the audience. Sometimes homelessness can seem so far away from some people, it is effective to present things to them in ways they might understand. It engages them, keeps them alert, and allows them to establish a more personal connection with you.
- Your conclusion should be very definitive as well. You should summarize what you have talked about, and then end creatively. A call to action is always good, challenge people, and get them to think about how they are going to get involved.
- Go over mentally the main points you want to be covering. There are a few things that are really important to get across, and you want to make sure you don't forget them. It is fine if you want to use notes.
- Beforehand, it might of help to write your stories or presentations down. This is just a good way to organize what otherwise may be a lot of information so that it could presented in a logical way.

## Getting the Word Out

*“Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.” - Sir Winston Churchill*

In order to start a successful Speakers’ Bureau, or for that matter any other community-based program, you need to mount a successful community awareness campaign. Using a combination of traditional and non-traditional advertising along with aggressive outreach, you will be able to build a strong base of support for your organization.

Set up meetings with local schools and religious groups. Explain your program, stressing the educational benefits of getting to know a segment of community as individuals rather than as a stereotyped class of people. Talk about the rising trend of violence perpetrated against the homeless by housed youths. Bring one of your speakers along to share his or her story and explain why this experience is valuable. Pass out materials that interested parties can refer to when explaining the program to others, such as a brochure.

Contact community or school/college newspapers and local media outlets to see if they might be interested in doing a story about the Speakers’ Bureau. Find out if any of your speakers might be willing to do interviews. Remember that media organizations are more interested in stories than issues, so focus on the human interest side of the program, rather than statistics.

Explore more non-traditional advertising such as flyers or church/synagogue bulletins. Set up a website and conduct email campaigns. Hold a sleep-out with local students or religious groups. Get to know all of the possibilities for getting the word out in your community. There are literally dozens of ways to reach those who might be interested in hosting a panel.

Don’t forget to connect with allies in your community. Meet with other organizations who work with the homeless, and enlist their help in spreading the word about the Speakers’ Bureau. If a school or church/synagogue in your community has hosted an NCH “Faces” panel, have them spread the word about their experience and what it meant to them.

The above are just some of the ways that you can spread the word about the Speakers' Bureau throughout your community. Once you have your "foot in the door" and have conducted a few successful panels, you will find that word of mouth is your greatest ally in bringing more attention to your program.

## Sample letter to Publicize the Speakers' Bureau

Date

Dear [Superintendent Smith]:

This is to let you know of an interesting new project coming from [Your Host Organization] this year. It is the Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau intended to educate our community about the complex issue of homelessness.

[Your Host Organization] has an AmeriCorps\*VISTA worker (Volunteers in Service to America) assigned to carry out this program on behalf of the National Coalition for the Homeless. [Your Name] is [Something about yourself], and is performing a wonderful community service with this presentation. [He/she] has a group of homeless/formerly homeless individuals to provide an inside perspective on the state of being homeless. This presentation to various groups of people at churches/synagogue and other venues has already produced very positive feedback about the powerful impact of hearing stories of how people became homeless and how they were able to break out of homelessness.

We are asking your organization to give [Your Name] the opportunity to present [his/her] educational workshop to your students. It can be a small class/meeting or to an assembly of your entire student body. It can be 30 minutes to two hours. Please contact [Your Name] at [E-mail address] or [Phone number] or you can contact me at [Agency]. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

[Agency Director Name]

Agency Director

Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau

National Coalition for the Homeless

2201 P Street, NW

Washington, DC 20037-1033

Phone: 202-462-4822 x222

Email: [info@nationalhomeless.org](mailto:info@nationalhomeless.org)

Thank you for your interest in having the “Faces of Homelessness” Speakers’ Bureau attend your upcoming event. This public education program is an essential part of our mission at the National Coalition for the Homeless, and we appreciate you giving us the opportunity to work with you on this.

The “Faces” Panel in 2008 spoke to approximately 340 groups (large and small) to a combined audience of over 17,000 nationwide with the majority of the engagements being in the Washington, DC metro area. We promote advocacy, education, and service. As people who have or are experiencing homelessness, the speakers on our Bureau are the “real experts” on homeless issues and we believe that their voices are essential in the fight to end homelessness.

We look forward to working with you and learning more about your event. Please review our information and guidelines for event hosts and complete the event form and return it in as timely a manner as possible.

