



## MISSOURI HOUSING DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

*Strength, Dignity, Quality of Life*

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News Release/News Advisory/Request for Coverage – 11/1/07

### **MHDC and Governor's Committee to End Homelessness to Recognize Homeless Awareness Week**

Homeless Awareness Week, November 12-16, will be recognized at a program hosted by the Governor's Committee to End Homelessness at noon on Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, in the state capitol. Featured speakers for the event include: Sarah Steelman, MHDC Commissioner and State Treasurer; David Howery, Executive Director of InterServe; Craig Rector, Director of Federal Discretionary Grants; Carolyn Stemmons, Headstart; and Myra Callahan, Executive Director of Family Counseling Center.

The theme of this year's event is "Homelessness is Everywhere in Missouri." Recently a poster contest was held throughout the state for children Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. First, second, and third place winners for each grade level will receive awards at the event.

Homeless Awareness Week was created with the goal of educating Missourians about the problem of homelessness that still exists. According to recent estimates, there are as many as 45,700 homeless persons at any given time in Missouri. Of the total number of homeless youth and children enrolled in the 2005-2006 school year, those with emergency shelters as their primary residence totaled 2,229; while 640 were unsheltered and 439 were unknown.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Media representative questions can be directed to Brandon Laster, Public Information Officer, at 816-759-6692 or e-mail [blaster@mhdc.com](mailto:blaster@mhdc.com) or Heather Bradley-Geary, Trust Fund and Community Initiatives Manager, at 816-759-7201 or e-mail [hgeary@mhdc.com](mailto:hgeary@mhdc.com). If you would like to receive this release by e-mail in rich-text format, please email [blaster@mhdc.com](mailto:blaster@mhdc.com) and provide us with the appropriate e-mail address.

Other contacts:

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.