

# Health Care for the Homeless Mobilizer

The National Health Care for the Homeless Council

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## Health Care for the Homeless Week 2005 *Saving Lives. Building Community.*

Today begins the first National Health Care for the Homeless Week. Forty-five HCH Projects around the country have devised a remarkable set of events designed to educate their communities about how HCH saves lives and builds community, and to advance our work in a great variety of creative ways.

HCH Week activities range from the simple to the very ambitious. Those that were known to us last week are posted on the National Council's website at [www.nhchc.org](http://www.nhchc.org). These late-breaking additions to the list are illustrative of what projects are doing:

- Southwest Community Health Center and Bridgeport CT Mayor John Fabrizi will recognize outstanding community leaders and organizations that serve homeless people at the First Annual Homeless Healthcare Awards Breakfast at City Hall.
- Northeast Valley Health Corporation in Los Angeles County has sought major media attention.
- The Memphis Health Center is conducting a health fair at the Downtown Memphis Ministry Drop In Center, and is sponsoring a sock & underwear – laundry products drive. Press materials call attention to proposed drastic cuts in the TennCare program.
- The County Executive for Seattle-King County is issuing a formal Recognition of HCH Week and will be the author of an op-ed in a Seattle daily newspaper.
- In Kansas City, Swope Health Services' HCH program will conduct a picnic and a health fair at a soup kitchen site. The event will include Medicaid enrollment activities.
- The New York City Council today issued a proclamation recognizing HCH Week and the work of HCH projects in NYC.

There is still plenty of time to create an HCH Week event in your community. This *Mobilizer's* action suggestions are quick & easy ways to get in the spirit of HCH, and to advance our cause.

### **ACTION**

- **Write a letter to your local newspaper.** Tell them about the work you do locally, the issues that your work reveals, and the broader movement represented by National HCH Week. See sample materials and the HCH Week toolkit at [www.nhchc.org](http://www.nhchc.org).
- **Honor those who are involved in HCH.** Dedicate a luncheon or after-work gathering to recalling the struggles and accomplishments of HCH clients, staff and Board members. Thank your colleagues and affirm your commitment to health care justice.
- **Write to your Senators.** Thank them for last week's decision to save the Medicaid program for \$14 billion in cuts (see the last *HCH Mobilizer*.) Ask them to support that decision in

negotiations with the House. Honorable \_\_\_\_\_, United States Senate, Washington DC 20510  
OR [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov).

- **Subscribe to the *HCH Mobilizer*.** Some recipients of this issue do not normally receive the *Mobilizer*, our action alert on policy issues affecting homelessness and health. E-mail subscriptions are free, fax subscriptions cost \$15 per year. Subscribe by writing to [council@nhchc.org](mailto:council@nhchc.org), by visiting the Publications order form on our website at [www.nhchc.org](http://www.nhchc.org), or by calling 615/226-2292.
- **Share the *HCH Mobilizer*** with your colleagues, clients, Board members, and friends.
- **Spend 30 minutes on our website.** A great deal of clinical and policy information that relates directly to HCH practice is freely available at [www.nhchc.org](http://www.nhchc.org). Become familiar with resources that can help you and your colleagues.