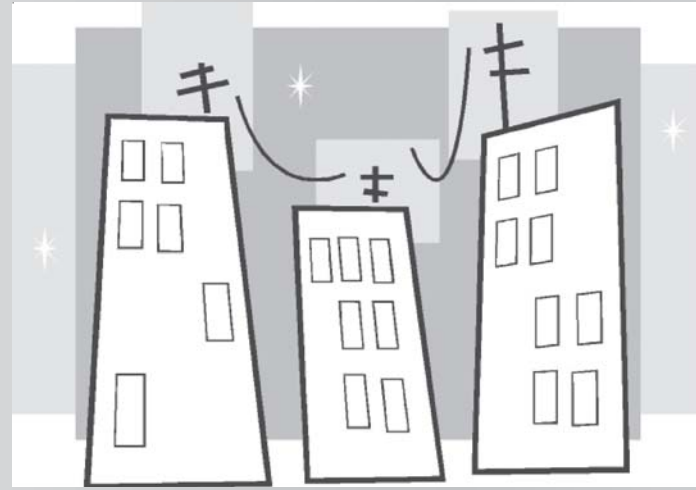


Save the Date

You are cordially invited to attend the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless' Annual Dinner - HOMES, DIGNITY AND HOPE - A 20 Year Celebration
December 9th 6:00 pm @ Xavier Cintas Center

Including Dinner,
Silent Action,
Raffle, Awards,
& Entertainment!



Reserve a table: \$200 (10 seats)
Sponsor dinner for a homeless individual: \$25
Donate an item for our silent auction

For tickets, please send \$25 to GCCH at 117 E 12th Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
Makes checks payable to GCCH and write 'ticket' in the memo. (If you are a service provider, please send \$20 for your ticket. The discount is our way of saying Thank You!)
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 421-7803, EXT. 16

**Greater
Cincinnati
Coalition For
The Homeless**



117 East 12th Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

513-421-7803

www.CinciHomeless.org

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the Newsletter of the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless

Greater
Cincinnati
Coalition For
The Homeless

Fall 2004

Dear Friends,

What is the American Dream? White picket fences around perfect, weed-free yards? Two cars? Two kids? Keeping up with the Joneses and a brand new Maytag? Or is it closer to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream: a dream of equality and justice?

Or maybe it's the America of Woody Guthrie in the original version of *This Land is Your Land* where he wrote "One bright sunny morning, in the shadow of the steeple, By the Relief Office I saw my people — As they stood hungry, I stood there wondering if this land was made for you and me?" Who owns the American Dream? Who defines it? Who dreams it?

With the November election generating so much passion, I've had a chance to reflect on what I've learned as the director of the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless. This journey has brought me closer to America than I ever could have anticipated. America is unwaveringly optimistic. This is our greatest strength, and our greatest weakness. The American Dream of self-sufficiency and wealth, bootstraps morality and independence is ingested by the people of this country from the moment we get here (by birth or immigration) until the moment we depart. These are our most cherished principles.

Unfortunately, this doctrine of optimism and independence cloaks systems of power and inequality. It hides the mechanisms of poverty beneath rhetoric of ethical failure. Most devastatingly, it takes away from a very basic truth: we are all dependent upon one another. In fact, this dependence, this love, is what makes us truly human.

My American Dream includes safe, affordable shelter for every man, woman and child. My American Dream is filled with people earning the wages they need to support their families. My American Dream provides services for the sick and the hopeless with compassion and dignity. My American Dream is not mine alone, it is shared by every hungry kid, every shelter worker and volunteer who give of themselves, every person experiencing homelessness who bravely takes a stand.

I adore this country. I respect our freedom, our hope and our stubbornness. It is because I love this country, my country, that I continue to look outside of the white picket fence to what lies beyond. It is because we love this America, that we link arms to push it to live up to its promises.

Sincerely,
Georgine Getty
Executive Director

Since we Last Spoke

Check out our new website:
www.CinciHomeless.org

• **Education**

Our educational expansion project to get homelessness added to High School curriculum has taken off. Cincinnati schools have begun piloting GCCH's recently developed Education Packet in their classrooms.

