



PRESS RELEASE

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HOUSING FOR THE HOMELESS PREVENTS HIV TRANSMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Today, Tuesday, July 29, 2014, 1,600 advocates for the homeless from around the United States are convening in Washington DC for the 2014 National Conference on Ending Homelessness, sponsored by National Alliance to End Homelessness. The week-long event will examine strategies that end homelessness for the more than 600,000 people who live without a roof over their heads on a given night in America. In Saint Louis, DOORWAYS Interfaith Housing works to end homelessness for more than 2,300 men, women, and children affected by HIV/AIDS in over 100 counties in Missouri and Illinois. Its focus is driven by the research that shows that housing is healthcare in both assisting those already infected with HIV and in prevention of the transmission of this life-threatening virus.

Today’s Pre-Conference Meeting- 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. called “A Community Listening Session: Addressing Homelessness through HIV/AIDS Housing: What’s Working, What’s Not, and Why” will examine both successful models and challenges in fulfilling housing’s promise as a powerful prevention and healthcare intervention for homeless people with HIV/AIDS.

Housing and service providers for people living with HIV/AIDS, consumers and officials will share how their community is including housing in implementation of the Affordable Care Act and learn about successful models for addressing homelessness for people living with HIV/AIDS from across the country; about community strategies to coordinate services and programs to ensure homeless individuals living with HIV/AIDS have access to care and treatment; and updates on modernization of the Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) formula and the status of the Office of HIV/AIDS Housing.

Participants include: Arturo Bendixen, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Chicago, IL • Russell Bennett, Collaborative Solutions, Inc., Birmingham, AL • Nancy Bernstine, National AIDS Housing Coalition, Washington, DC • Nancy Chiarella, CARES, Inc., Albany, NY • Amber Harding, Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless, Washington, DC • Connie Hill, Collaborative Solutions, Inc., Birmingham, AL • Rebekah Horowitz, National AIDS Housing Coalition, Washington, DC

In DC, contact Emanuel Cavallaro, Communications Associate for National Alliance to End Homelessness at 202-942-8297 for more information about today’s meeting.

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HOUSING FOR THE HOMELESS PREVENTS HIV TRANSMISSION

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“This type of meeting is important because it shows how providing housing for people living with AIDS saves lives and allows us to work for best practices in our mission,” Opal M. Jones, DOORWAYS President and CEO said. “These experts are working together to continue what we have also seen to be true in Saint Louis and America’s Heartland: that although a lack of stable housing for those living with HIV is linked to poor health indicators, more hospitalizations, greater emergency room visits, and even early death, *immediate housing placement overwhelmingly increases health and reduces AIDS mortality.*”

Nancy Bernstine, Esq., Executive Director for the National AIDS Housing Coalition adds, “Homeless people living with HIV/AIDS are twice as likely (and some studies show as much as six times as likely) to engage in behaviors that transmits HIV/AIDS to others. Offering supportive housing to the homeless is truly saving lives.”

DOORWAYS is an interfaith non-profit organization that provides housing and related supportive services to improve quality of life and health outcomes for people affected by HIV/AIDS. Through direct service delivery and the efforts of identified program partners, DOORWAYS’ programs and services annually benefit 1,000 households living with HIV/AIDS in the 15-county St. Louis metropolitan area, 62 under-served counties in outstate Missouri, and another 55 under-served counties in outstate Illinois. In Saint Louis, to volunteer or to donate, please visit www.doorwayshousing.org.

National AIDS Housing Coalition is the only national organization which focuses exclusively on the housing needs of people living with HIV/AIDS and other vulnerable people in our society. As a membership-focused organization NAHC maintains a presence in more than half the states and Canada. More information about research that proves housing saves lives can be found here <http://nationalaidshousing.org/>.

The National Alliance to End Homelessness is a nonprofit, non-partisan, organization committed to preventing and ending homelessness in the United States. By improving policy, building capacity, and educating opinion leaders, the Alliance has become a leading voice on this issue. More information about this week’s meeting featuring First Lady Michelle Obama can be found here <http://www.endhomelessness.org/library/entry/media-advisory-first-lady-michelle-obama-to-speak-at-alliance-national-conf>.

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