

**JUNE 2008 | NUMBER 29 | SPECIAL ISSUE ON THE 2008 NATIONAL HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS CONFERENCE & SYMPOSIUM**

## **IN THIS ISSUE:**

- \* Please renew your Network membership today!
- \* Annual Network Membership Meeting | June 13, 2008
- \* National Health Care for the Homeless Conference addresses broad range of issues related to children & youth
- \* 2008 Policy Paper on Homeless Children & Youth
- \* Identifying Developmental Delay in Homeless Children
- \* June 12: Family preservation for older youth
- \* My Own Four Walls 2008 DVD
- \* Children's Health Care Differs Widely by State, Report Finds
- \* Update: Campaign for U.S. Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

## **UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS**

- \* June 11 - 14: National Health Care for the Homeless Conference
- \* June 19 - 20: Tuberculosis Intensive
- \* July 28 - 30: National Alliance to End Homelessness Annual Conference
- \* August 10 - 16: National Health Center Week & HCH Day
- \* September 16: Third Oxford Health & Homelessness Conference
- \* October 6 - 7: A Home for All: Bringing the Pieces Together
- \* October 23 - 25: National Summit of Clinicians for Healthcare Justice
- \* November 6 - 9: Collaboration: The Key to the Medical Home
- \* December 21: Homeless Persons' Memorial Day
- \* June 23 - 27, 2009: National Health Care for the Homeless Conference & Policy Symposium

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## **PLEASE RENEW YOUR NETWORK MEMBERSHIP TODAY!**

It's time to renew your Network membership—or join for the first time—if you haven't already. Our membership year runs from annual meeting to annual meeting, so your 2007 - 08 membership expires on June 13. For your convenience, we have attached a member renewal form to this e-mail message, or you may simply renew online at [www.nhchc.org/network\\_join.html](http://www.nhchc.org/network_join.html). If you have questions concerning your membership status, please write Pat Petty at [network@nhchc.org](mailto:network@nhchc.org) or call 615 226-2292. Thank you for your ongoing support!

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### **ANNUAL NETWORK MEMBERSHIP MEETING | NATIONAL HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS CONFERENCE | PHOENIX, AZ | FRIDAY | JUNE 13 | 2 - 3:30 PM**

Join HCH Clinicians' Network members at our 13th annual meeting! Network Chair Bechara Choucair will summarize the past year's activities; members will elect new Steering Committee members; and we will salute two Local Heroes, Kathy O'Dea, CNP, and Trish Lopez, MSW. Learn more about the Network annual awards program online at [www.nhchc.org/2008award.html](http://www.nhchc.org/2008award.html), and start thinking about who among *your* colleagues deserves national recognition at next year's event!

An exciting new feature during this year's gathering is Shoptalk. We invite members to discuss their work, noting emerging trends or ongoing challenges and looking toward solutions that we might address as a national clinical network. Our leadership and staff will use the information gathered during this highly interactive forum to help shape our organization's future activities and direction. For information about this and other Network-sponsored events happening during the conference, visit [www.nhchc.org/2008conferenceevents.html](http://www.nhchc.org/2008conferenceevents.html).

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### **NATIONAL HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS CONFERENCE ADDRESSES BROAD RANGE OF ISSUES RELATED TO CHILDREN, YOUTH**

The Network's Pediatric Work Group and others of you were very active in working with this year's conference planners and the Education Committee to develop workshops specific to homeless children and youth:

- Adolescent Sexual Health
- Child Development
- Dental Caries in Children
- Medical Centers & Homeless Youth Drop-in Centers
- Pediatric Prescribing Clinical Update
- Trauma in Children

To learn more about these and other conference offerings, go to [www.nhchc.org/2008conference/agenda.html](http://www.nhchc.org/2008conference/agenda.html). There you will be able to link to a description of each session along with any handouts, materials or PowerPoint presentations that the workshop presenter(s) has provided. The conference is **going green** this year, so take a moment to see what's online in case you want to print and bring it with you; speakers won't be providing handouts.