Sincerely,

Michael O’Neill

Director, Faces of Homelessness Speakers’ Bureau

National Coalition for the Homeless

## Event Guidelines and Information

### Presentation Format

Moderator: Statistics and Stereotypes (10 minutes)

Video: We have several videos

Speaker Testimonies (10 -20 minutes each)

Question and Answer (15 minutes)

We can work together to tailor our standard format to your needs.

### Honoraria

Each speaker will receive a suggested \$40 honorarium (including \$5 travel) for each time they speak locally in the DC metro area. The ***honorariums*** must be paid to the moderator ***in cash*** at the time of the speaking engagement (unless you previously tell the moderator that cash is unavailable and you will be paying by check).

### Travel

If you are located in the DC Metro area we can usually use public transportation or a cab.

### Donation

If your organization would like to support the work of the National Coalition for the Homeless it can do so by becoming a member or making a donation.

## Event Information Form

What is the name of your organization?

Primary Contact Information

name:

email:

phone:

complete mailing address:

fax number:

How many speakers would you like on the panel? (we recommend up to three speakers)

If you have seen the panel before, would you like to request a particular speaker(s)?

What is the date of your event/time?

Where is the event located?

Will food be provided either before or after the event?

What is the easiest/cheapest way of transportation to get to where the speaking engagement will be held? (metro, taxi, bus, car)

What time would you like us to arrive?

What is the presentation format (keynote, workshop, class, etc.)?

What is your job title in the organization? Will you be physically present at the presentation?

Would you like us to show a short video-presentation on homelessness.

Do you have a particular focus or audience need? (homeless children, housing issues, health care, lobbying, what to do when you see a homeless person on the street?, etc.)

Please describe the audience in terms of size, age, and previous knowledge about hunger/homelessness issues.

Are you able to provide a honorarium for each of our speakers?

Are you able to reimburse all travel expenses (metro, taxi, bus, car) in cash upon arrival?

Would you like to order one of our educational videos on homelessness?

Would you like to become a member/supporter of NCH by giving a donation?

Other Comments/Questions?

## Setting the Agenda

*“Success is the sum of details.” - Harvey S. Firestone*

Once your Speakers’ Bureau gets off the ground, you will soon find that the majority of the work you do is in between speaking engagements. Recruiting new speakers, soliciting, scheduling and planning gigs, and conducting meetings are all vital aspects of making a Speakers’ Bureau work.

As your roster of speakers begins to grow, you will have to address the issue of scheduling gigs. This activity is not as straightforward as it might at first seem. Several factors will have to be taken into account when scheduling a successful panel.



- Age – Is your audience older or younger? Make sure to have at least one speaker on the panel who can relate to their life experience.
- Gender – You will most likely have more male than female speakers, but at least try to make sure to have one woman on each panel.
- Race – The more ethnically diverse your panel is, the more successful it will be in breaking stereotypes.
- Story – The more varied the

panel’s education, economic background, and causes of homelessness, the wider effect they will have on their audience.

As you get to know your speakers, you will begin to get a good feel for who works well together. Try to be as fair as possible when scheduling gigs, but make sure to bring your best speakers to your most important engagements.

Every month (or every other month, depending upon the number of gigs you are able to schedule), hold a Speakers' Bureau meeting. Make sure that the date and time of the meeting works well for as many of your speakers as possible. Provide food if financially possible.

During the meeting you can give feedback to the speakers about the previous month's gigs, update speakers on local projects and policies, and meet individually with speakers to assign speaking engagements for the following month. Make sure to take input about what they want to accomplish with the bureau; this will instill a sense of ownership and help to build a stronger relationship between you and your speakers.

## Moderating a Speaking Engagement

*“Speech is power: speech is to persuade, to convert, to compel.”*  
 - Ralph Waldo Emerson

The work involved in successfully executing a speaking engagement begins as soon as you receive a gig request. If the request was submitted via email or phone, make sure to send out a gig request form. This form will contain standard questions that, when answered, will assist you in planning for the gig. Get the name of your contact at the gig and a phone number, and email address where he or she can be reached in case of an emergency.

Try to get several prospective dates for the engagement. Let hosts know that the less flexible the date, the earlier the request will have to be formally submitted in order to be scheduled.



