The Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless Board and Staff are deeply saddened to learn of the death of our beloved treasurer David Westcott lovingly known as Dave. Dave served on the NEOCH Board for eleven years. He came to the organization in the early 1990s as a true advocate for homeless people. He pushed the agency to rise above every barrier to focus our attention on an end to homelessness. David was always frustrated with the pace of change in this community, and wanted to see religious, government and social service organizations come together to reduce the number of people sleeping in shelters. He was a real asset to NEOCH by improving our systems and operations and guiding us through rough years after September 11 and the beginning of this latest recession in 2007. As treasurer, he set up a wonderful system of checks and balances, and can boast a solid history of clean audits.

Dave was the 2002 Homeless Advocate of the Year as selected by the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless. Dave came into the agency every Thursday to sign checks, take a deposit to the bank or just to see if we were all working. Thursdays will not be the same at NEOCH for a long time.

Expressions from a few current and past staff members of NEOCH

“I will truly miss Dave, who was always there to make me smile. He is the reason I love banana nut bread because he brought it to the VISTA almost every month in 2002. He always supported all of NEOCH’s functions and yes he came in on Thursdays to make sure "we were working and Brian wasn't giving me a hard time". He was always there to give me a hand and I enjoyed our chats every Thursday! I admired his passion and energy and I hope I have half of his energy at that age. I'll miss you Dave!”
Teri Horne, Associate Director NEOCH

“Dave was always so kind and friendly to everyone--something I really appreciated as a VISTA. He will be missed.” Sarah Valek, past VISTA member

“I am really going to miss Dave. He always reached out his hand and always had a smile. This is a huge loss to the community. Dave fought for fair treatment of all human beings. Dave sat on the advisory board for Community Voice Mail and was extremely helpful in providing me with guidance and support. My prayers are with Gloria and the family.” Mike Gibbs, past CCVM Director
Voting Rights
The Coalition spent a great deal of time in 2008 to protect the rights of homeless people to vote. We filed suit and won a preservation of the existing law that allowed individuals to register and then vote at the same time for one week in early October. During that week over 400 homeless people voted early in the 2008 Presidential election. NEOCH helped transport and register homeless people, and we were able to document over 1,500 homeless people voted in this critical election.

A Sensible Response to Foreclosures
NEOCH worked with members of the Homeless Congress to put together a plan for turning vacant and abandoned property over to homeless individuals. Homeless people realize the paradox of 14,000 vacant housing units in Cleveland, and at the same time 4,000 people living in shelters or on the streets because they do not have housing. The representatives of the Congress developed a pilot project to move those with skills into housing, fix up the housing, and then have those houses turned over to homeless people.

Outreach Collaboration
In 2007, NEOCH began coordinating the work of outreach social service providers. In 2008, we relocated all those who provide a meal downtown to a parking lot with a bathroom, and the proper trash receptacles. NEOCH worked with those who build trusting relationships with those resistant to staying in a shelter. We have mapped out the locations of shelter resistant, and work to assure that professional staff visit these sites at least every other day.

No further expansion of the Senior Only
In working with the Homeless Congress, NEOCH asked the Board of the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority to stop the further classification of buildings within their inventory as for "seniors only." We successfully argued that CMHA already has enough units for seniors seeking affordable housing, and they needed to instead concentrate on the exploding waiting list of non-seniors in need of help.

Research Advocacy
NEOCH worked with Universal Health Care Action Network in 2008 to interview over 300 homeless people and publish a report on the experiences of homeless people within the health care system. This report provides information about the number of people who became homelessness as a result of their high health care bills (12%) and the large number of people who have never seen a dentist (20%). In addition, NEOCH published a State of Homelessness report for 2007 in January 2008. This report details the continued increase in homelessness due to the foreclosure crisis and the dramatic loss of jobs in Cleveland. Both reports are available on the NEOCH website (www.neoch.org) under resources. Our website had over 40,000 unique users in 2008.

