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## **COVERING KIDS & FAMILIES BACK-TO-SCHOOL CAMPAIGN**

The HCH Clinicians' Network is a national supporter of the <http://www.coveringkidsandfamilies.org> 2006 Covering Kids & Families Back-to-School Campaign; there are many ways that our members can get involved. Thousands of events are being planned across the country to spread the word and help enroll eligible uninsured adults and children in Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). The communications team can connect you with local coalitions planning activities. Free planning guides and materials including fliers, posters, lapel stickers and bookmarks are available at <http://www.coveringkidsandfamilies.org/> [www.coveringkidsandfamilies.org](http://www.coveringkidsandfamilies.org).

Major League Soccer (MLS) has again joined as a national partner for the 2006 *Covering Kids & Families Back-to-School Campaign*. MLS teams across the country

will host "Children's Health Care Coverage Days," play Covering Kids & Families' public service announcements during half-time, and distribute materials during games. To learn more about working with a Major League Soccer team in your state, go to

<<http://www.coveringkidsandfamilies.org/about/partners/mls/>>[www.coveringkidsandfamilies.org/about/partners/mls.](http://www.coveringkidsandfamilies.org/about/partners/mls/)

Covering Kids & Families will announce new research findings about children's health care coverage on Wednesday, August 9, 2006, during national press launches in Baton Rouge, LA; Des Moines, IA; Helena, MT; Houston, TX; Las Vegas, NV; Milwaukee, WI; Phoenix, AZ; and Seattle, WA. This research will be made available to all national supporters. If you would like to attend a press conference, please contact Lisa Beck at 202 572-2988 or <<mailto:lisa.beck@gmmb.com>>[lisa.beck@gmmb.com](mailto:lisa.beck@gmmb.com).

From posting fliers at the local grocery store to hosting a booth at a local fair, all activities make a difference in our efforts to reach potentially eligible families about available health care coverage. If your organization already has activities planned, <<http://coveringkidsandfamilies.org/plan/>>**tell us about them** today!  
**SOURCE:** <<http://www.coveringkidsandfamilies.org>>2006 Covering Kids & Families Back-to-School Campaign | Lisa Beck | phone: 202 572-2988 | E-mail: <<mailto:lisa.beck@gmmb.com>>[lisa.beck@gmmb.com](mailto:lisa.beck@gmmb.com)

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## **HUGE INCREASE NOTED IN PRESCRIPTION OF ANTIPSYCHOTIC DRUGS TO YOUTH**

Between 1993 and 2002, there was a more than fivefold increase in the use of antipsychotic medication to treat children and adolescents, according to a recent report in the Archives of General Psychiatry. A national survey found that such medications were prescribed to about 1,400 out of 100,000 youth in 2002. By comparison, from 1993 to 1995, 275 children of every 100,000 received such prescriptions. While experts have argued insufficient research exists on the effects of antipsychotic medication on young people to justify their use, others say that antipsychotics are the best treatment currently available for children who desperately need help.

A recent USA Today survey of U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) records between 2000 and 2004 found that atypical antipsychotic medications were listed as the "primary suspect" in the deaths of at least 45 children and adolescents.

About 1,300 other serious side effects, some of which were life-threatening, were also reported. According to <<http://www.OpEdNews.com>>OpEdNews.com, fewer than 10 percent of side effects and deaths are captured by the FDA reporting system, so the actual numbers may be a lot higher.

**SOURCE:** Clearinghouse Website | The Key Update | Volume 3, No. 1 | July 2006

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### **KIDS COUNT 2006 DATA BOOK ONLINE**

The Annie E. Casey Foundation's 2006 KIDS COUNT Data Book is available in an online database that contains more than 75 measures of child well-being, including the 10 measures used in the annual KIDS COUNT Data Book. It also includes timely data on Education, Employment and Income, Poverty, Health, Basic Demographics, and Youth Risk Factors for the U.S., all 50 states and DC. Custom graphs, maps, ranked lists and state-by-state profiles may be generated from the database. To access the database or order a free copy of the full report, go to:

<http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/sld/databook.jsp>.

