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November 2010

HOPE-news

Dear {FIRST_NAME|Friend of HOPE Coalition},
Join HOPE Coalition on November 16 for the "Great Minnesota Give Together!"



Double your money! The Jones Family Foundation, Red Wing Area Fund, Whimsy's Closet, and WomenCents have generously offered to match all GiveMn online donations to HOPE Coalition on November 16th (up to \$2,000.) Take advantage of this amazing opportunity to make your gift go further!

If each of our supporters donates \$20 in honor of HOPE Coalition's 20th Anniversary we will reach our goal of \$5,000!

Visit GiveMN.org on Nov. 16th to help HOPE Coalition continue to be a *safe place to breathe, heal, and grow* for families in crisis.



A note from HOPE's President, Kris Kvols



November 14 through 20 is Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. This year's theme is "Resolve to Fight Poverty". According to a US Department of Agriculture report released last year, 1 in 7 Americans went without adequate food at some point in 2008. This means that 49 million people suffered food insecurity; the highest rate in 14 years. At HOPE Coalition, we view this week as a community call to action.

Did you know?

- 2/3 of U.S. households facing food insecurity reported having at least one member employed full-time. 1

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- 1 in 17 Minnesotans rely upon local food shelves to help feed their families. 2
- 260,000 Minnesotan's (five percent) use food stamps each month to feed their families. 4
- In the U.S., more than 3.5 million people experience homelessness each year. 35% of the homeless population are families with children, 23% are U.S. military veterans, 25% are children under the age of 18 years, 30% have experienced domestic violence, 20-25% suffer from mental illness.1
- There are an estimated 9,200 and 9,300 total homeless on any given night in Minnesota. 3
- In Minnesota, about one-third of the homeless population is children who are homeless with their parents. Nearly half (47%) are age 5 and under; the average age is 6.5. 3
- The top reasons Minnesota parents gave for becoming homeless were: could not afford rent or house payments (46%), lost job or had hours cut (37%), evicted or lease not renewed (36%), broke up with spouse or partner (30%), abused by someone in the home (24%). 3

In order to end hunger and homelessness in our community, we must all intervene. Here's what you can do:

- Remember Give to the Max Day! Make an online contribution to HOPE Coalition or another non-profit serving the hungry and homeless on November 16 at GiveMN.org.
- Challenge false assumptions that perpetuate stereotypes about hunger and homelessness.
- Inform yourself. Read the books Reckoning with Homelessness by Kim Hopper and Without a Net: Middle Class and Homeless (with Kids) in America by Michelle Kenedy or watch the 2006 movies "Easy Street" and "Pursuit of Happiness".
- Tie a harvest gold ribbon in a visible place (a tree in your yard, your car antenna, your mailbox) to show your support for those who are hungry and homeless.
- Contact Senator Al Franken (e-mail: <http://franken.senate.gov> or telephone: 651-221-1016), Senator Amy Klobuchar (e-mail: <http://klobuchar.senate.gov> or telephone: 612-727-5220) and Representative John Kline (e-mail: <http://kline.house.gov> or telephone: 888-808-6644) and encourage them to support the Bring America Home Act – a legislative proposal of the National Coalition for the Homeless to end mass homelessness in the United States through a comprehensive national response that addresses the housing,



health care, income, and civil rights causal factors and consequences of extreme poverty.

- Educate others about homelessness by inviting HOPE Coalition to speak to your community group, workplace, or place of worship. To arrange a speaker, contact Kris Kvols or Emily Nelson at 651-388-9360.

1. National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness
2. Hunger Solutions MN
3. "Homeless children in Minnesota and their families", Wilder Research 2009 Minnesota Homelessness Study Fact Sheet
4. MN Budget Project Feb. '07

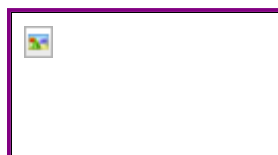
Join us in welcoming Mike Larson to HOPE's Board of Directors!

HOPE Coalition is pleased to welcome Mike Larson to the Board of Directors. Mike is Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at Fairview Red Wing Health Services. He also has extensive experience serving on other local non-profit boards. Mike serves as the HOPE Coalition Board of Directors Vice Chair for Finance and is on both the Executive and Finance Committees. His financial skills and non-profit experience are truly assets for the agency.

The HOPE Coalition Board of Directors is seeking additional members. If you: have first-hand experience with homelessness, are a resident of greater Goodhue County, own a local business, or have fundraising skills and are interested in exploring a role with the HOPE Coalition Board of Directors, please contact Kris Kvols at 651-388-9360 extension 11 or kkvols@hope-coalition.org for more information or an application.



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