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## **The NPACH Report, Vol. 1 No. 2**

Welcome to The NPACH Report (Vol. 1, No.2), the newsletter of the National Policy and Advocacy Council on Homelessness. It has been a busy month for NPACH and we look forward to sharing important news about our common effort to end homelessness. We also welcome submissions from our friends who are engaged in the fight to end homelessness in America.

### **NPACH News**

#### **NPACH 2004 Legislative & Policy Agenda**

“Restoring equity in social investment” is the theme of the 2004 Legislative & Policy agenda, recalling historical touchstones such as the New Deal and the Housing Act of 1949.

[http://www.homelessnesscouncil.org/leg\\_pol\\_.htm](http://www.homelessnesscouncil.org/leg_pol_.htm)

#### **NAHRO releases study on proposed HANF "rent simplification"**

NAHRO (National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials) completed a study of the impact HANF's provision raising tenant rent contributions from 30 percent of monthly-adjusted income to 30 percent of monthly-gross income would have on low-income households. If it had been enacted in 2003, it could have increased all households' annual rent share by an average of \$283 or 10 percent above their current rent share under the HCV program.

<http://www.homelessnesscouncil.org/nahro.htm>

#### **NPACH joins call to adequately fund human needs programs in 2005 budget**

“National security requires taking reasonable measures in partnership with other governments around the world to assure the public's safety. But national security also requires assuring other core elements of the common good: equity and justice for all; a healthy and safe environment; and safe, economically productive communities in which each person's potential may be fulfilled.”

[http://www.homelessnesscouncil.org/human\\_needs\\_funding.html](http://www.homelessnesscouncil.org/human_needs_funding.html)

#### **UN-HABITAT announces first meeting of forced evictions advisory group**

UN-HABITAT's Advisory Group on Forced Eviction (AGFE) met for the first time on 5 March 2004 at the organizations headquarters in Nairobi. UN-HABITAT sees the monitoring of forced evictions as an essential component for the successful implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

<http://www.homelessnesscouncil.org/12mar04.htm>

#### **Rep. Julia Carson (D-IN) establishes new “Mortgage and Foreclosure Helpline”**

The Helpline is a joint project of Congresswoman Carson and Momentive Consumer Credit Counseling with the support of Fannie Mae Indiana Partnership Office and the department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Said Rep. Carson, “In 2001, Indiana had the 7th highest homeownership rate in the United States. Today, Indiana has one of the highest rates of foreclosure in the nation.”

<http://www.juliacarson.house.gov/issues2.cfm?id=7967>

## **NPACH-SRO**

On February 6, NPACH hosted an open house at the NPACH Southern Regional Office (NPACH-SRO). Advocates, service providers, and educators from across the Gulf South joined with members of the local community to discuss their current activities and learn about NPACH's national and regional efforts to end homelessness. NPACH-SRO works to coordinate Southern regional efforts with national strategies to end homelessness, including work on federal legislative initiatives such as the Bringing America Home Act (BAHA) and the National Housing Trust Fund. NPACH's Southern Regional Office is located in the historic Hope House in New Orleans, Louisiana.

A committed group of New Orleans-area advocates have formed the New Orleans Area Affordable Housing Alliance. Among the founding members are: New Orleans Neighborhood Development Collaborative; Neighborhood Housing Services of New Orleans; Hope House New Orleans; UNITY for the Homeless; and Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center. Through the efforts of the Affordable Housing Alliance and the Hon. Oliver M. Thomas, the New Orleans City Council recently passed a resolution endorsing the National Housing Trust Fund. For more information, contact Lucinda Flowers at (504) 524-3919.

### **Gulf Coast Fair Housing Center 2004 Fair Housing Rental Study:**

"Families with children seeking housing on the Gulf Coast are likely to be discriminated against in 69% of all rental housing transactions."

<http://www.makeitfair.com/2004Audit.pdf>

## **News from Our Partners**

NAEHCY, National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth, has released its 2004 Legislative and Policy Agenda. Among the key appropriations and reauthorizations included are McKinney-Vento Act's Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program and reauthorization of the Head Start Act.

<http://www.homelessnesscouncil.org/naehcy04.htm>

Making Poverty a Religious and Electoral Issue: Call to Renewal announces its 2004 Pentecost Show of Unity in Washington, DC. Call to Renewal is a national network of churches, faith-based organizations, and individuals working to overcome poverty in America. Events include presentations by Rev. James A. Forbes, Jr., Jim Wallis, Bill Moyers, and E.J. Dionne among many others.

<http://www.calltorenewal.org/flyer.pdf>

Project Forum, part of the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE), has released a document, "Homelessness and Students with Disabilities: Educational Rights and Challenges," discussing legal issues and best practices for serving students with disabilities who are in homeless situations. This important document will assist collaboration between homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento school district liaisons, and special education staff. It may be downloaded for free at:

[http://nasdse.org/FORUM/Document%20Pop-up%20Pages/homelessness\\_and\\_swd.htm](http://nasdse.org/FORUM/Document%20Pop-up%20Pages/homelessness_and_swd.htm)

Network, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby is currently seeking to fill the position of Lobbyist. A description of the position can be found by clicking the following link:

<http://www.networklobby.org/about/employment.html>

The Donald Driver Foundation will hold its annual golf tournament on Friday, June 25, 2004, at the Longwood Golf Course in Cypress, Texas. The Foundation works to end homelessness among families through education and fundraising efforts. NFL star Donald Driver's foundation is currently working in Houston, Texas, and Green Bay, Wisconsin, and is seeking to expand its efforts nationally.

<http://www.sundaydriver.net/>