In 2008 NEOCH did 38 presentations to schools, faith based groups and organizations to dispel the myth of homelessness with the Street Voices program.

Eight talented individuals graduated from the photo class in 2008.

CHLAAP served over 600 clients.
# How is NEOCH Serving Homeless People?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Street Card</th>
<th>Community Organizing</th>
<th>Legal Assistance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEOCH publishes a one page guide to all the services in Cleveland. 10,000 copies are printed along with all those downloaded and copied that are distributed throughout the community.</td>
<td>13 shelters were represented at our monthly Homeless Congress, and they discussed policy issues, shelter standards, and a response to the foreclosure crisis. NEOCH also organized two resident councils at the shelters.</td>
<td>We placed an attorney at 10 shelters and operated 2 weekly clinics and a divorce clinic to help 500 people overcome their legal barriers to stability.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Veterans Street Card</th>
<th>Photo Project</th>
<th>Homeless Grapevine</th>
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<tr>
<td>NEOCH publishes a one page guide to all the services available to veterans locally. 1,000 copies are printed along with all those downloaded and copied that are distributed throughout the community.</td>
<td>Nine homeless individuals were trained in the art of photography. Their work was displayed on our website in the newspaper and at our Annual Event. This project attempts to break the stereotypes about homelessness.</td>
<td>We published 4 Street Newspapers in 2008 with 20,000 papers distributed to pedestrians downtown and at the West Side Market. 15 vendors get a regular income from the sale of the paper.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Outreach Coordination</th>
<th>Planning/Research</th>
<th>Website Information</th>
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<td>We work with the social service providers who go outside and try to build trusting relationships with homeless people. We have put together a map of the City to assure that everyone resistant to shelter is visited at least every other day. This program tries to prevent deaths.</td>
<td>NEOCH publishes reports on trends in the community and statistics about the extent of the problem. Our State of Homelessness Report every year gets a great deal of attention. These reports remind the general public that homelessness is on the rise and needs to be a high priority for funding.</td>
<td>NEOCH had 40,000 unique users in 2008, and we have a comprehensive site with resources and solutions and ways to help all available. NEOCH also helped to create the HousingCleveland website that allows homeless individuals to find housing with 577,000 searches done by 72,000 unique users.</td>
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<tr>
<th>State and National Work</th>
<th>Incubating New Programs</th>
<th>Focusing Community Attention</th>
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<tr>
<td>NEOCH has a position with the National Coalition for the Homeless Board and the Ohio Coalition for Homeless Advocates. These board positions assure that the unique problems of homeless people in Cleveland are heard at the State and National Level, and we bring back good ideas from other cities in the United States.</td>
<td>NEOCH is always willing to listen to good ideas by homeless people, and we will help those individuals put those ideas into action. We are working on a foreclosure initiative to return vacant property to homeless people. We have set up a voice mail system, a housing program, and many other programs that serve thousands of people locally.</td>
<td>NEOCH sends out weekly press releases and regularly brings homeless people to the attention of the media. NEOCH regularly publishes information about problems facing homeless people and suggesting possible solutions. NEOCH calls attention to hate crimes against homeless people or laws that unfairly target homeless people.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Remembering</th>
<th>Food Coordination</th>
<th>Unification Efforts</th>
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<td>NEOCH is one of the few organizations that reminds the community on a regular basis of those individuals that we lose every year due to homelessness. NEOCH holds a candlelight vigil every year to remember those who passed away.</td>
<td>NEOCH worked with religious and civil organization to provide a better distribution system for food downtown. This reduced duplication and the need for horning food downtown. The men and women also now have access to a bathroom and running water.</td>
<td>NEOCH constantly works to bring the various homeless populations together. Every year, we host a Stand Down service fair to bring thousands (1,900 in 2008) of homeless people together to get access to services, messages, health screenings, and haircut all in the same place over three days.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Protecting Rights</th>
<th>Raising Voices</th>
<th>Ethical Leadership</th>
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<tr>
<td>NEOCH works to assure that homeless people are not targeted by police. In 2008, we worked to assure that homeless people could vote and did not have unreasonable barriers to casting a ballot.</td>
<td>NEOCH brings elected officials and policy makers to the same table as homeless people. We try to develop leaders within the community and then teach homeless people how speak before a crowd. They make presentations in churches and schools in a program called Street Voices.</td>
<td>The NEOCH Board oversees gifts, public resources and grants to carry out our mission in the best interest of the community. We take seriously our responsibility to be transparent and provide the best quality care in an effort to end homelessness.</td>
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**ORGANIZATION HIGHLIGHTS**

