



MISSOURI HOUSING DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Strength, Dignity, Quality of Life

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News Release/News Advisory/Request for Coverage – 11/7/08

MHDC and Governor's Committee to End Homelessness to Recognize National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week

National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, November 16-22, will be recognized at a program hosted by the Governor's Committee to End Homelessness at noon on Thursday, November 20th, in the state capitol. The keynote speaker for the event will be Joseph H. Hinkebein, Ph.D., ABPP. Dr. Hinkebein is a graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia, receiving a doctorate in counseling psychology in 1990. He is a board-certified rehabilitation psychologist and a fellow of the American Psychological Association. Formerly a clinical associate professor with the University of Missouri, Dr. Hinkebein is currently serving as the facility recovery coordinator for the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital. Other featured speakers will include Burrell Behavioral Health and Synergy Services.

The theme of this year's event is "Our Community Cares About Homelessness." Recently a poster contest was held throughout the state for children Pre-K through 12th grade. First, second, and third place winners for each grade level will receive awards at the event.

National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week was created to promote the national endeavor to end hunger and homelessness. The Governor's Committee to End Homelessness uses this week to promote education for Missourians about the problem of homelessness that exists here at home. According to recent estimates, there are as many as 27,000 homeless persons on any given night in Missouri.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Media representative questions can be directed to Kathryn Watts, Government Affairs Liaison, at 816-759-6824 or kwatts@mhdc.com. All other inquiries should be directed to Heather Bradley-Geary, Trust Fund and Community Initiatives Manager, at 816-759-7201 or hgeary@mhdc.com. If you would like to receive this release by e-mail in rich-text format, please email kwatts@mhdc.com and provide us with the appropriate e-mail address.

MHDC is the state's housing finance agency. The Commission is dedicated to strengthening communities and the lives of Missourians through the financing, development and preservation of affordable housing. MHDC was created by the General Assembly in 1969 and since that time it has invested \$5 billion for the development of affordable rental housing and mortgages for first-time homebuyers in Missouri. MHDC functions much like a bank, providing financing directly to borrowers, developers or through a network of private lending institutions. MHDC is one of only three state housing agencies in the nation to receive an issuer credit rating of AA+ from Standard & Poor's.