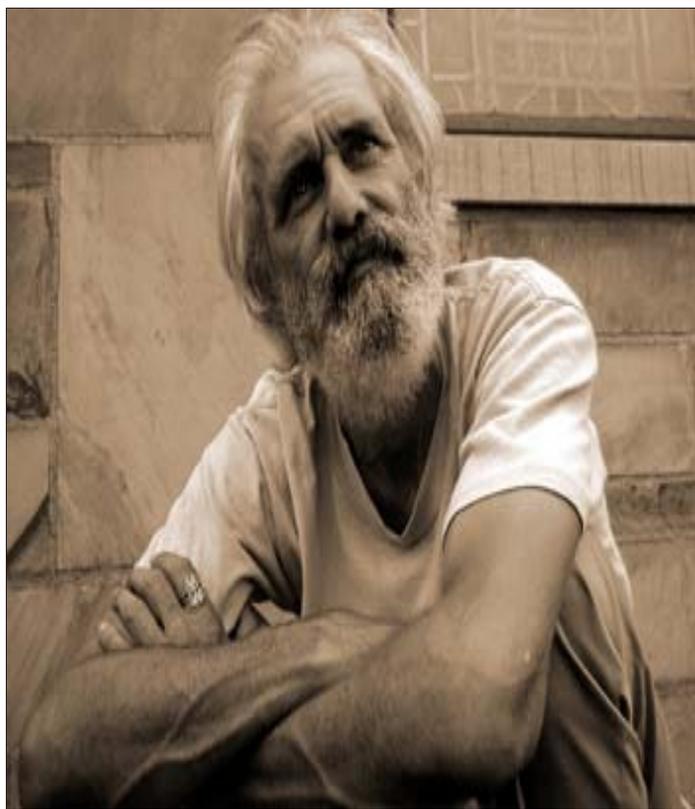
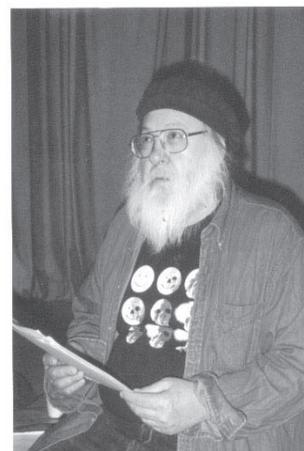


Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless **ANNUAL REPORT** 2003



Photos by Charles Hurlburt see photo spread on page 14

Cleveland Homeless Legal Assistance
Americorps VISTA Public Education
Cleveland Community Voice Mail
Advocacy Campaigns
Homeless Grapevine
Bridging the Gap



Daniel Thompson

1935-2004

page 10



Advocacy
Organizing
Empowerment
Public Education
Creating Nurturing Environments

2003

3rd Annual Dinner and Auction
"Partnering to End Homelessness"
Evening Highlights



- 5:00 PM Mingling and Browse Items
- 5:30 Welcome--Danita Harris WEWS Channel 5 Morning News Host
- 5:45 Dinner
- 6:10 Street Voices Presentation
- 6:45 A Look Back at NEOCH in 2003
Teri Donelson--Director of Operations
- 7:00 A Break to browse the items
- 7:10 Future Endeavors for 2004 and Beyond
Special Remembrance of *Grapevine* Poet Daniel Thompson
Brian Davis Executive Director
- 7:25 Award Presentation
Roy Love and David westcott
- 7:40 Live Auction
Angelo Anderson
- 8:10 Last Chance to bid on items at the Auction
- 8:20 Announcement of Raffle Winners
Marsha Bufford
- 8:50 PM Acknowledgements and Closing
Brian Davis & Teri' Donelson



photo by Charles Hurlburt

Courtesy of
James D. Wilson LLC
Attorney at Law
qweryuio
75 Public Square Suite Cleveland, Ohio 44113
216/861-6393

jwilson@wilsonlawyers.com

NEOCH's mission is to organize and empower homeless and at risk men, women and children to break the cycle of poverty through public education, advocacy and the creation of nurturing environments.

2003

A Message from the Board President



Most non-profit organizations in Greater Cleveland are struggling, and the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless (NEOCH) is no different. In a recession economy with massive job losses and a stock market just bouncing back, we have seen declining foundation, government and private support. We have witnessed some programs closing their doors while others are cutting back their services in the face of dramatic increases in demand. It is especially difficult to explain to those in danger of homelessness that jobs are scarce, and the shelters are filled over-capacity.

In this time of extreme pressure on our budgets, we have tried to continue to focus on our core mission of raising the voices of homeless people. NEOCH has made some strides over the last year in the face of increasing strain on our ability to stay in existence. We finally got a commitment from the City and County to undertake a planning process to address the affordable housing crisis that exists in Cleveland. City and County officials are hiring out-of-state consultants to guide the process in order to finally reduce the number of homeless people with a plan for developing additional affordable housing or preserving the housing that currently exists.

