

NATIONAL LAW CENTER ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY 2010 annual report

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Letters from Founder & Executive
	Director and Board Chair

- 2 Mission & History
- 4 Housing
- Federal Plan to End Homelessness
- Housing is a Human Right
- 7 Children & Youth
- Civil Rights
- O Domestic Violence
- 1 1 Pro Bono Project Spotlight

- 12 LEAP
- 13 In the Media
- 15 Selected Publications
- 7 Financials
- 18 2010 Donor Listings
- 20 Board of Directors & Staff
- 21 2011 Priorities & How to Connect to the Law Center

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

### & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### Dear Friends of the Law Center:

In 2010, with your support, the Law Center won historic victories, laying the foundation for transformative change.

In 2010, thanks to legislation we helped pass, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness released the firstever comprehensive Federal Plan to End Homelessness. This unprecedented document will serve as a blueprint for ensuring every American has a place to call home.

In 2010, thanks to our advocacy, the federal government began specifically addressing local policies criminalizing homelessness – punishing homeless people for sleeping and eating in public view. The law requires the Interagency Council to widely disseminate constructive alternatives to such policies, and we are working to help it do so.

And, in 2010, thanks to Law Center leadership, U.S. support for the human right to housing took a giant step forward, paving the way to addressing the causes of homelessness.

I am so proud of all that we have accomplished together. Our work transforms lives and laws. But my pride is tempered by the knowledge that much still remains to be done.

When I think of the child with a full stomach in a familiar classroom, I think also of the child whose curiosity is wasted on wondering how he'll eat today. When I think of the family safe in their home, I think too of the family wrongfully evicted, their belongings on the sidewalk. And when I think of the woman watching snow fall through her window, I think also of the woman for whom winter was a death sentence.

So while we celebrate our success, let us also redouble our efforts to reach our ultimate goal: ending homelessness now and forever.

We've already come so far. Your generosity has transformed lives and brought us closer to the goal we share. Human suffering is not inevitable. We have the means to prevent it; we only require the will. Let us not rest until homelessness is no more in America.



Sincerely,

Maria Foscarinis Founder and Executive Director

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

#### Dear Friends of the Law Center:

For seven years now, I've been proud to serve on the Law Center's board of directors. It has been immensely rewarding for me to watch the Law Center in action, advocating for the rights of homeless and poor people, and to witness the passion and generosity of friends and supporters like you.

With foreclosures rising and families becoming homeless in record numbers, we believe our work is becoming more vital by the day. While shelters and soup kitchens valiantly meet homeless people's immediate needs, it is only through the progress made through public policy and advocacy that homelessness can be eliminated in America.

Together, you and the Law Center are preventing and ending homelessness for hundreds of thousands of people, and working toward a day when everyone will have a home.

Thank you for your generosity, kindness, and continued support.



Sincerely,

Vasiliki Tsaganos Chair

# OUK HISTORY

Law Center Founder and Executive Director Maria Foscarinis began her legal career as a litigation associate at the Wall Street firm Sullivan & Cromwell. During her time there, she represented homeless families pro bono, and as she witnessed first-hand the severe shortage of safe and affordable housing in America, she began to realize the crucial role of legal advocacy in addressing this national crisis. In 1985, Maria left Sullivan & Cromwell to fully devote herself to the fight to end homelessness.

In 1987, Ms. Foscarinis led the campaign to pass the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, the first major federal legislation to address the problem.

In 1989, she founded the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty. Since then, the Law Center has worked to sustain and expand federal aid to homeless persons, served as a leader in the right to housing movement, and pushed the U.S. government to commit to a comprehensive plan to end and prevent homelessness. In 2010, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness released that plan, and the U.S. underwent its first ever comprehensive human rights review by the United Nations. Housing was prominently featured in the review.

# MISSIO

Since 1989, the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty has served as the legal arm of the national movement to end and prevent homelessness. Through policy advocacy, public education, and impact litigation, the Law Center seeks systematic reform and works to meet both the immediate and long-term needs of homeless and poor people. Through training and technical assistance, it supports effective advocacy by local groups across the country.

The Law Center works with community-based and national allies to enforce and implement existing legal rights and advocate for new policies and resources to end and prevent homelessness. In all of its work, the Law Center leverages the pro bono assistance of major national law firms through its Lawyers' Executive Advisory Partners (LEAP) program.





