Happy 2011! I want to express my gratitude to all the supporters of the Coalition for the Homeless (CFH) for yet another wonderful year of service to individuals and families who are homeless. Together, we have had far-reaching positive effects on the well-being of homeless citizens in the District of Columbia. You have made a difference in countless lives in our community. One of the things that makes the CFH such an awesome organization is that our supporters know that ninety-two percent of every dollar received goes towards direct services for the 440 individuals and families we serve daily. The Coalition is deeply grateful for the generosity of our community and your contributions are essential to ensuring delivery of valuable services.

Message From the Executive Director

Michael L. Ferrell, Executive Director

Our History

The InterFaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington, an inter-religious organization created the Coalition for the Homeless in 1979 through its Hunger Task Force. The Coalition was originally composed of direct service providers to the homeless to provide full-time advocacy work on issues of homelessness and poverty. CFH was incorporated on August 18, 1981. Since the date of incorporation, the Coalition’s response to the needs of the homeless have changed and expanded. Today, the agency’s efforts are focused on housing and direct services. Our mission is to help transition homeless and at risk individuals and families to self-sufficiency through programs and supportive services. The Coalition fulfills its mission by operating and managing 12 program sites in the District of Columbia that includes transitional and permanent housing for men and families with children. In addition, we operate the Virginia Williams Family Resource Center (VWFRC), which is the central intake office for all families in the District of Columbia seeking emergency housing assistance and shelter.

Celebrating 30 Years!

Please join us for our 30th Anniversary Fundraising Gala On Tuesday, October 18, 2011, at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The Coalition will be celebrating 30 years of providing services to individuals and families who are homeless in the District of Columbia. The theme for the event is “Rebuilding Lives – Strengthening Communities.” The proceeds will go towards the Coalition’s homelessness prevention activities. To purchase tickets to our 30th Anniversary, please visit our website at www.dccfh.org.

The CFH is pleased to have been part of helping to make the District of Columbia a better community that is a beacon of hope for our citizens who are experiencing homelessness. However, we have reached this milestone because of our grassroots base, resilience and our unwavering commitment to the citizens who are homeless and through the communities we serve. In particular, this milestone was made possible because of the vision of founding members Reverend Clark Lobenstein, Executive Director, InterFaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington, and many others, the commitment of those who have been the architects of our movement, specifically, our Board of Directors (past and present); the commitment of our staff and volunteers who have provided the sustenance of our movement, and our homeless individuals and families who are the heart of our movement and the reason we exist.

Over the last decade, the Coalition has assisted 3,444 individuals and households to find permanent housing, 3,155 adults to obtain employment, and prevented 591 families with children from becoming homeless.
Second Annual Apprenticeship Fair

It was standing room only at the Charles Sumner School located at 17th and M Streets NW during the Coalition for the Homeless Second Annual Job Training and Apprenticeship Fair. The Fair organized by Linda Fields, Director of Employment and Training was held on Wednesday, September 22, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This event was also coordinated with the D.C. Department of Employment Services, Office of Apprenticeship and Training.

Michael Ferrell, Executive Director and Doris J. Washington, Chairperson of the Board of Directors gave opening remarks and introduced the guest speaker. The speaker for this year’s event was Councilmember At-Large Michael A. Brown, Chairperson for the Housing and Workforce Development Committee. The attendees were pleasantly surprised when Councilmember Brown invited questions from the audience that were answered on the spot.

More than 150 District homeless residents served by the Coalition and other non-profit service providers attended the Fair. Nineteen (19) local apprenticeship programs and employers participated in the Fair. Some of the apprenticeship and training opportunities presented included green jobs, carpentry, plumbing, service jobs, electrical, and air conditioning. Employers included Giant and Safeway food stores.

One of the goals of the Apprenticeship Fair was to expose currently homeless men and women to career opportunities that would provide them with livable incomes. As a direct result of the Fair, Giant and Safeway hired ten individuals. In addition, some individuals enrolled in DC Central Kitchen’s Food Handling Program. Many participants showed a great interest in getting their GED’s, and many vendors have inquired about the 2011 Apprenticeship Fair.

Thank you to Councilmember At-Large Michael A. Brown, attendees, employers, volunteers, and Coalition staff for a job well done and for the excellent participation. Also, thank you to the House of Ruth, Catholic Charities, and Family Service Programs for client referrals. The Coalition for the Homeless looks forward to serving the community at our next Apprenticeship Fair.