NEOCH was able to get the State of Ohio to enforce its policy of not breaking up families that enter shelters. This allows children, specifically boys who are over 12 years old, to enter family shelters with their mothers. NEOCH assisted in a lobby day in Columbus, which led to the passage of a dedicated revenue source for the Ohio Housing Trust Fund. On a national level, staff worked to introduce the Bringing America Home Act (HR 2897), a comprehensive piece of legislation that would go a long distance toward reducing homelessness in America.

We are still working on a strategic planning process for the agency to reaffirm our place in the community, and set our goals for the next five years. We have a number of issues that we are ultimately going to work on at the state level including a strengthening of the hate crime laws. If homeless people are ever attacked again in the middle of the night, we want to assure that the law will prosecute with a felony charge. NEOCH staff will continue to work with homeless people to assure that there is a safe place out of the elements 24 hours a day.

You are the key to our future successes. We need your talents, time or financial support. There are many opportunities for volunteering or joining one of our advisory boards. We have built an impressive staff who are gifted in public relations, lobbying and community organizing, but we need your help in development, getting regional community leaders to begin to think about homelessness, and to assist with the administration of a grassroots organization. We could not operate without our wonderful volunteers and financial supporters, please continue to help. If you have not donated your time, talent or resources, please feel free to contact the agency, and we will try to match you with your area of interest.

Sincerely,
Roy C. Love
NEOCH Board President



2003 Stand Down (Edwardo Lauriano and unidentified women)

2003

State of Homelessness 2003

Cleveland, Ohio prepared by the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless

	Dec. 2002	Change	Dec. 2003
Subsidized Housing Units/Vouchers	~36,000	no change	~36,000
Jobs lost since previous year (that pay over a minimum wage)	-33,927	decrease	-1.5% from previous year
Unemployment Claims	1,325	decrease	1,316
Housing Wage	\$14.38	increase	\$14.46
Health Care Medical Beds	48	decrease	8
Homeless Served by Care Alliance	3,372	increase	3,958
Number of Homeless People	~ over 25,000	increase	~ over 26,000
Requests for Shelter from Previous Year	+15%	increase	+6.4%
Cleve. Homeless School Children served	~1,400	increase	1,571
Homeless Families	~10,000	increase	~10,660
Single Homeless People	~15,000	increase	~15,740
Public Housing Waiting List	~7,000	increase	~9,000
Evictions Filed	10,676	decrease	10,267
Shelter beds (incl. overflow+ transitional)	1,995	decrease	1,865
Public Dollars to Homelessness in County	~\$22.0 million	increase	~\$23.4 million
Families Time Limited off of Welfare (TANF)	5,937	increase	1,516
	total FY2000-2002		Oct 2002/2003
Housing Foreclosures-County	9,609	decrease	8,628

For source material and other statistics, see the NEOCH website at www.neoch.org

2003 Staff List

Brian Davis	Executive Director
Teri' Donelson	Director of Operations
Tenecia Stokes	Lead AmeriCorps*VISTA
Amanda Brooks	AmeriCorps*VISTA
Chrissy Clements	AmeriCorps*VISTA
Lisa Etling	AmeriCorps*VISTA
Lindsay Friedrich	AmeriCorps*VISTA
Joseph Perrelli	AmeriCorps*VISTA
Randy Wilson	AmeriCorps*VISTA
Leigh Ann Portler	Bridging the Gap Manager
Christal Jones	Bridging the Gap Manager
Thomas Lewis	Bridging the Gap AmeriCorps
Paul Morris	Bridging the Gap AmeriCorps
Sabrina Otis	Bridging the Gap AmeriCorps
Joan Burda	Homeless Legal Assistance
Michael Gibbs	Community Voice Mail Manager
Lynn Murphy	Community Voice Mail Staff
Ruth Berzins	CSU Social Work Intern
Calley Marrotta	High School Intern
Casey Corkin	CWRU Intern
Debra Zwelling	Notre Dame Intern

2003

Ten Years of Working with Homeless People in Cleveland



By Brian Davis

I started volunteering for the *Homeless Grapevine* 10 years ago, and I published a version of this reflection in the *Cleveland Free Times* in 2004. Here is what I have learned from homeless people over the last decade of my life. Too often we ignore the ramblings of an often ignored segment of the population, but I have learned so much that I feel uniquely enriched. These are what I feel are the most important top 10 list from the last ten years.