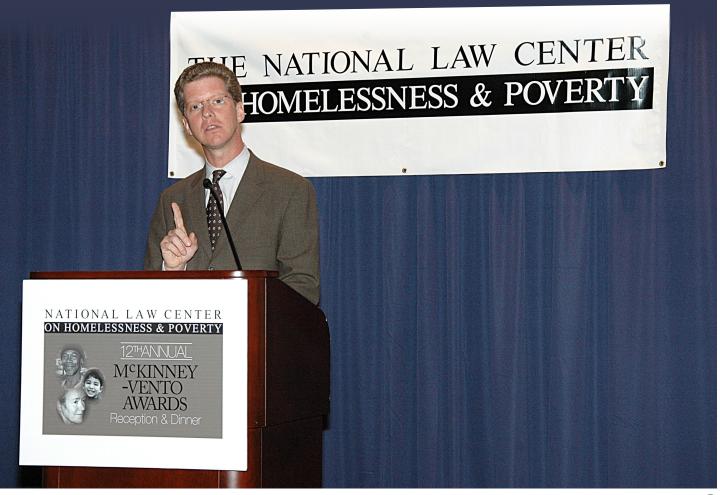


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It's one thing to say that no one should be without a safe, stable place to call home — to say that everyone should be housed. It's quite another to marshal the resources, the political capital and the moral outrage required to actually do it...that's precisely what [the Law Center] has accomplished.

"

-Shaun Donovan, U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development



## HOUSING

More than 7 million American households pay more than half their income for rent, or live in substandard housing.

Housing is fundamental to a person's physical, emotional, and intellectual health. As the foreclosure crisis and economic recession linger, more and more families are losing the comfort of home.

#### A New Direction for National Policy

In 2010, the Law Center's advocacy was instrumental in helping drive these major national policy changes:

- The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness released the first-ever Federal Plan to End Homelessness, including many of the Law Center's recommendations.
- Congress extended the Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act (PTFA) through 2014, and clarified the law to better protect renters' rights.
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development issued a new rule for the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) that strengthens the housing rights of domestic violence survivors.

#### **Creating New Housing and Service Sites**

In 2010, the Law Center trained dozens of advocates and service providers to obtain vacant federal properties at no cost to house or provide services to homeless people. Work on new properties is underway in Rhode Island, Washington, D.C., Maryland, North Carolina, and South Carolina.



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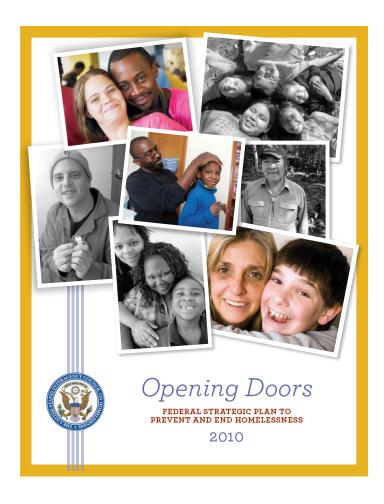
It won't be too long into 2011 before 58 formerly homeless families are living in beautiful, safe, decent, respectful and LEED certified new homes...None of this would have been possible were it not for the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty and your pro bono assistance program.

"

-Michelle M. Wilcox, Chief Operating Officer Crossroads Rhode Island

# FEDERAL PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS

In 2010, thanks to tireless advocacy by the Law Center and its partners, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness released *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*, the first comprehensive plan aimed at ending homelessness in the United States. The plan makes clear that ending homelessness is a federal responsibility, and charts a course for action to address the underlying causes of homelessness.



The Law Center worked closely with the Interagency Council during the plan's development. Many of the plan's strategies follow its recommendations, including:

- Provide affordable housing to people experiencing or most at risk of homelessness.
- Reduce the criminalization of homelessness and incentivize constructive alternatives.
- Eliminate housing discrimination against domestic violence survivors.
- Support additional rental housing subsidies and expand the supply of affordable rental homes.
- Eliminate barriers to accessing federally funded housing assistance.
- Coordinate housing with education and other services to better serve homeless families and children.

The Law Center is committed to holding the government accountable to these goals and strategies and will continue to push for funding to make the plan a reality.

The full plan is available online at www.usich.gov.