It should be the host group’s obligation to arrange or pay for transportation. For local gigs, this may mean a small reimbursement for bus or subway fares for you and your speakers. For longer distances, the host may have to pay for a rental vehicle or other means of transportation.

If travel to and from an engagement will involve more than a few hours, food expenses will have to be taken into account. Again, the host will be responsible for covering the cost of meals. Make sure to document all expenses incurred by saving and copying receipts, in order to eliminate any confusion regarding reimbursements.

It is very important to find out in advance whether the host group intends to pay the speakers’ bureau by cash or check. If the host pays with a check, you will have to bring enough petty cash to pay speakers’ honorariums. Never put a speaker in the position of speaking today for a promised honorarium later, as this can cause tension between you and your speakers.

Find out in advance about the space in which you will be speaking. Plan to arrive early enough to set up the space, or arrange the set-up in advance with the host.

When you arrive at the gig, find your contact person and introduce the speakers. Confirm the amount of time allotted for the presentation, as plans can sometimes change on short notice. After set-up is completed and the audience has assembled, it's time to begin your presentation.

As a moderator, your first job will be to introduce your organization. Your introduction should be engaging, but don't get too involved; you want to reserve the majority of the time available for your speakers' stories. Use statistics about the homeless situation to draw a picture for your audience of the scope of the problem, both local and national.

During the introduction, you may want to utilize a short video on homelessness to help engage the audience. The National Coalition for the Homeless has several videos available for showing/purchase. Go to our website – [www.nationalhomeless.org](http://www.nationalhomeless.org) and click on publications.

After the introduction, it's time to introduce your speakers. During this segment of the presentation your main responsibility will be to manage the time. Normally, each participant will speak for ten to fifteen minutes, but some speakers may take a longer or shorter time to tell their stories, so it will be your job to make sure that every speaker gets adequate time.

After your last speaker has finished, open up the session for questions from the audience. If there are no questions, throw one out. There are some questions that are consistently brought up at presentations, such as:

1. What should I do if I see a homeless person on the street?
2. What should I do when approached by someone who asks me for money?
3. What can I do to help the homeless?
4. Where was the speaker's family during his or her time on the street?

Use one of these questions to help bring out more questions from the audience. Occasionally you may encounter an audience member who wants to get into a debate with you or one of your speakers. If this happens, remember that it is your

job to set the tone of the conversation, so work to diffuse the tension by being polite and respectful of his or her views.

When there are no more questions, it's time to wrap up the presentation. In closing, stress the important points brought up during the presentation, and let the audience know how they can help. NCH uses an acronym – C.A.R.E. Contribute, Advocate, Reach out, and Educate to get this message out. Don't forget to pass out brochures for your organization, and provide a sign up sheet so that audience members can get plugged in with your organization. Try to save a few minutes after the presentation for individuals to talk one on one with your speakers.



Moderating a speaking engagement may seem fairly straightforward, but the difference between a competent moderator and a great one cannot easily be summed up in a manual. You really have to have a passion for the job, because if you don't, it will come across to your audience. But if you follow the above suggestions, you should be able to put together a presentation that will both educate and, hopefully, mobilize your audience to make a change in the way your community deals with homelessness.

## **Speakers' Bureau Moderator Script**

Hi My Name is (say your name) and I volunteer with the National Coalition for the Homeless as (describe what you do) NCH is the nation's oldest grassroots advocacy organization dedicated to ending homelessness. Founded in 1982, we focus on four main issues (affordable housing, health care, living wage and civil rights). We do this through lobbying, legislation, advocacy and public education work.

*How many people by show of hands know somebody who is or has been homeless?*

*How many people have ever volunteered at a soup kitchen, food bank or shelter?*

*When you think of a homeless person what comes to mind?*

Students should say (lazy, uneducated, mentally ill, alcoholics, drug addicts, homeless by choice)

People become homeless for many reasons (natural disasters, fires, family problems, domestic violence, runaways-foster care system, loss of job, mental illness, substance abuse, no health insurance, lack of affordable housing, lack of a living wage, etc)

What do you do if you see someone on the street?