This new service is especially of value to those of you who cannot attend since you, too, are able to access much of the conference content. So please take a few moments to surf our website; it's quick, easy and you'll be glad you did!

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## 2008 POLICY PAPER ON HOMELESS CHILDREN & YOUTH

The Network's Pediatric Work Group, in collaboration with the National Council's Policy Committee, developed a policy statement on child and youth health. Download and read this and other vital policy recommendations related to health and homelessness at [www.nhchc.org/Advocacy/PolicyPapers/policystatements.html](http://www.nhchc.org/Advocacy/PolicyPapers/policystatements.html).

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## IDENTIFYING DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY IN HOMELESS CHILDREN

Upon recommendation from the Network's Pediatric Work Group, the Communications Committee selected identifying developmental delay in homeless children as one of its six *Healing Hands* topics for the upcoming 2008 - 09 year. If you have suggestions for content, know of innovative solutions or best practices, please contact Health Writer Sue Bredensteiner at [suebred@mindspring.com](mailto:suebred@mindspring.com) or Communications Manager Pat Post at [ppost@nhchc.org](mailto:ppost@nhchc.org). We are especially interested in learning who you suggest be interviewed on the topic.

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## FAMILY PRESERVATION FOR OLDER YOUTH

Upcoming Audio Conference: June 12

With at least one million youth on the streets and in shelter in America, and hundreds of thousands more leaving juvenile justice placement, mental health facilities and child welfare systems, the problem of youth homelessness continues unabated. Research indicates that most youth flee homes due to severe conflict, abuse and neglect. The issues propelling older youth into homelessness are often the same issues that drive younger children into child protection and foster care. Preventing youth homelessness before it occurs is a critical part of ending homelessness among youth. Some communities offer family preservation services to families with infants and younger children as a means of preventing an out-of-home placement. These same services should be offered to older adolescents experiencing family conflict and neglect, with the assurance that youth will only be returned to safe and nurturing families.

This audio conference will offer a review of community responses and best practices in family preservation (which focus on resolving conflict and decreasing the incidence of abuse and neglect) with a special consideration toward practices geared toward older adolescents. To learn more and how to participate in the audio conference, go to [www.endhomelessness.org/section/tools/multimedia](http://www.endhomelessness.org/section/tools/multimedia).

**SOURCE:** Leadership to End Homelessness Audio Conference Series | National Alliance to End Homelessness

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## MY OWN FOUR WALLS 2008 DVD

HEAR US, Inc., has just released an expanded version of their DVD *My Own Four Walls*. The DVD contains short documentaries depicting youths' experiences of rural homelessness. Suitable for a wide variety of audiences, this expanded version of the DVD includes one new film and educational guides. The original *My Own Four Walls* received the

2007 Outstanding Media Award from the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children & Youth. Visit the HEAR US website for price and purchase information.

**SOURCE:** NCH News | June 2008 | National Coalition for the Homeless | [www.nationalhomeless.org](http://www.nationalhomeless.org)

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### **CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE DIFFERS WIDELY BY STATE, REPORT FINDS**

States vary widely in the quality of health care that children receive, as well as in family insurance premiums, access to care, and children's chances of leading healthy, productive lives, a new report from the Commonwealth Fund finds. The report, *U.S. Variations in Child Health System Performance: A State Scorecard*, assessed how the health system is performing for children across five categories on a state-by-state basis, ranking states on 13 indicators. Although no single state performed at the top across all categories, states in the Northeast and Upper Midwest received high marks in multiple areas, while those in the South and Southwest tended to have the lowest rankings.

According to the report, if all states performed as well as the top states, an additional 4.6 million children nationwide would have health insurance and 11.8 million more children would get their recommended yearly medical and dental check-ups. The report, which compared each state to benchmarks that have already been achieved in one or more states, also noted that because there are limited state-level data on many measures of children's health, there is a pressing need for better data to inform federal and state health policy reform efforts.

"In looking at the country as a whole, we found that, while there are pockets of excellence, there is no one state or region that is doing as well as it could be," said Commonwealth Fund vice-president Dr. Edward Schor. "This scorecard points to the need to make more information available about children's health care and to improve the health care system for children. The good news is we know improvements can be made because we didn't judge these states based on a pie in the sky standard; we judged them against one another."