# HOUSING SAHUMANRIGHT



Human Rights Director Eric Tars (right) at the United Nations in Geneva

Every human being has a right to adequate housing under international law. The Law Center is a leader in the U.S. human rights community, and is working to hold the government accountable to its obligation to ensure every American has a place to call home.

In 2010, the Law Center provided human rights training and support to more than 1,000 advocates nationwide.

#### Human Rights at Home

In 2010, the United States underwent its first-ever comprehensive human rights review before the United Nations Human Rights Council. The Law Center was a key organizer in the effort to draw attention to U.S. housing rights violations.

- In preparing its report to the Council, the U.S. State Department met with homeless and poor persons, as well as advocates, in a series of consultations co-organized by the Law Center.
- Because of the Law Center's vigorous advocacy, housing was a central issue in the review. One State Department official remarked: "We have heard more about housing than you would believe...If I had to pick the number one issue brought to the U.S., it would be housing."
- The Law Center was an active participant in the review in Geneva, offering testimony on the failure of the U.S. to ensure Americans' housing rights. The Council's final report included many of the Law Center's recommendations.

#### Real Community Change

Just days after a training last April, participants from Salt Lake City used human rights arguments to successfully advocate against the enforcement of a law punishing homeless people for sleeping outdoors, even when there was not adequate shelter space for them.

"

The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty is such a powerful example of using human rights to address domestic social justice issues. Your work is truly an inspiration!

"

-Jenny Einie-Steighner, The Advocates for Human Rights

# American children have a 1 in 50 chance of experiencing homelessness in their lifetime.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

For homeless children, school is a stabilizing force in otherwise chaotic lives. The Law Center works to ensure these children have adequate nutrition and a stable education – their best hope to one day break the cycle of poverty.



#### **Ensuring Adequate Nutrition**

The Law Center successfully advocated for the passage of the federal Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act to ensure that one million homeless children, and millions more poor children, have access to free, nutritious school meals.

#### Improving Access to Education

As a national leader on homeless children's education rights, the Law Center is a key resource for school officials, advocates, and homeless families. In 2010, it trained and provided technical assistance to over 1,000 people nationwide, helping to ensure that hundreds of thousands of homeless children have access to a quality, stable education.



Danae, a student in Louisiana, was nearly denied the financial aid she needed to complete her college education because of her homelessness, until the Law Center stepped in to advocate on her behalf. She said,

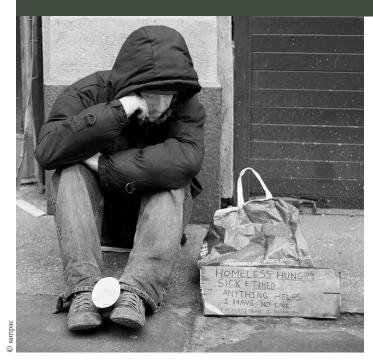
"

Thank you SO much for all your help. Getting the opportunity to receive my degree is priceless to me. Without graduating, I know I wouldn't have a chance at medical school. For this, everyone who has helped me has been so pivotal in my life.

"

## CIVII RIGHTS

Nearly half of the people experiencing homelessness in America are unsheltered.



It's Not a Crime to Share

In July, the Law Center released *A Place at the Table*, a report examining local policies across the country which limit or prohibit groups from sharing food with homeless people. Even as hunger rises, with 25% of requests for emergency food assistance going unanswered in 2009, cities are penalizing the generosity of those who want to share. The report also identifies positive alternatives to these practices, and will serve as a valuable tool for local advocates.

#### Powering Local Advocacy

Equipping local advocates to pursue change at the local level is one of the Law Center's core strategies. This year, it trained and provided support to 450 advocates across dozens of states. As a result, the Law Center helped prevent passage or suspend enforcement of criminalization laws in Seattle, WA; Salt Lake City, UT; San Antonio, TX; and Charlottesville, FL.

As homelessness increases nationwide, people experiencing it are increasingly punished or harassed for performing life-sustaining activities like eating or sleeping in public. The Law Center works to oppose laws that criminalize homelessness and encourage constructive alternatives.



Ryan Kuo

66

If it had not been for the confidence in our position that was given to us by NLCHP, I feel very strongly that [we] would have been forced to either cease our feeding operations or risk arrest.