- A) give food
- B) give money
- C) say hello, smile
- D) ignore them and just walk by

In the United States over 3.5 million people will experience homelessness this year

Nearly 1.5 million are children

600,000 families experience homelessness last year and 13% of them cited domestic violence as a leading factor in their homelessness

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, by 2010-2011 we can have 1.5 million more people homeless do to the foreclosures Crisis/Economy. You can read our report on the Foreclosure Crisis and Homelessness which came out in/April 2008 (have another report due out by May of 2009)

HUD says that 667,000 people were homeless last year (that was a one night count of people on streets and shelters in January 2008). The numbers from January 2009 are due to be released this spring/summer (usually between April-July)

400,000 veterans were homeless in 2007, 200,000 on any given night and 1500 Iraq War veterans are homeless all according to the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans. Check out [nchv.org](http://nchv.org) for more statistics on homeless vets (2/3rds served our country for at least 3 years, many served in a war zone, most suffer from an addiction or mental illness/PTSD).

34% are families (largest growing segment of the homeless population) according to the National Center on Family Homelessness. 84% of families are female-headed, 92% of homeless mothers have experienced severe physical and or sexual abuse during their lifetime

## US Conference of Mayors

41% families

40% single men

14% single women

5% youth, runaways, unaccompanied minors

44% African American

34% Caucasian

13% Hispanic

6% mixed races

2% Native American

1% Asian

Did you know that over **44%** (National Alliance End Homelessness) **of people who are homeless have a job**. But after they are done working they go home to an abandoned building, a car, shelter, street corner or friend's couch because of the lack of affordable housing and a living wage in this country. In Washington, DC one would have to make over \$24.77 an hour to afford a two bedroom apartment at fair market rent according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition. The national average is \$17.84 an hour. The most expensive state to live in is Hawaii at \$29.53 an hour and the least expensive state to live in is North Dakota at \$10.88 an hour.

What about the fact that **46.6 million Americans DO NOT have health insurance** according to the last U.S. Census Bureau report and **between 60-70% of people who are homeless do not have health insurance according to the National Health Care for the Homeless Council**. If they get sick, their child they have to decide will I pay for rent this month or pay for my medical bills.

According to the US Conference of Mayors Report (only surveyed 23 cities) **26% of people that are homeless have a substance abuse addiction (national studies say around 30%).**

Some of you said homeless people are mentally ill, well only 16% of people experiencing homelessness have a mental illness according to the same US Conference of Mayors Report. **The National Alliance to End Homelessness says that 25% of people who are homeless have a serious mental illness**

***Check out the following websites/reports for updated national statistics***

[www.nationalhomeless.org](http://www.nationalhomeless.org)

[www.naeh.org](http://www.naeh.org)

[www.nlihc.org](http://www.nlihc.org)

[www.nchv.org](http://www.nchv.org)

[www.familyhomelessness.org](http://www.familyhomelessness.org)

[http://www.usmayors.org/pressreleases/documents/hungerhomelessnessreport\\_121208.pdf](http://www.usmayors.org/pressreleases/documents/hungerhomelessnessreport_121208.pdf)

### **Introduce the speakers (15 minutes each)**

Any questions? - Facilitate Q & A – let speakers answer questions as much as possible

***Criminalization of Homelessness*** – new report due out in June 2009 which looks at the laws that criminalize being homeless.

- in Orlando, FL a volunteer with Food Not Bombs was arrested for passing out food to homeless people in a park. One of the people that he passed out food to was an undercover cop dressed up as a homeless person.
- In Atlanta, GA they have police officers dress up as tourists and arrest aggressive panhandlers
- People get arrested for sleeping outside even though there are not enough shelter beds
- People get arrested for public urination

***Hate Crimes and Violence Against the Homeless*** – since 1999 NCH has released an annual report and from 99-07 there have been

- 774 documented attacks
- 217 deaths
- 235 cities, 45 states and Puerto Rico
- 64% of attacks committed by youth between the ages of 13-19
- 86% committed by people under the age of 25
- In 2007 there were 160 attacks and 28 death (13% increase in attacks from 07 and a 40% increase in deaths)
- NCH is working to introduce at both the state and federal levels to add homelessness to the protected status class under Hate Crimes

Bringing America Home Campaign – most comprehensive piece of legislation ever-introduced in the Congress dedicated to ending homelessness. It talks about affordable housing, universal health care, living wage and protecting the civil rights of those experiencing homelessness.