**SOURCE:** Funding Alert | [www.dc.gov](http://www.dc.gov) | Volume 9, Issue 30 | July 24, 2006

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### **NEW WEBSITE TO COLLECT NONPROFIT RESEARCH**

A new website allows nonprofit organizations to post their research and other analysis on social issues free of charge. IssueLab, at <http://www.issuelab.com>, was launched earlier this year to collect nonprofit research and data and place them on one website so that a variety of audiences could access them. The site accepts a wide range of documents, including reports, white papers, fact sheets, case studies, data sets and more. Using the site is free, although organizations must register, which allows them to add and maintain publication listings, track visitor interest in different documents and manage account details. Each nonprofit has an organization page where background and contact information can be posted.

The website accepts research on nearly any social issue across the political spectrum, including children and youth, housing and homelessness, parenting and families, consumer protection, education and literacy, health and medicine, immigration, poverty and hunger, to name a few. Additional categories are being added as new research is being posted on the site. Currently, all materials on IssueLab can be accessed free. However, in the future, the site plans to have the capacity for nonprofits to take secure payments for publications they cannot offer free. In addition, readers will be able to post reviews about publications as well.

**SOURCE:** Association of Fundraising Professionals | [www.afpnet.org](http://www.afpnet.org)

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## **IN THE MEDIA: HOUSING HOMELESS FAMILIES**

In a June 12 Los Angeles Times editorial, "Finding a Way Home: Housing homeless families," the experiences of a young mother of three children, Christine Elks, are used as an example of a growing problem in Los Angeles. With 6,500 families currently homeless and making families being one of the fastest growing homeless population in the city, this editorial takes a close look at solutions from across the country that are proving to be effective in preventing and ending family homelessness, including prevention efforts in Massachusetts that use geo-coding to help identify the locations of high risk families and then target prevention efforts. Housing First, monitoring and assisting families on state welfare, expanding eviction assistance programs, and creating more affordable and public housing were offered as promising strategies to help homeless families. As the editorial states, "The most heartbreaking homeless problem has some of the freshest solutions."

**SOURCE:** National Alliance to End Homelessness | Alliance Online News | June 20, 2006

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## **ENDING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS**

Our nation must do more to end youth homelessness. The failure to ensure safe and stable housing for our nation's young people results in youth living on the couches of relatives or friends, in emergency shelters, and on the streets -- all far from ideal environments for ensuring their successful transition to stable and economically self-sufficient adults.

- > The U.S. Department of Justice estimated that in 1999, nearly 1.7 million youth had a runaway/throwaway episode.
- > A 1991 national study of former foster youth revealed that 25 percent of the youth were homeless at least one night.
- > A survey of 209 unaccompanied youth who were homeless in Minnesota reported that 46 percent had been in a correctional facility, and of those, 44 percent exited into an unstable housing situation.

The National Alliance to End Homelessness website has an overview of youth homelessness, links to best practices for ending youth homelessness, audio conferences, recent research, and other resources. Visit the website at <http://www.endhomelessness.org/youth>.

**SOURCE:** National Alliance to End Homelessness | Alliance Online News | July 25, 2006

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## **CHILDHOOD OBESITY**

The proportion of children ages 6 - 19 years of age who are either overweight or obese has tripled over the past 30 years. Obesity involves substantial health risks to children and puts them at risk for other conditions such as low self-esteem, eating disorders, body dissatisfaction and depression. Childhood obesity prevention efforts much target individual changes such as improving food choices and increasing physical activity and environmental changes that support healthy choices. Families, schools, clinicians, community and nonprofit organizations, industry, media, and government at all levels play critical roles in encouraging young people to make healthy food choices and adopt more active lifestyles.