"

-Greg R. Blasko, CPA, Treasurer, Church Under the Bridge

#### **Finding National Solutions**

In December 2010, the Law Center's HEARTH Act advocacy led the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness to host a national summit, the first of its kind, to develop and promote constructive alternatives to criminalization.



Examples of food sharing restrictions noted in the *A Place at the Table* report:

- Gainesville, Florida began enforcing a rule limiting the number of meals that soup kitchens may serve to 130 people in one day.
- Phoenix, Arizona used zoning laws to stop a local church from serving breakfast to community members, including many homeless people, outside a local church.
- Myrtle Beach, South Carolina adopted an ordinance that restricts food sharing with homeless people in public parks. Although permits are free, groups may only obtain a permit four times a year.

Some constructive alternatives to these restrictions:

- In Los Angeles, the "Swipes for the Homeless" program collects hundreds of donated meal card swipes from UCLA students.
- In San Diego, arguing that prohibiting a church from serving a meal to community members violated the First Amendment freedom of religion allowed one church group to continue to serve a weekly meal to 150-200 homeless people.
- The federal EBT Restaurant Meals
  Program allows people to use SNAP/Food
  Stamp benefits at authorized restaurants.
  Participation is up to each state. While
  many states do not take advantage of the
  program, it has expanded in several states
  that do.



## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

More than half of domestic violence shelters report that abuse is more violent now than before the recession.

Deciding between remaining with an abuser and becoming homeless is a choice no domestic violence survivor should ever face. The Law Center advocates to strengthen and build laws to protect survivors' housing rights.

#### Strengthening the Law

After the Law Center helped pass the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in 2006, follow up monitoring by the Law Center revealed that that implementation was lacking. Vague language in the law meant that some landlords did not understand their obligation to protect survivors' housing rights.

In 2010, the Law Center pushed the Department of Housing and Urban Development to issue new guidelines that left no doubt about how the law should be implemented. As a result, far fewer women will have to choose between remaining with an abuser and becoming homeless.

#### **Empowering Local Advocates**

With technical assistance from the Law Center, local advocates helped pass a new law giving unprecedented housing protections to domestic violence survivors in Maryland. Thanks to this legislation, survivors in both public and private housing are now permitted to break their lease without financial repercussions when fleeing an abuser, and cannot be evicted from housing for an abuser's actions.

"

The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty is a key partner in addressing the multi-faceted issues facing domestic violence survivors... throughout the United States.

"

-Cindy Stevens
Department of Human Services – Supportive Housing,
Arlington County, VA



## **PRO BONO** PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



Many of the Law Center's most important legal victories would not have been possible without extensive pro bono assistance from the private bar – from litigation and legislation to research and technical assistance.

In 2010, firms donated more than \$2 million worth of pro bono services to the Law Center, undertaking significant work aimed at protecting the rights of homeless persons. The following is a small sampling of their projects:

#### Civil Rights

Hogan Lovells LLP contributed research to and drafted A Place at the Table, a report on local laws limiting charitable groups' ability to share food with homeless people.

#### Education and Children/Youth

Goodwin Proctor LLP is helping a homeless child in Hicksville, NY remain in his school, despite the district's attempts to disenroll him.

#### Housing

- Goulston and Storrs is co-counseling with the Law Center to assist So Others Might Eat (SOME) in obtaining vacant military property to house homeless people.
- Nixon Peabody LLP collaborated with the Law Center and Crossroads Rhode Island to obtain surplus property from the Air Force. This land is being redeveloped into permanent, affordable housing for 58 formerly homeless families.
- Covington & Burling LLP helped Mary's Shelter & Mary's Home to obtain vacant military property in Pennsylvania. The land will help Mary's Shelter more than double the number of homeless families it serves.

#### **Domestic Violence**

- WilmerHale is researching and will draft a comprehensive chart of all state laws addressing housing protections for domestic violence survivors.
- In preparation for the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women's mission to the United States, **Dechert LLP** contributed research to and wrote portions of the Law Center's briefing paper on partner violence in military families.

#### Foreclosure Response

**Sidley Austin LLP** helped draft and analyze data for *On the Edge*, a report detailing the strengths and weaknesses of the federal Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program.