## How You Can Help End Homelessness

NCH

### Fact Sheet # 19

Published by the National Coalition for the Homeless, May 2009

You can help end homelessness by simply CARE ing.

C-Contribute (food drives etc., money,

A-Advocate

R-Reach Out (volunteering)

E-Educate

### **CONTRIBUTE**

While the concern and support demonstrated by volunteer work and advocacy are essential, material assistance is also a necessity.

#### **Needed items and services might include:**

- **Clothing.** The lack of clean, well-fitting clothes and shoes causes great hardship beyond exposure to the elements—it hurts one's self-image and one's chance to get ahead. People experiencing homelessness must travel light, with few opportunities to safely store or adequately clean what they can't carry. On job interviews, a poorly-dressed person has little chance for success. Give your clean clothes to those who could use them. Before you give your own clothes or start a clothing drive, talk to your local shelter and find out what items they really need. Most have limited storage space, and can't use winter clothes in summer or vice versa. Some serve only a certain group of people. Please clean the clothes before you donate them.
- **In-kind services and materials.** Homeless Service providers may be able to use copying, printing, food, transportation, marketing assistance, computer equipment and assistance, electrical work, building materials, plumbing, etc.
- **Household goods or other items.** Homeless Service providers may need items such as kitchen utensils, furniture, books, toys, games, stuffed animals, dolls, diapers, etc.

- **Books.** People experiencing homelessness may have limited access to a library. Find out if your local shelter would appreciate donations of books. Consider organizing a book drive to create a library at the shelter if there is not already one there.
- **Computers.** Many non-profit organizations have a difficult time purchasing expensive but essential equipment such as computers. If you have a computer you no longer need, a local shelter or service provider might greatly appreciate the donation.
- **Homeless “survival kits.”** Create and distribute kits that include items such as cups, pots, pans, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and cosmetics. (Try coordinating this through a group that gives out meals from an outreach van, for example.) During cold weather, organize drives for blankets, coats, hats, scarves, mittens and socks.
- **Phone calls.** Help people experiencing homelessness contact loved ones by offering the opportunity to make free long distance calls on holidays.
- **Job opportunities.** Encourage your company, school, or place of worship to hire people experiencing homelessness. Most unemployed homeless adults desperately want to work, but need an employer to give them a chance.
- **Support for a homeless person or family.** As people move out of a shelter or transitional housing program, consider raising money to contribute for a security deposit, or assist by contributing household goods, babysitting, or moral support. See if your local shelter has a mentoring program.

### **Other things you might do to contribute include:**

- **Raise funds for a program.** Ask your group to abstain from one meal and donate the proceeds to a shelter or soup kitchen. Sponsor a benefit concert or coffee house featuring local musicians and poets (Don’t forget to include homeless and formerly homeless performers!). Organize a walk-a-thon or a yard sale and donate the proceeds.
- **Consider giving directly to people experiencing homelessness.** Deciding whether or not to give to panhandlers is a personal decision. Some may not give money out of fear that it may be spent supporting an addiction. Although this is occasionally true, the money also may help someone buy a meal, buy clothes, pay for transportation to a job, the possibilities are numerous. In some cases, instead of giving money, people carry gift certificates to restaurants or granola bars, peanut butter crackers, sandwiches, or fruit to give to homeless people.
- **Smile.** Whether or not you choose to give money to a homeless person, *please don’t look away as if they do not exist.* Making eye contact, saying a few words, or smiling can reaffirm the humanity of a person at a time when homelessness seems to have stripped it away. For more insight into panhandling and homelessness, read “Panhandling: A Little Understanding,” at <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/panhandle.html>.

### **ADVOCATE**

Advocacy is critical to creating the systemic changes needed to end homelessness. Advocacy means working with people experiencing homelessness to bring about positive changes in policies and programs on the local, state, and federal levels. It means working with various sectors of the community (e.g. city/county officials, state officials, Members of Congress, homeless service providers, and the business community) to develop workable strategies for responding to homelessness. It also means changing your language and behaviors in small ways that may contribute to larger changes in the way people experiencing homelessness are seen and treated in our society.