**Cleveland Homeless Legal Assistance**
- Although the program suspended intake for one month, over 500 clients were served.
- Maintained 10 intake sites and staff coordinated attorneys who donated 221 hours of service.

**The Homeless Grapevine**
- Published 20,000 papers despite organization’s financial situation.
- NEOCH staff partnered with professional photographer Mychal Lilly to train eight homeless individuals the art of photography.

**Public Outreach**
- Organized three Teach Ins that focused on voting rights, children and health care as it relates to the homeless population.
- Street Voices did 38 presentations to schools, faith based groups and organizations to dispel stereotypes about homelessness.

**Bridging the Gap**
- NEOCH successfully transferred this program to Cleveland Tenants Organization

**Cleveland Community Voice Mail**
- NEOCH successfully transferred this program to the United Way - 211 First Call for Help
2008 AWARDS

IONE BIGGS AWARD - GAIL LONG

Gail Long became involved in a broad range of social, political and economical justice issues, such as the anti-war movement, bridging the racial divide, fighting for state budget equality, and universal access to health care. She passionately fought for her constituency on the near west side of Cleveland through health care accessibility and affordability by creating a county-wide coalition called Citizens to Save Metro Health that fought against any privation of MetroHealth hospital. She has served on the Cleveland Housing Network Board as well as the Cleveland Tenants Organization’s Board to preserve and expand affordable housing opportunities. Long did extensive work with Cuyahoga County to protect low income families through two decades of reform of the welfare system.

Long’s tenacious commitment to stand, walk and work with disadvantaged people is why the committee chose Gail Long as the 2008 Ione Biggs Award winner. We present this award to Gail Long, and her name will be placed on the plaque kept in the main office of the Coalition.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Traci Ext is an attorney currently working for the federal government, and she gives up most every Monday afternoon volunteering for the Homeless Coalition. Ext assists with our press relations and our advocacy agenda in Cleveland. She has volunteered with the Homeless Stand Down, and has worked on many of NEOCH’s research reports. She has previous experience at the Legal Aid Society, and is a law school graduate from Harvard. Ext did her undergraduates work at Rice University, and has a strong interest in social justice. She relaxes by playing basketball and was recently married.

ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

Margaret Wilson is the current Outreach Coordinator at GESU Roman Catholic Church, and plans all parish wide activities including the December Service Day. She is a former president of the Homeless Coalition, and has been a board member since 2002. Wilson has always been an active board member, and is regularly involved in policy and advocacy strategies. She is a former teacher who has taught at the junior high, high school and college levels. She has Bachelors in political science from Catholic University of America as well as a Master degree in Education. She also has a Masters in English from Cleveland State. Wilson has worked to establish the Interfaith Hospitality Network at GESU Catholic Church. The GESU commission is active in the community and has worked with a number of organizations, including FAMICOS, New Life Community, and Sociedad de los Amigos de Ninos in Honduras.

TERI HORNE 5 YEARS OF SERVICE

Teri Horne came to Cleveland in February of 2002 as an AmeriCorps*VISTA leader relocating from Texas. In 2003, Teri was hired as the Director of Operations to oversee NEOCH’s many programs and to assist with the funding of the Coalition.