For more findings from the report, visit the Commonwealth Fund website at [www.commonwealthfund.org](http://www.commonwealthfund.org).

**SOURCE:** Philanthropy News Digest | May 28, 2008

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### **UPDATE: CAMPAIGN FOR U.S. RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

The Campaign for U.S. Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) announces the complete revision of our website at <http://childrightscampaign.org>. The expanded site includes information on topics such as enacting local/state CRC Resolutions, requesting a Speakers Bureau expert, and researching various aspects of child well-being..

## Youth Outreach Committee Survey Results

The Youth Outreach Committee hosted an online survey for youth to complete during April. Analysis of these results will be used to further develop the Youth section of the website and determine what type of contest to sponsor later this year. The vast majority of respondents were female; in the 7th, 8th, or 11th grades; and reside in suburban areas. A couple highlights from the survey follows:

> **Human Rights Issues** Respondents indicated that their most pressing concern affecting the well being of all children (domestically and internationally) was poverty. With regard to children in the U.S., respondents reported being concerned about violence, health care and homelessness. In terms of issues affecting children in other countries, respondents listed education and labor as top concerns.

> **Activities** A majority of respondents indicated interest in participating in the following activities: a Youth CRC-Awareness Raising Committee; contest (art, essay, or video), and creating youth-friendly CRC materials. The Youth Outreach Committee will be meeting in the next couple of weeks to plan next activities.

Elisabeth Lean, MSW | Campaign Director | [elisabeth@childrightscampaign.com](mailto:elisabeth@childrightscampaign.com)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS

**June 11 - 14:** 2008 National Health Care for the Homeless Conference | Hyatt Regency | Phoenix, AZ | [www.nhchc.org](http://www.nhchc.org)

**June 19 - 20:** Tuberculosis Intensive | Francis J. Curry National Tuberculosis Center | Seattle, WA | [www.nationaltbcenter.edu/training/tb\\_intensive.cfm](http://www.nationaltbcenter.edu/training/tb_intensive.cfm)

**July 28 - 30:** National Alliance to End Homelessness Annual Conference | Hyatt Regency Capital Hill | [www.endhomelessness.org/content/calendar/detail/1874](http://www.endhomelessness.org/content/calendar/detail/1874)

**August 10 - 16:** National Health Center Week & HCH Day

**September 16:** Third Oxford Health & Homelessness Conference | Oxford, UK | [www.conted.ox.ac.uk/cpd/homelessconf08](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/cpd/homelessconf08)

**October 6 - 7:** A Home for All: Bringing the Pieces Together | 2nd annual homeless & supportive housing conference | Sponsors: Florida Coalition for the Homeless, Florida Supportive Housing Coalition, and Florida Department of Children & Families | [www.flshc.net](http://www.flshc.net)

**October 23 - 25:** National Summit of Clinicians for Healthcare Justice | Washington, DC | [www.allclinicians.org](http://www.allclinicians.org)

**November 6 - 9:** Collaboration: The Key to the Medical Home | Collaborative Family Healthcare Association's 10th Annual Conference | Grand Hyatt | Denver, CO | [www.cfha.net](http://www.cfha.net)

**December 21:** Homeless Persons' Memorial Day

**June 23 - 27, 2009:** National Health Care for the Homeless Conference & Policy Symposium | Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill | Washington, DC

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The Health Care for the Homeless Clinicians' Network brings you this Pediatrics Interest Group e-mail update. 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 Healing Kids newsletter editor, Brenda Proffitt, at [bproffitt@nhhc.org](mailto:bproffitt@nhhc.org). If you decide to cancel your subscription, please send a blank e-mail to [network@nhhc.org](mailto:network@nhhc.org), and put Leave Pediatric Interest Group in the Subject line of your message.

The Network develops this publication with support from the Health Resources & Services Administration. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of HRSA/BPHC, the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, Inc., or the Health Care for the Homeless Clinicians' Network.