## Here are some ways you might help:

- **Get connected to a coalition.** Volunteer at your local, state, or national housing or homeless advocacy coalition, or make a financial contribution to support their work. For the name of the coalition nearest you, see NCH's Directory of National Housing and Homeless Organizations at <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/resources/natdirect.html>, or NCH's Directory of Local Homeless Service Organizations at <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/resources/local/local.html>.
- **Respond to NCH's Legislative Alerts.** These alerts give the most up-to-date information about what is happening in Congress affecting homelessness and poverty on a national level, and what you can do about it. NCH's legislative alerts can be found on NCH's website at <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/>. Then write letters, e-mail, call, or visit public officials at the city, county, state and federal levels asking what they are doing about homelessness and/or mentioning relevant legislation. When legislators receive more than a few visits or letters about any subject, they sit up and take notice. Personal visits are the most powerful; letters, e-mails, and phone calls are next. Addresses for public officials are available at the local public library or on the Internet at [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) and [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov). To call anyone in Congress: Capitol Switchboard (202) 224-3121.
- **Follow local politics.** Attend neighborhood and public meetings and speak up in favor of low-income housing, group homes, shelters, and homelessness prevention programs.
- **Educate your leaders.** Organize site visits for public officials and the media to visit local homeless programs to highlight ways that your community is successfully addressing the many problems associated with homelessness.
- **Involve the media.** Call or email the media to inform them of your concern for people experiencing homelessness in your area. Write letters to the editor/opinion columns when important issues related to homelessness arise in your community.
- **Encourage those most directly involved to advocate.** Encourage people experiencing homelessness, agency volunteers, and staff to contact officials at all levels of government. Use opportunities like special holiday meals to do this—provide paper, pens, stamped envelopes, email addresses and sample messages at every meeting and event. Have a "Call In/Email Day." Try getting a few people with cellular phones to go to shelters or meal programs to get people experiencing homelessness, volunteers, and staff to call the public officials (Governor, Mayor, Council Member...) asking them to stop future cuts in essential human services.

- **Register people experiencing homelessness to vote.** The “You Don’t Need A Home to Vote” nonpartisan voter registration/education/get-out-the-vote campaign occurs nationwide each election cycle. To obtain the voting rights organizing manual and poster, contact Michael Stoops, (202) 462-4822 x234 or [mstoops@nationalhomeless.org](mailto:mstoops@nationalhomeless.org).
- **Get involved with a local street newspaper.** Street newspapers educate the general public about homelessness while providing people experiencing homelessness with a creative outlet to have their articles, photos, artwork, and poetry published and providing employment opportunities as vendors and writers. To get in touch with the street newspaper nearest you or to get help in establishing a newspaper in your community, contact Andy Freeze at (202) 462-0011 or [andy.freeze@nasna.org](mailto:andy.freeze@nasna.org). You can also visit their website at [www.nasna.org](http://www.nasna.org).
- **Join The National Homeless Civil Rights Organizing Project.** NCH’s National Homeless Civil Rights Organizing Project (NHCROP) is organized at the grassroots level throughout the country. NHCROP tracks the growing trend of criminalizing homelessness, along with the recent increase in the number of hate crimes and violence against people experiencing homelessness. Local homeless activists are working to stop this trend by using litigation, lobbying, community organizing, documentation, and research. Contact Michael Stoops, (202) 462-4822 x234 or [mstoops@nationalhomeless.org](mailto:mstoops@nationalhomeless.org).
- **Sponsor a Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week.** NCH and the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness (NSCAHH) co-sponsor National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week November 15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> 2009. Awareness weeks are organized in more than 500 campuses and communities nationwide. For more information or to order this year’s organizing guide, contact Michael O’Neill at NCH at (202) 462-4822 x222 or [moneill@nationalhomeless.org](mailto:moneill@nationalhomeless.org).
- **Recognize National Homeless Persons’ Memorial Day.** Every year, on or around the first day of winter (December 21), over 100 communities nationwide hold local memorial services to remember people who have died homeless during that year. This event is co-sponsored by NCH and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council. Contact Michael Stoops, (202) 462-4822 x234 or [mstoops@nationalhomeless.org](mailto:mstoops@nationalhomeless.org).
- **Become more aware of your language.** Try to minimize language in your own and others’ vocabularies that refers to people experiencing homelessness in derogatory ways. By using expressions such as “people experiencing homelessness” rather than labels such as “bum,” “transient,” or even “the homeless,” we remind ourselves that people who are in such situations are still *people* first—just people who are going through a difficult period in their lives. In a time when they may find it difficult to hold onto their sense of humanity, it is particularly important that we do not use language that further diminishes the dignity of people in homeless situations.

