



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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HOMELESS AWARENESS WEEK 2012

Lansing, Michigan – Governor Rick Snyder has proclaimed that November 10-18, 2012 will be designated as Homeless Awareness Week for the state of Michigan.

Homeless Awareness Week is a statewide observance to educate the public about the complexities of homelessness and the diligent work being done to bring relief to those most in need.

Homelessness affects every community in Michigan – all age groups, all racial and ethnic groups, and families with children as well as individuals. Unfortunately, many people believe that homelessness is a result of failure, laziness, addiction, and being socially inadequate.

However, people who are homeless are simply individuals who do not have a place to call home.

In 2011 there were over 94,000 homeless individuals across the state. Contrary to traditional stereotypes, more than half of the persons who became homeless in 2011 were families with children.

Fortunately, however, the number of people who've avoided homelessness or were successfully housed increased from the previous year. More than 38,000 individuals found

and maintained stable housing in 2011. Encouraging statistics like this do not occur without the help and support of a wide range of service providers and appropriate resources from federal, state, and local sources. This success can be attributed to new, expanded and improved programming, as well as enhanced coordination at the local level where issue leaders are working toward long-term solutions.

All Michigianians are encouraged to volunteer or make a financial or in-kind donation in support of a local service agency that is working to help solve the problems faced by homeless persons in their communities.

The Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness (MCAH) is spearheading this statewide observance effort in association with Michigan's Campaign to End Homelessness (www.thecampaigntoendhomelessness.org), a collaboration of more than 600 statewide, regional and local partners.

MCAH is a statewide not-for-profit agency dedicated to preventing and ending homelessness in the state of Michigan through community collaboration, capacity building, education and advocacy. For more information about MCAH, this observance, or the issue of homelessness, please call Eric Hufnagel at (517) 485-6536 or visit www.mihomeless.org.

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