The packet uses many of our already-existing education tool plus our recently developed teacher's guide on homelessness. Mother of Mercy was the first to pilot the materials in their classrooms. Upon completion of the unit, teacher Lauren Schroeder commented, "The students' perspectives on those who are poor, marginalized, and powerless have become one of greater compassion and understanding."

At the time of this writing, Aiken University High School had just begun the pilot. Seton High School will follow in November. We are excited to see students in our schools talking about the issue of



Standdown 2004

homelessness. The teacher and student comments gathered from the pilot program will allow us to further develop our materials to make them effective and enjoyable for both teachers and students.

• **Advocacy**

In collaboration with COHHIO GCCH has been hard at work organizing the Get Out The Vote campaign among our member agencies, shelters, and the homeless community.

• **Coordination of Services**

STANDDOWN 2004 was a success! Standdown featured over 30 social service agencies, a free lunch, health screenings, and

Social Security claims representatives. The event was held in Washington Park on Friday Oct. 1st. Attendance was high and we estimate 500 homeless and low income people visited between 9am and 1pm.

GCCH has continued to collaborate with the Cincinnatians for Affordable Housing to gather together all interested Affordable Housing Advocates (AHA) in the Greater Cincinnati Community to form a permanent affordable housing committee interested in coordinating efforts to develop increased and improved affordable housing in this community.

I am the Face of Homelessness

Interview by Rachel Lawson

"I was under the bridge and I didn't want to do rules and I had a drinking problem and everyone told me..." A victim of physical, verbal, and emotional abuse Linda Corey has come very far, literally. She used to live in Florida, where she stayed in a shelter and worked for different temporary positions. Eventually she found herself deserted in Ohio and a long way from home.

At one point she was living underneath a bridge by the Cincinnati Ballpark Arena. Her breaking point came one day when she had two full beers, but her foot was almost completely frozen. She reasoned that "drinking didn't change my life" and realized that it caused her more pain and trouble. She asked for some type of spiritual intervention. Always a Christian, something told her to go to the St. Xavier church and the first lady she saw gave her a cup of coffee. No longer desiring to drink she contacted the Center for Chemical Addictions Treatment on Ezzard Charles and discovered they had a bed available.

On January 26th she entered the Drop Inn Treatment Center, where she met Ms. Annie, who she lovingly refers to as "Mom". Although it's been hard along the way Ms. Linda believes that she has definitely had some guardian angels to help her along. She remembers that at her first group session she said, "it feels like a jail" but Ms. Annie assured her that it would be all right.

Slowly but surely things have been getting better for Ms. Linda. Continuing to strive, Ms. Linda recently graduated from the Drop Inn's Treatment program and moved into transitional housing. Ms Linda has been clean for 10 months. In the end, Ms. Linda feels that she helps others because she demonstrates that if you try anyone can succeed.



Ms. Linda Corey

Wish List

- **Supplies** - The Coalition is always in need of paper product and office supplies such as paper towels, toilet paper, copy paper, and cups.
- **Skills** - Anyone with carpentry skills to build shelving

Call 513-421-7803 to Volunteer

!!!! Action Alert !!!!

PROTECT THE SECTION 8 HOUSING VOUCHER PROGRAM

One of the most effective and efficient programs run by the federal government, the Section 8 Voucher Program is facing attacks and budgetary cuts and appalling policy changes from the Administration proposed for 2005 - 2009.

Ask Congress to stop the Administration's proposal that will result in a loss of 250,000 vouchers. Contact U.S. Reps and Senators today

For more information, or to take action go to:
<http://www.cohhio.org/index.shtml>

Contact Us

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Kate McManus, AmeriCorps Vista Homeless Civil Rights Organizing Project - ext. 11

Kate and Rachel : homelesscivilrights@yahoo.com

Happy Birthday *Streetvibes!*

This November *Streetvibes* will celebrate its 100th Issue.

Support your Vendors, buy a paper today!