#### Pro Bono Firms

Covington & Burling LLP Dechert LLP DLA Piper (US) LLP Fish & Richardson P.C. Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP Goodwin Proctor LLP Goulston & Storrs Greenberg Traurig LLP Hogan Lovells Howrey LLP Jones Ďay

Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP Latham & Watkins LLP McDermott Will & Emery Morrison & Foerster LLP Nixon Peabody LLP Sidley Austin LLP Sullivan & Cromwell LLP WilmerHale Winston & Strawn LLP





The Lawyers Executive Advisory Partners (LEAP) program is a national philanthropic effort of the legal community to help homeless and poor Americans achieve self-sufficiency. LEAP members work to prevent and end homelessness by providing financial support and pro bono legal services to the Law Center. The members comprise a network of key influential leaders that realize positive social change.

"

The work I've done with NLCHP makes me proud of my profession and reminds me why I became a lawyer.

"

-Ed McNicholas, Sidley Austin LLP

#### Our 2010 LEAP Members

John Grisham (Honorary Chair)

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP Bruce Rosenblum Covington & Burling LLP Dechert LLP DLA Piper Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP Goodwin Procter LLP Hogan Lovells Jenner & Block LLP Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP Latham & Watkins LLP Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP Sidley Austin LLP Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP Sullivan & Cromwell LLP WilmerHale

#### **Dechert LLP**

## Dechert LLP was honored with the Law Center's 2010 Pro Bono Counsel Award.

Dechert LLP's attorneys dedicate tens of thousands of hours to *pro bono* work each year. In 2010, Dechert supported the Law Center with research on a wide variety of issues, including: unaccompanied homeless youth, access to education for homeless children, partner violence in military families, and the human right to housing. Dechert's assiduous research and analysis will be key resources for the Law Center as it advocates for change at the federal, state, and local levels.

# MEDIA

#### The New York Times (April 22, 2010)

Peter S. Goodman, U.S. Offers a Hand to Those Teetering on Eviction's Edge

"Nationally, homelessness has now reached crisis proportions not seen since the Great Depression," says Maria Foscarinis, executive director of the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty.

#### USA Today (March 1, 2010)

William M. Welch, Sit-lie law puts spotlight on safety Maria Foscarinis, executive director of the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty in Washington, D.C., says such ordinances are part of a trend toward criminalizing poverty. In a report last year, her group said 30% of 235 cities it surveyed had enacted ordinances restricting sitting or lying down in public places. "They seem to be on the upswing now as homelessness rises dramatically due to the foreclosure crisis," she said.

#### The Washington Post (June 23, 2010)

Henri Cauvin, Effort to aid homeless expanded Maria Foscarinis...said the [federal plan to end homelessness] offers a compelling portrait of the causes of homelessness and ways to end it. But that's not enough, she said. "Where it is short, in my view," Foscarinis said, "is it does not make specific commitments with resources that the administration will pursue to actually fund the plan."

#### Las Vegas Review Journal (April 26, 2010)

#### Kristi Jourdan, Donation Stations

[S]aid Tulin Ozdeger, civil rights director for the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty... "I really think when people give to people on the street there's a human connection ... There is a more meaningful way of addressing homelessness rather than putting up parking meters. Ultimately, the biggest issue is that our local and federal governments need to devote more resources and more funding for affordable housing to help get people off the streets."



#### Minnesota Public Radio (December 25, 2010)

Jessica Mador, Help for the Homeless in Demand Jeremy Rosen, the policy director for the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, says homeless people are at risk of hypothermia this time of year. "Especially these last few years we are seeing more and more families with children becoming homeless"...Rosen said more federal and state funding is needed to preserve essential safety net services.

#### National Public Radio (December 25, 2010)

Host: Guy Raz, New Face of Homelessness: The American Family

Maria Foscarinis: "Banks were considered too big to fail. Well, I think we have to start thinking that in a country such as the United States, that allowing people to be homeless, allowing children to go without a place to lay their heads at night is not something we will tolerate, and we have to be able to find the money to stop that, to ensure that everybody has a place to live."



2010 Awardees with Secretary Shaun Donovan and Maria Foscarinis

# McKINNEY-VENTO AWARDS HONOREES

On October 14, 2010, more than 200 supporters attended the Law Center's 12th Annual McKinney-Vento Awards at the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel in Washington, D.C. While celebrating the outstanding contributions of individuals and organizations to the movement to end homelessness, the event raised more than \$200,000 to support the Law Center's work.