She is a dedicated employee with an impressive work ethic and is often seen in the community as the diplomatic side of our watchdog organization. In doing so, she has had to become an expert on homelessness, especially the problems faced by homeless women and children.

Teri does not usually take a major role in speaking on behalf of the Coalition, instead preferring to stay in the background making sure that everything works smoothly. This means she often does not receive her much deserved share in the spotlight.

The Cleveland community and homeless people are better off because Teri has chosen to use her talents to improve the conditions and the environment for this vulnerable population.
I am A woman by Ashanti Drum

Do you understand
I am a woman
Do you understand
Full swelling breast
that feed my young
and comfort my man
A bridge that connects

I am a woman
Do you understand
Do you "want" to understand
Touch as soft as rose petals
One that heals by kisses
I am a history full of Queens
that ruled

One who is abused for control
Beaten to keep captive
raped to bring heirs
My well rounded hips are admired
More than my mind
I am a woman
Do you understand
I am a warrior
equipped with a shield
for my heart—for
I "love" to "love"
My strength is everlasting
I bear throbbing pain to bring life
I am a dream catcher

I am a woman
Do you understand
All I want is to be As I was made to be, The moon that always is and will be
I am a woman
I am your rib

A Po’ Man Cries by Dennis Fye

A Po’ Man must cry, With tears that are dry
Hearts can hope, for what and for why
O’ what have I done, to whom and for why?
And a Po’ Man Cries...

Chaos ~ Rebellion ~ Turmoil
My voices of the demon flock
Around and around in my mind and heart.
O’ the po’ man’s house is in need of repair,
And a Po’ Man Cries — despair.
A Po’ Man must cry, With tears that are dry,
Hearts van hope, for what and for why
O’ what have I done, to whom and for why? And a Po’ Man Cries...

My po’ man’s foundation ~solid ~ is not!
O’ where the tools , O where the tools?
Left somewhere deserted, my memory confused,
On a deserted island, only for fools. And The Po’ Man Cries...

A po’ man must cry, With tears that are dry
Hearts can hope, for what and for why
O’ what have I done, to whom and why, And a Po’ Man Cries...
O Captain, My Captain
The campaign lasts on, To where was my station
When last I signed on?

A po’ man must cry, With tears that are dry
Hearts can hope, for what and for why
O’ what have I done, to whom and why?
And a Po’ Man Cries...

O’ Captain, My Captain -This po’ man seeks guidance
My tools can be mended, The past amended.
My willingness assured, the bright light warms,
My future’s ahead, I walk unafraid.
To You, To You ~ The Po’ Man Cries
Project ACT provide comprehensive services to students who become homeless. According to the Project ACT program, 1,657 children utilized their services from July 1, 2008 to January 5, 2009. Of the 1,657 homeless school children reported for 2008:

- 51.3% are female
- 48.7% are male

- 61.9% are doubled up with family or friends
- 21.5% are staying in shelters
- 14.7% (243 students) are unaccompanied homeless youth

- 86.6% are African American
- 6.5% are white
- 3.9% are Hispanic

- 7.6% are in pre-school or kindergarten
- 45.3% are in elementary school grades (grades 1-5)
- 20.8% are in middle school grades (grades 6-8)
- 26.3% are high school students (grades 9-12)

More information can be found in the State of Homelessness Publication by NEOCH

Photos by Toni Anderson, Cheryl Jones, Sabrina Otis, and Pleasure Simmons
## 2008 Staff Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Brian Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Director</td>
<td>Teri D. Horne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Outreach Director</td>
<td>Joshua Kanary</td>
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<tr>
<td>CCVM Program Director</td>
<td>Michael Gibbs</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHLAP Program Director</td>
<td>Joan Burda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AmeriCorps*VISTA</td>
<td>Sarah Valek</td>
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<tr>
<td>AmeriCorps*VISTA</td>
<td>Larry Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AmeriCorps*VISTA</td>
<td>Everett Brown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative Support</td>
<td>Leonard Spence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative Support</td>
<td>William Gillmore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative Support</td>
<td>Johanna Harris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grapevine Consultant</td>
<td>Brent Stowe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Website Consultant</td>
<td>Joe Perrelli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounting Consultant</td>
<td>Doug Lonero</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shared Development Director</td>
<td>Denise Cooper</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Many Thanks to our wonderful interns