Clinicians can provide information and resources to children and families in their waiting areas and exam rooms to demonstrate their support for healthy lifestyles, especially eating fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grains and low fat milk products, and being physically active. The Center for Weight and Health makes available materials specifically designed for clinicians' offices. Clinicians can become involved at the community level by speaking out to city councils and school boards in support of policies that create healthier communities for children. For more prevention ideas, visit the Center for Health and Health Care in Schools website at <http://nature.berkeley.edu/cwh>.

Advocates can support changes to federal nutrition programs such as WIC, a program that supplements the diets of millions of low-income women, infants and children, to provide more fresh fruits and vegetables to meet current dietary guidelines. For the Institute of Medicine report on WIC food packages visit their website at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/oane/MENU/Published/WIC/WIC.htm>.

**SOURCE:** Association of Clinicians' for the Underserved | JULY 2006 | [www.clinicians.org](http://www.clinicians.org)

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## **PLAY IT SAFE, BABY: HOW TO REDUCE YOUR CHILD'S EXPOSURE TO TOXIC CHEMICALS**

A few small, easy changes in how you store and heat foods, which toys your child plays with, and which foam furnishings and linens you use can help reduce your child's exposure to toxic chemicals. To read the report by the by U.S. PIRG Education Fund, "The Right Start," go to <http://ecologicalmedicine.bioneers.org/node/14>.

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## **CHOKING PREVENTION: THE KEY TO CHILDHOOD SAFETY**

Airway obstruction is the leading cause of unintentional injury-related deaths of children under the age of one year in the U.S. According to the National SAFE KIDS Campaign, 88% of deaths and nearly 80% of hospital emergency room visits for airway obstruction injuries involved children four-years-old and under. To avoid airway obstruction in children, prevention is clearly the best strategy.

Remembering the information and tips that can help prevent choking, however, is difficult for busy parents and caregivers. Therefore, the International Food Information Council (IFIC) Foundation recognized the need for easy-to-use information to help prevent airway obstruction in young children.

The IFIC Foundation in partnership with the National SAFE KIDS Campaign developed a poster for health professionals, parents, educators and child care providers. The poster, Prevent Childhood Choking: It's Up To You, is printed in English on one side and Spanish on the other in order to provide this important information to a wide audience. To order the poster, write to Choking Prevention Poster, IFIC Foundation, 1100 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 430, Washington, DC 20036. Single copies are free; additional copies are \$1.50 each. The poster is also available online at <http://www.ific.org/publications/brochures/chokingpos.cfm>.

**SOURCE:** Food Insight | September/October 2005 | <http://ific.org/foodinsight>

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## **FUNDING & AWARD OPPORTUNITIES . . .**

### **WHO Foundation: Women Helping Others Accepting Grant Applications**

**Deadline: September 12, 2006**

The WHO Foundation: Women Helping Others supports grassroots charities serving the overlooked needs of women and children. Grants are provided to organizations serving women and/or children in the United States and Puerto Rico. Specific projects and programs addressing health, education and social service needs are the foundation's priority. The foundation recognizes the value of new programs created to respond to changing needs and will consider funding projects of an original or pioneering nature within an existing organization. Visit the WHO Foundation website at <http://www.whofoundation.org> for complete program guidelines, eligibility details, and an FAQ.

RFP Link: <http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/10002943/whofoundation>

**SOURCE:** RFP BULLETIN | June 9, 2006 | Volume 7, Issue 23

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## **Entries Invited for Graffiti Hurts National Award Program**

**Deadline: September 15, 2006**

Graffiti Hurts is a community-based graffiti prevention program developed through a partnership between Keep America Beautiful, Inc. and the Sherwin-Williams Company. Graffiti Hurts provides resources to help community leaders assess the graffiti problem, initiate graffiti prevention activities and educate youth and adults about the impact of graffiti vandalism on neighborhoods. The Graffiti Hurts National Award program recognizes and honors programs that are bringing innovation and best practices to erase graffiti vandalism. Winning programs receive a cash award of up to \$1,000, plus additional prizes valued at up to \$5,000. Winning communities are also recognized in national and local media. The contest is open to all anti-graffiti projects that have taken place in the last 12 months. Eligible applicants may enter one of three award categories:

- > Community under 300,000 population;
- > Community over 300,000 population; and
- > Paint Brush Mural. The "paint brush mural" category is for eligible groups with a project that is using one (or more) paint brush mural(s) to respond to persistent graffiti.