The evening's keynote address was delivered by Shaun Donovan, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. He reiterated his commitment to vigorously implementing the new Federal Plan, and ending homelessness once and for all. "It was 66 years ago, during his final State of the Union address in 1944, that President Roosevelt declared the right of every family to a decent home," Secretary Donovan said. "True individual freedom cannot exist without the economic security and independence a home provides."

#### Stewart B. McKinney Award

Barbara Ehrenreich has long been an advocate for homeless persons and the working poor. Her 2001 book, Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America, was the culmination of a two-year investigation of what people teetering between poverty and homelessness experienced. Following the economic crisis, Ehrenreich published a series of articles about homelessness. Her 2009 op-ed – "Is It Now a Crime to Be Poor?" – drew attention to the disturbing trend of criminalization. She tells the story of a man charged with criminal trespassing for sleeping on the sidewalk. When he didn't show up for his court date, he was dragged out of the shelter where he was staying and put in jail. Barbara's ability to put a human face on social realities has helped establish her as one of the nation's most powerful voices on poverty issues.



Barbara Ehrenreich



Nancy Hubley, Education Law Center of PA

#### Bruce F. Vento Award

Since 1975, the Education Law Center of Pennsylvania (ELC) has worked to make good public education a reality for Pennsylvania's most vulnerable children, including those who are homeless. In 2009, when the Elzer family became homeless and their children were wrongly denied access to school, ELC and the National Law Center took up their fight, filing suit against the children's school district. Thanks to this collaboration, the district ultimately admitted its wrongdoing and re-enrolled the children, while the Pennsylvania Department of Education issued new guidance to protect the state's 43,000 other homeless children from similar suffering.

#### Personal Achievement Award

Bill and Christi Elzer and their four children were a typical American family. They were living week to week, but there was a roof over their heads and dinner on the table. Then the unthinkable happened: Bill lost his job, and the family lost its home. It only got worse from there. The children's school district wrongfully denied them enrollment because they were homeless. But it's not in the Elzers' natures to give up. Together, with the Education Law Center and the National Law Center, they successfully sued the school district to uphold their children's rights. Today, the family is living in a new house and Bill has a steady job. The children are thriving in school.



The Elzer Family with Board Member G.W. Rolle



## SELECTED 2010 PUBLICATIONS

#### Reports

A Place at the Table Prohibitions on Sharing Food with People Experiencing Homelessness

Staying Home The Rights of Renters Living in Foreclosed Properties

Separate & Unequal in the Same Classroom Homeless Students in America's Public Schools

2009 National Forum on the Human Right to Housing Follow-Up Report

#### Fact Sheets

HUD Programs: Violence Against Women Act Conforming Amendments

Foreclosure Effects on Homelessness Indicators of Increasing Homelessness due to the Foreclosure and Economic Crises

Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act

Surplus Federal Property

### Legislative Documents & Testimony

Homelessness & the UN Women's Rights Treaty Testimony in Support of CEDAW Ratification

Impact of FAFSA on Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

Comments Submitted to U.S. Department of Education

Shadow Report on Housing Issues as Part of the U.S. Universal Periodic Review

Testimony on D.C. Homeless Services Reform Amendment Act of 2010

#### Articles

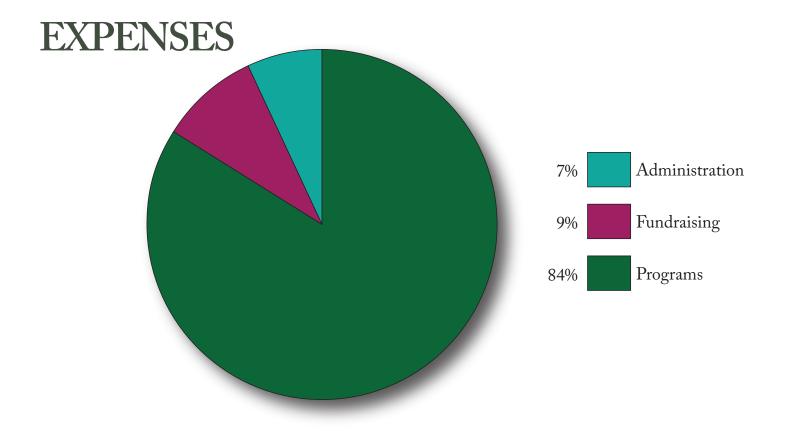
After It's Gone: The Impact of the Foreclosure Crisis on Children and Families.

