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MISSOURI HOMELESSNESS NEWS

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

National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, November 13-19 is being honored at an all-day event hosted by the Missouri Governor's Committee to End Homelessness (GCEH) on Thursday, November 17, 2011 at the state capitol. The theme of this year's event and poster contest is "Missouri: Opening Doors to Our Communities."

The keynote speaker for the event will be Derrith Watchman-Moore, Regional Administrator for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Region VII (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska). The program featuring Ms. Watchman-Moore will be held in the first floor Capitol Rotunda at 12 pm.

Missouri Housing Development Commission, which holds a seat on the GCEH, will be presenting on the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act, distributing information and answering questions regarding homelessness in Missouri.

Breakout sessions will include, The Needs of Children Experiencing Homelessness, Implementing a Trauma Informed Care Service Delivery Model, Continuum of Care Panels, HEARTH Act Overview and Progress, Planning a Homelessness Awareness Week in your Community and the 2011 Report on Homelessness in Missouri.

Social service agencies will be on hand at booths disseminating information and answering questions regarding issues that face individuals and families experiencing homelessness. In addition, poster contest winners from Pre-K through grade 12 will be awarded following the keynote address. All submitted posters will be on display at the event.

National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week was created to promote the national effort to end hunger and homelessness. The Governor's Committee to End Homelessness uses this week to promote education and create awareness for Missourians about the issue of homelessness that exists here at home. According to recent estimates, there are as many as 24,000 homeless persons on any given night in Missouri.

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**NOTE TO EDITORS:** Media questions can be directed to Megan Word, Public Relations Coordinator, at 816-759-6658 or [mword@mhdc.com](mailto:mword@mhdc.com). If you would like to receive this release by e-mail in rich-text format, please email [mword@mhdc.com](mailto:mword@mhdc.com) and provide the e-mail address.