## Reach Out

Reaching out by volunteering your time to work directly with people experiencing homelessness is one of the best ways to learn about homelessness and help to meet immediate needs at the same time. There is a lot of “behind the scenes” work (filing, sorting clothes, cutting vegetables, etc.) to be done at shelters and other direct service agencies. Think about what you do best and the kind of setting in which you work most effectively—with individuals or groups, with men, women, or children, and so on. Then, call a few places, ask what help they need, and arrange for a visit. You can find a partial listing of service providers on NCH's Directory of Local Homeless Service Organizations.

Remember that service providers need help at all times of year—not just holidays—and will appreciate regular volunteers who can be counted on to show up.

### Here are some ways you might help:

- **Work at a shelter.** Take an evening or overnight shift. Help with clerical work such as answering phones, typing, filing, or sorting mail. Serve food, wash dishes, or sort and distribute clothes.
- **Help build or fix up houses or shelters.** Check with your local public housing authority, or find the nearest chapter of Habitat for Humanity by calling (800) 422-4828 or visiting <http://www.habitat.org>.
- **Offer professional skills directly or assist in job training.** Direct service providers may be able to use many services and skills, including secretarial, catering, plumbing, accounting, management, carpentry, public relations, fundraising, legal, medical, dentistry, writing, child care, counseling, tutoring, or mentoring.
- **Share hobbies.** Teach your hobbies to a group of people staying at a homeless shelter. Ask them about their hobbies and have them teach you.
- **Invite people experiencing homelessness to a community event.** Invite people who are experiencing homelessness to a worship service, public concert or picnic, city/county council meeting, etc.
- **Organize an event at a shelter.** Plan an evening program such as a board game or chess night, an open mike poetry reading, a guest storytelling or musical performance, or a holiday party.
- **Work with children.** Assist homeless agencies that are coordinating events such as field trips, picnics or art workshops for children staying in homeless shelters. Find out if there are children who could benefit from tutors or mentors.
- **Involve others!** Encourage your colleagues, co-workers, church/synagogue members, or civic club to join or support your efforts.

## **EDUCATE**

- **Visit NCH’s website.** Our regularly updated site (<http://www.nationalhomeless.org>) contains information on all our activities as well as links to sites dealing with homelessness across the country. NCH maintains updated Facts Sheets on many aspects of homelessness including causes, numbers, and special issues, which can be accessed at <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/publications/facts.html> Read the Fact Sheets to familiarize yourself with the latest information, and then share what you learn with your community—your place of worship, school, colleagues, friends, neighbors, media, and elected officials.

### **Also try the following sites:**

- The 2008 U.S. Conference of Mayor’s Report on Hunger and Homelessness: [http://usmayors.org/pressreleases/documents/hungerhomelessnessreport\\_121208.pdf](http://usmayors.org/pressreleases/documents/hungerhomelessnessreport_121208.pdf)
  - The National Alliance to End Homelessness: <http://www.naeh.org>
  - The National Low Income Housing Coalition: <http://www.nlihc.org>
  - The National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness: <http://www.studentsagainsthunger.org/>
  - The National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty: <http://www.nlchp.org>
  - National Health Care for the Homeless Council (Formerly The Better Homes Fund): <http://www.nhchc.org/>
  - Universal Living Wage Campaign: <http://www.universallivingwage.org>
- **Follow your local media.** Read your local newspaper regularly to keep abreast of what is happening to homeless and low-income people and the policies that affect them in your community.
  - **Talk to children about homelessness.** For book lists, video suggestions, lesson plans, and teaching materials about homelessness, contact NCH at (202) 462-4822, or email us at [info@nationalhomeless.org](mailto:info@nationalhomeless.org)
  - **Read.** Check out some of the many books published about homelessness in America. A few recommendations to get you started are listed below.
  - **Participate in NCH’s Homeless Challenge** <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/getinvolved/projects/HCP/index.html>
  - **Participate in or Host a Hunger Banquet** [http://www.oxfamamerica.org/whatyoucando/act\\_now/fast](http://www.oxfamamerica.org/whatyoucando/act_now/fast)
  - **Participate in a 24 hour Fast** <http://www.actionagainsthunger.org/get-involved/fundraising>