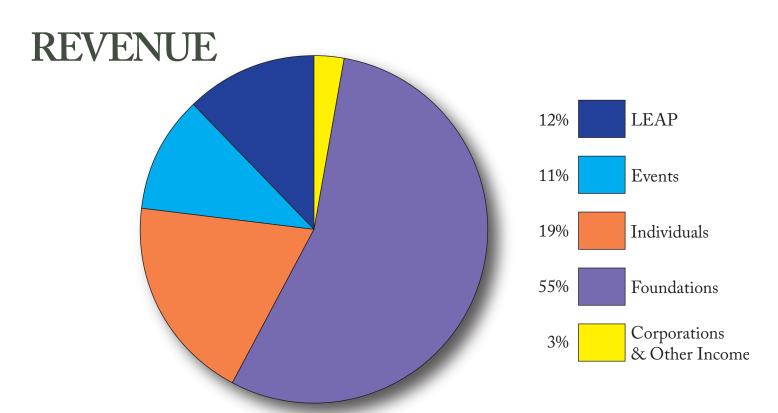
Published by Neighborhood Funders Group

Facing Eviction: Protecting Tenants Living in Foreclosed Properties

Published in Spotlight on Poverty & Opportunity

## 2010 FINANCIALS\*





# **THANK YOU**

2010

## **DONORS!**







#### **Champion** — \$25,000+

Anonymous Donors Bank of America Freddie Mac Foundation Herb Block Foundation Leonsis Foundation Oak Foundation
Oakwood Foundation
Open Society Institute
Bruce & Lori Rosenblum
U.S. Human Rights Fund

#### Leader — \$10,000-\$24,999

Butler Family Fund
Columbia Legal Services
Roderick & Ann Marie
DeArment
Dechert LLP
Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver
& Jacobson LLP
The George, Clarence
and Dorothy Shaffer
Foundation

Hogan Lovells
Human & Civil Rights
Organizations of
America
Sidley Austin LLP
Jeffrey Simes
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett
LLP
Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

#### **Partner** — \$5,000-\$9,999

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP John & Miriam Courembis Covington & Burling LLP The DLA Piper Foundation Jenner & Block LLP Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP Latham & Watkins LLP
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National Association of
Realtors
Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP
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WilmerHale





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#### **Associate** — \$500-\$999

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Sally Dworak-Fisher
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Tashena Middleton Moore
James & Georgia Nicholas
Kazem Oryani
Nancy D. Polikoff
Susan Vento

\* In-kind donation

#### **Advocate** — \$100-\$499

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#### Member – - up to \$99

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### 2011 PRIORITIES

In 2011, the Law Center will work to shape public policies that promote and further the human right to housing. This includes:

- Preventing homelessness by enforcing and making permanent the Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act.
- Strengthening the McKinney-Vento Act's education protections for homeless children.
- Expanding the Violence Against Women Act's housing protections to other federal housing programs.
- Expanding the definition of homelessness used by HUD and other federal agencies to help increase access to housing.
- Securing legislative and administrative improvements to Title V of the McKinney-Vento Act, to ensure homeless service providers can continue to access surplus federal property for free.
- Increasing funding for HUD's homelessness

- prevention efforts and promoting policy changes to make the program work more effectively for people seeking aid.
- Holding the United States government accountable to international human rights standards by promoting treaty ratification and recognition of the human right to housing.
- Promoting constructive alternatives to the criminalization of homelessness, in partnership with HUD and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness.
- Supporting legislative and administrative initiatives to help prevent and end veteran homelessness.
- Identifying and eliminating barriers that prevent homeless persons from accessing federal, state, and local programs that could assist them in obtaining housing, employment, public benefits, or other services.
- Securing increased federal funding for overall efforts to prevent and end homelessness.

## CONNECT TO THE LAW CENTER

#### Blog | www.homelessnesslaw.org

The Homelessness Law blog offers unique commentary on the movement to end homelessness. We invite you to engage in this conversation by leaving your comments.

#### Wiki | wiki.nlchp.org

Connect with fellow advocates, attorneys, and policymakers on the Law Center's Homelessness Wiki. This central, online tool promotes information-sharing among leading national and local advocacy groups.

#### E-Newsletter

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