Patience is a virtue when job-hunting

One of the things that Kendra Smith learned in her job search is patience. Ms. Smith a client at Valley Place Family Apartments was actively seeking employment and training since entering Valley Place Family Apartments on October 15, 2009. She continued to make contact with all the companies that were of particular interest and her persistence paid off! In September 2010, after trying for two years, she was finally hired as a security guard for Allied Barton Security Services. In addition, in October, she was accepted to the Hope Project where she trains on Tuesday and Thursday nights to become an Information Technology Desk Professional. Congratulations to Ms. Smith on her determination and finding the path and methods to getting things done. You are a great example of a person whose hard work paid off! You had the will and you found a way.

The La Casa Transitional Program Participates in the Back on My Feet.

La Casa has been posting record turnouts during these cold winter runs. Watson M. and Clifton L. both ran in the Jingle All the Way 10K race this year, completing the 6.2 mile distance. At one time, the thought of running that far would have kept them from taking that first step. With bells on, literally, both men set out to complete the course on a cold and rainy Sunday morning. Is a marathon of further distance on the horizon for them? Only time will tell, but for now, the accomplishment of their last race is still carrying them through the New Year.

Coalition for the Homeless Program Success Stories

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The Blair House Transitional Program staff and clients were excited to welcome Margaret Singleton, Board member of Greater DC Cares, along with over sixty volunteers for the 2011 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday of Service. The volunteers painted the gym and downstairs hallway. The Blair House Transitional Program serves men who are experiencing unemployment, alcohol or drug abuse, or family problems. The programs are intended to help individuals achieve self-sufficiency. Volunteers from Greater DC Cares are expected to return on Saturday, April 16, 2011 to paint other areas in the building and make small renovations. The Coalition for the Homeless is thankful to the volunteers for helping to improve the surroundings for our clients and staff.

Michael Ferrell kicked off the evening by welcoming guests. Doris Washington, Chairperson of the Board of Directors took the podium to thank Sue Marshall, Executive Director from the Community Partnership for attending and echoing the grateful sentiments of the evening.

This year, Glen Rother was selected as the 2010 Employee of the Year. In general, this award is given to a staff person for outstanding service, dedication and commitment to the mission of the Coalition. Mr. Rother was recognized for “Stepping Up to the Plate” and performing at an exceptional level within his regular job and going above and beyond to make a positive difference in the operation of La Casa Emergency Shelter & La Casa Transitional Rehabilitation Program and in the lives of the clients he served. Glen was assigned the position of Acting Program Director while also performing his regular duties as Social Worker, III. In addition, he oversaw the closing of the LaCasa Emergency Shelter on October 15. The closing of La Casa Shelter entailed many details related to finding alternative placement for the clients and the logistics of closing a facility.

As Employee of the Year, Mr. Rother was presented with an engraved plaque honoring his accomplishments and a monetary award.

Since the Annual Meeting, Mr. Rother received a promotion to Director of Case Management. In his new role, he supervises over 42 case managers and social workers to insure they are providing quality services to clients. Thank you Glen for all your hard work!

Volunteers from Greater DC Cares

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Good Neighbors and the difference the Coalition makes in the lives of people

Announcing a New Partnership

The Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center (RRB/ITC) proudly supports The Coalition for the Homeless. On October 27, 2010, CEO John P. Drew announced their decision to select the Coalition as one of the charities they will support. RRB/ITC will also be one of the sponsors for our 30th Anniversary Fundraising Gala.

(L to R) John P. Drew, CEO, Michael L. Ferrell, Executive Director, and John E. Drew, Chairperson

Hope for Humanity Visits Spring Road Family Apartments

This year Hope for Humanity selected the Coalition as one of their community service projects. Hope for Humanity is a local non-profit organization that supports numerous causes worldwide from educating the needy in the rural impoverished villages in India to helping to feed the hungry in local inner city Washington, DC. Thanks to Hope for Humanity, the wonderful taste of turkey dinners were made possible for 28 families at Spring Road Family Apartments. The President, Krishna K. Rao and other members of the board presented holiday baskets with trimmings and a check to help purchase turkeys on December 17, 2010. Eight teenage girls donated their time to help prepare the baskets. The teenage girls have learned that they have much to offer, even if they could not contribute monetarily. Hope for Humanity is inspired by the famous quote from Mahatma Gandhi that “We must become the change we wish to see in the world.”

Krishna K. Rao presents Amy Rice, Program Director with a check towards the purchase of Turkeys for families.

Mini Walks and the 2010 Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walkathon

In October 2010 at M.V. Leckie Elementary School 237 students along with their Physical Education Teacher Elizabeth Samball participated in mini-walks to show their support for homeless individuals and families. The school has been participating in mini-walks for four years. Thank you to Principal Jamall Wright, staff, and parents for your continued support.