Visit the <<http://www.graffitihurts.org>>Graffiti Hurts website at <http://www.graffitihurts.org> for complete program information.

RFP Link: <http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/10003416/graffitihurts>

SOURCE: RFP BULLETIN | Foundation Center | July 14, 2006 | Volume 7, Issue 28

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## **Hunger Relief Programs**

**Deadline for applications: October 1, 2006**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Domestic Hunger Program announces funds to provide relief and development assistance for those who suffer from hunger and injustices related to hunger in the U.S. Priority is given to programs that help people with the least resources for meeting their basic needs, and women and children living in poverty. Eligible applicants include nonprofits, faith-based, and community-based organizations. For further information, go to

<http://www.elca.org/grantinghope/>. Grant ID: GD1403

SOURCE: Funding Alert | [www.dc.gov](http://www.dc.gov) | Volume 9, Issue 30 | July 24, 2006

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## **Children Serving Their Communities**

**Deadline for nominations: October 1, 2006**

The Angel Soft Angels in Action Program recognizes children ages 8 - 18 who have executed exemplary acts of service to benefit their community, a charity or cause.

Nominators who are 18 years or older may submit an essay of 200 words or less about the nominee's service accomplishments. The most outstanding service project will be named Program of the Year with the winner receiving \$15,000. Two Grand Prizes of \$10,000 and five First Prizes of \$1,000 will also be awarded. Along with cash awards, the Program of the Year winner and both Grand Prize winners will receive a trip for two to Walt Disney World. For further information, go to <http://www.angelsoft.com/angelsinaction/awardsprogram2006.asp>.

SOURCE: Funding Alert | [www.dc.gov](http://www.dc.gov) | Volume 9, Issue 30 | July 24, 2006

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### **Activists of Color Award**

**Deadline for applications: December 1, 2006**

The Alston/Bannerman Fellowship Program is committed to advancing progressive social change by helping to sustain long-time activists of color. The program honors those who have devoted their lives to helping their communities organize for racial, social, economic and environmental justice, and provides resources for organizers to take sabbaticals for reflection and renewal. The program seeks applicants whose work attacks root causes of injustice by organizing those affected to take collective action; challenges the systems that perpetrate injustice and effects institutional change; builds their community's capacity for self-determination and develops grassroots leadership; acknowledges the cultural values of the community; creates accountable participatory structures in which community members have decision-making power; and contributes to building a movement for social change by making connections between issues, developing alliances with other constituencies, and collaborating with other organizations. The award is approximately \$15,000. For further information, go to <http://www.alstonbannerman.org>.

SOURCE: Funding Alert | [www.dc.gov](http://www.dc.gov) | Volume 9, Issue 30 | July 24, 2006

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This Pediatrics Interest Group e-mail update is brought to you by the Health Care for the Homeless Clinicians' Network. We invite you to share your opinion on issues of concern to the pediatrics community. In addition, we welcome your feedback. If you have comments or suggestions for improvements to the newsletter, please send them to the Pediatrics Interest Group newsletter editor, Brenda Proffitt, at [bproffitt@nhchc.org](mailto:bproffitt@nhchc.org). If you decide to cancel your subscription, please send a blank e-mail to [network@nhchc.org](mailto:network@nhchc.org), and put Leave Pediatric Interest Group in the Subject line of your message.

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Virtually yours,  
Brenda Proffitt