- **Participate in a Hunger Cleanup with the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness** <http://www.studentsagainsthunger.org/hunger.asp?id2=15741>
- **Coordinate and participate in an Awareness Sleep-Out** <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/getinvolved/projects/awareness/2009onenight.html>
- **Organize a “Faces of Homelessness” panel.** Through NCH’s “Faces of Homelessness” Speakers’ Bureau, panel presentations, the voices and faces of those who have experienced homelessness personalize the issue, dispel myths/stereotypes, inspire involvement, and serve as a training, skill building, and empowerment tool for those who have experienced homelessness. To organize a “panel” in your community or to set up your own Homeless Speakers Bureau, contact NCH’s Speakers Bureau Coordinator Michael O’Neill at (202) 462-4822 x222 or [moneill@nationalhomeless.org](mailto:moneill@nationalhomeless.org).



*Every person has a story.*

**EVALUATION FORM**

Thank you for helping us to improve the quality of our presentations. Please complete this form, fold in half, and return it to a [Your Local Agency Name] staff member or mail it to the address below.

Your Name *(optional)* \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

Event Name \_\_\_\_\_ Speaker's Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. Please rate your experience with this presentation.	Strongly				Strongly
	Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Agree
	1	2	3	4	5
The presentation met my expectations and raised my awareness.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
The content of the presentation was informational.....	<input type="checkbox"/>				
The speakers' presentation kept my interest.....	<input type="checkbox"/>				
I would recommend this presentation to a friend or colleague.....	<input type="checkbox"/>				
This presentation helped motivate me to get involved with this issue.	<input type="checkbox"/>				

2. What did you like most about this presentation?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What did you like least about this presentation?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What suggestion(s) would you give to improve this presentation?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please return the completed form to:  
 [Local Host Agency], Attn: Speakers' Bureau, [Local Host Agency Address] For further information, contact:  
 [Your Name], Coordinator, Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau, at [Your Phone Number] or [Your E-mail]

## Other Activities

Apart from speaking engagements, the NCH Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau organizes a number of other activities and events that help to forward our agenda against homelessness and its causes.

- **The Bringing America Home Campaign**  
This national, broad-based initiative is dedicated to the goal of ending homelessness. The Campaign is founded on the principles and action of public education, grassroots organizing and support for progressive policies and legislation. It is founded on the principles that people need affordable housing, livable incomes, health care, education, and protection of their civil rights. The Bringing America Home Campaign is composed of a variety of efforts that address these causes of homelessness.
- **National Homeless Civil Rights Organizing Project**  
In response to increasing civil rights abuses, NCH is coordinating a locally-based national movement to protect the civil rights of people who are homeless. Find out what you can do to help prevent and combat the violation of homeless people's civil rights.
- **Homeless Empowerment Workshops**  
NCH conducts an ongoing series of workshops presenting information that might be useful to individuals experiencing homelessness. Past topics have included Lobbying, Street Rights, Hate Crimes, Criminalization of the homeless and Housing.
- **"You Don't Need A Home to Vote" Voting Rights Campaign**  
Since 1992, this campaign has already registered thousands of homeless people in all 50 states, DC and Puerto Rico. The campaign seeks to protect and promote the right of homeless people to vote.
- **Hate Crimes/Violence Prevention Project**  
Over the past nine years, advocates and homeless shelter workers from around the country have received news reports of men, women and even children being harassed, kicked, set on fire, beaten to death, and even decapitated. Over the last nine years there have been at least 774 documented attacks resulting in 217 deaths.
- **National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week**  
Co-sponsored annually by the National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness, National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week will be held November 15-21, 2009.

- **National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day**  
Since 1990, NCH has co-sponsored National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day on or near the first day of winter (December 21) to remember our homeless friends who have paid the ultimate price for our nation's failure to address the issue. The National Health Care for the Homeless Council (NHCHC) also co-sponsors this event.
- **Universal Living Wage**  
The Austin, TX-based group Universal Living Wage organization believes that if a person works 40 hours a week, then he/she should be able to afford basic housing. Find out how your organization can support this cause by visiting <http://www.universallivingwage.org>.

You can find more information about these and other activities at our website, <http://www.nationalhomeless.org>.