The Coalition also participated in the Fannie Mae’s Help the Homeless Walkathon on the National Mall on Saturday, November 20, 2010. The Walkathon is the nation’s largest fundraising and awareness effort dedicated to preventing and ending homelessness. The Coalition received $7,500 total from mini-walks, registration, donations and sponsorship from the Donohoe Companies who have provided support over the last several years.

This year employees of the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center joined the Coalition in walking for the homeless. It was a beautiful day and everyone involved was energized and ready to walk. Thanks to Ms. Patrice Lewis for coordinating the walkathon with co-workers and for your continued support.

(L to R) Chef Xavier Deshays, RRB/ITC, Michael L. Ferrell, and Julia Rapley, RRB/ITC

Coalition for the Homeless and Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center Team.
Hypothermia Season is Here

Please call the number on the poster under SHELTER HOT-LINE below if you see someone in need OR if you are homeless and need assistance.

Hypothermia Facts: The hypothermia season begins November 1st and ends March 31st. Hypothermia is a potentially life-threatening condition that occurs when a person’s internal body temperature is less than 95 degrees Fahrenheit; Normal body temperature is about 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit. When hypothermia occurs, the body loses heat faster than it is able to produce heat. The causes of hypothermia are exposure to cold temperatures, prolonged exposure to cool or damp temperatures, and inadequate protective clothing. Symptoms of hypothermia include; uncontrolled shivering, fatigue and exhaustion, slurred speech, disorientation, slowed breathing, cold and pale skin and loss of muscle coordination.

Meet the New Director of Operations

James Freeny, the new Director of Operations, came on board with the Coalition on November 15, 2010. Mr. Freeny comes to the Coalition by way of Housing Unlimited, a non-profit affordable housing corporation in Montgomery County that provides permanent supported housing to individuals with psychiatric disabilities. He worked for Housing Unlimited for six years, four of which he served as the Senior Associate Director. During his tenure with Housing Unlimited, Mr. Freeny worked closely with the Executive Director on the day-to-day operations of the organization and was responsible for the property management of approximately half of the forty-five homes that are owned by Housing Unlimited. Prior to Housing Unlimited, Mr. Freeny was employed by Independence Now in Prince George’s County as the Director of Housing Advocacy. Mr. Freeny is a licensed minister and a housing counselor. He received his BA in biblical studies from Washington Bible College and his MA in counseling psychology from Bowie State University.

American Airlines Helps out During the Holiday Season

Celebrating the holidays can be joyous, stressful and challenging especially on a tight budget. However, thanks to American Airlines on December 23, 2010 Craig Irving and his colleagues visited the headquarters of the Coalition for the Homeless to present gift cards donated by employees from American Airlines to families that are homeless from Spring Road, Valley Place, and the Virginia Williams Family Resource Center. “With today’s economy the way it is, we wanted to do something to help out,” Irving said.

Thank you to Northern Virginia Balto/Washington Actor’s Equity Liaison Committee.

Thanks to Emily Townley and members of the Northern Virginia Balto/Washington Actor’s Equity Liaison Committee, the Coalition for the Homeless received new underwear, socks, pampers, t-shirts for adults and children. These basic items are very helpful in assisting our clients with their needs.

Please support the Coalition by mailing a check today through the United Way and the Combined Federal Campaign.

Craig Irving (left) holding the check presented to the Coalition

James Freeny, the new Director of Operations
Coalition for the Homeless 2010 Accomplishments

- The Coalition provided service to 440 individuals and families daily
- The Coalition provided housing placement assistance to 304 individuals and families
- 203 adults were placed in employment
- Nine families and children were prevented from becoming homeless
- Apprenticeship Fair was held in September 22, 2010 17 vendors, and over 150 individuals participated

Giving Opportunities

1. Donate through annual giving
2. Individual donors or corporations can sponsor or underwrite programs and services offered by the Coalition for the Homeless.
3. Donate though the United Way of the National Capital Area.
4. Donate through the Combined Federal Campaign
5. Make cash donations directly to the Coalition at www.dccfh.org or through Network for Good at www.networkforgood.org
6. Donate through workplace giving programs

In-kind Donations: Donations of non-perishable food items, paper goods, toiletries, clothing including career clothes and usable furniture reduce the Coalition’s annual budget. Items that can be converted to cash, such as automobiles, are also welcome. We do not accept used mattresses, box springs or wooden bed frames. You can drop off donations Monday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at our main office.