John Caputo  
Meg Grady  
Diane Morris  
Verneva Ziga

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Staff and Intern Pictures: Diana Morris, John Caputo, Verneva Ziga, Josh Kanary, Teri Horne and Brian Davis.
2008 Finances

**Revenue**
- Foundations: $154,793
- Government: $82,843
- Corporations: $24,750
- Individuals: $16,561
- Special Events: $22,233
- Community Shares: $17,099
- Faith Community: $6,271
- Membership: $5,127
- Grapevine: $2,807
- Program Fees: $2,715
- Program Operations: $1,275
- United Way: $1,500
- Total*: $337,974

**Expenses**
- Salaries: $151,846
- Taxes/Benefits: $34,794
- Rent: $33,566
- Program Operations: $33,590
- Consulting: $21,109
- Special Projects Operations: $13,291
- Professional: $12,480
- Homeless Voice Mail: $13,857
- Line of Credit: $3,812
- Office Supplies: $3,621
- Insurance: $3,375
- Grapevine Printing: $2,627
- Photocopying: $1,996
- Postage: $1,530
- Equipment: $1,211
- Training/Meeting: $1,175
- Printing: $775
- Conference/Membership: $350
- Total*: $337,305
- Donated Goods/Services: $34,390

*unaudited bookkeeping financial report*
2008 Finances

DONORS NON MEMBERS

Marcia Bufford
City of Cleveland
Cleveland Foundation
Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation
Church of the Resurrection
Community West Foundation
Cuyahoga Arts and Culture
Deaconess Community Foundation
Pete DELL
Dominion East Ohio Foundation
Pat Fallon
Sherry Fixler
Barbara Freed
Catherine Fuller
George Gund Foundation
Melissa Granke
Greater Cleveland Community Shares
Lesley W. Hahn
Help America Foundation
Housing Research and Advocacy Center
Douglas Kerr
Ronald Kretch
Susan Leavitt
Gail Long
Lutheran Church of Good Shepherd
Lyndhurst Commission on Aging
Ronald McCutcheon
Michael McGraw
Cynthia Miller
Richard Miller
James Onysko
Norman Orth
Alie Patterson/Kenneth Patterson
Emily Peterson
Plymouth Church at Shaker Heights
PPG Industries Foundation
The Presbytery of Western Reserve
Lynda J. Sackett
St. Edwards High School
St. John Neumann Youth Ministry
St. Louis Church
St. Luke's Foundation
Congregation Shaarey Tikvah
James Seckler
Ruth Silon
Spectrum of Supportive Services
Kelly Standish
Michael Thompson
Trinity Cathedral
UHCAN of Ohio
United Way of Greater Cleveland
United Way/First Call for Help
University Hospital
Carl Vinson Jr
David and Gloria Westcott
West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church
Judith Willoner
Board of Trustees

Jennifer Kocan  President
Tiffany Burse  Vice President
Cynthia Ford  Secretary
David Westcott  Treasurer
Min. Julia Brown-Allen
Marcia Bufford
Gregory Gale
Melissa Granke
Christopher Karr
Roy Love
Dr. Lisa Navracruz
Rosemary Palfy
Robin Pearlstein
Valerie Robinson
Ron Watts
Margaret Wilson

NEOCH's Mission is to organize and empower homeless and at-risk individuals to break the cycle of poverty through public education, advocacy, and the promotion of nurturing environments.