1. Shelters keep people alive, but also prolong homelessness. Shelters are necessary to keep people from dying on the streets, but they also keep people homeless for longer than is necessary. We seem to eliminate the emergency or urgency when the person has a place to crash at night in a shelter.
2. It is very difficult for social service providers to begin to take risks. We have seen 20 years of increases in homelessness, and it is a real struggle for social service providers to switch gears or admit mistakes. We have tried for years to get the social services to address the causes of homelessness instead of focusing entirely on the emergency. They are very much afraid that they will be deemed irrelevant by changing the current paternalistic system. Just recently, the local agency that provides funds to the shelters, which is dominated by social service types voted to limit competition from new programs to protect their own funding. Shelter providers have forgotten that they are in a struggle for social justice and not just providing a bed.
3. Be afraid, be very afraid of do-gooders. There are many agencies that promote themselves widely as solving problems, but upon looking at these programs they shove religion and rules down the person's throat to the point homeless people choke and walk away disgusted. I am all for religion, but many on the streets feel let down, depressed or beat down. We should never force a homeless person to make the decision between a warm place to stay and a sermon about the mercy of God. I can't imagine that even the fundamentalist's God would appreciate sending a guy into the cold because he refuses to sit through an hour long religious service, but it happens in Cleveland.
4. We certainly love social service fads. When I started, the Republican wives club in Washington D.C. was championing services as the solution to homelessness. We dramatically increased funding to services and we saw dramatic increases in homelessness despite the best economy ever experienced by the United States. So the "experts" switched gears and decided that if we eliminate those who have stayed on the streets for long periods of time, we could save huge resources. This questionable science was pushed on the local community, and now many cities are pouring all available money into building expensive "supportive housing" programs or for the layperson housing with services offered. These are certainly needed programs, but the price tag is a little steep in a time of unprecedented crisis in American history when we cannot feed, clothe, or shelter our citizens. Credit counseling firms would never suggest, when in bankruptcy, a family

continued on page 7

The National Low Income Housing Coalition in 2003 estimated that a single individual must make \$11.65 per hour for 40 hours a week in order to be able to afford a one bedroom apartment, while a family must make \$14.46 per hour to be able to afford a two bedroom apartment at fair market rent.

2003 THANK YOU



For co-sponsoring the 3th Annual
Dinner and Auction



Partnering To End Homelessness

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“Congratulations to the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless as they pursue their mission to organize and empower homeless people through education, advocacy and the promotion of nurturing environments. Thank you for your outstanding and compassionate work.”

Congressman Dennis J. Kucinich

Ohio District 10

Paid for by the Re-elect Congressman Kucinich
Committee (216)-252-9000

Continued from page 5



purchase a Hummer H2 for reliable transportation to work. They would suggest a used Festiva or better yet a bus pass. We need more bus pass type programs for the huge number of homeless people.

5. No matter how hard we try, there will never be enough shelters for those in need. No matter how many shelters we build there will always people seeking help. We need to develop humane alternatives to shelters.

6. Planning to end homelessness is arrogant. Again, the Republican wives club in Washington is pushing this idea of forcing communities to develop plans to end homelessness. A close look at the plans show they rarely ask actual homeless people, and they rarely talk about jobs, health care and civil rights. Most of the time the plans focus on emergency

services, and rarely recommend legal remedies, universal health care and a minimum wage tied to the cost of housing. The plans describe the way to rearrange the deck chairs on a sinking ship and then are forgotten the day after they are written. Cleveland is working on a plan, which we are going to work to assure addresses the affordable housing crisis and remains relevant for the next five years.

7. If you have the misfortune of becoming homeless be prepared to give up most of your rights. Homeless people no right to medicine, they have no right to a shelter bed, and privacy rights are lost. Right now, we are developing an expensive computer network to track homeless people and come up with a complete count of homeless people. We will have entire staff dedicated just to counting homeless people, and those seeking services will be pressured into giving up all their personal information. This is the worst example of the industry that has developed as a result of the personal tragedy and misery of homelessness.
8. It is easier to get a meal on the streets than it is in the entry shelters. This is one of the strange aspects of the backward world called homelessness. There are a myriad of churches that come downtown to give out food to homeless people. I have seen guys get two or three dinners a night, which is great. But in the men's and women's entry shelter food is scarce, portions are small, and they run out of food frequently.
9. There is so much misplaced fear over shelters in the community. Shelters are the hardest place in the world to survive. The rules are so strict and a homeless person must conform or they are punished with a night on the street, and the result is that only the most passive homeless people stay in shelters. Shelters are monitored 24 hours a day, and certainly a drug dealer does not want someone watching them 24/7. Shelters are actually assets to a community and usually improve the look of a neighborhood.
10. Empower a homeless person with responsibility, trust, and authority and they prosper. Treat them like a child, as often happens in the shelters, and they become dependent and disenfranchised.

I am constantly learning from the people I meet, who are homeless, and I am constantly amazed by the ability to persevere. I am in awe of the struggles that many have to overcome, and have the deepest respect for the people that find stability despite the obstacles put in place by shelters, government, and society.

**For all the current information about Homelessness please visit our
website at: www.neoch.org**

2003

Thanks for the Support!

The following businesses and corporations assisted with the funding of NEOCH in 2003. The NEOCH Board voted to keep the names of our membership confidential. This list does not include any individual, organization, or business that contributed to NEOCH as part of their membership.

St. John Neumann Youth Ministry
St. Angela Merici Church
Parma Presbyterian Church
Dover Congregational UCC
Plymouth Church of Shaker Hgts.
Franklin Circle Christian Church
Fairmount Presbyterian Church
Trinity Cathedral
Greater Cleveland Community Shares
United Way Services
Porter Wright Morris Arthur LLP
The Cleveland Foundation
Bruening Foundation
Community Endeavors, Foundation
The Reuter Foundation
Emily Waters Foundation
Abington Foundation

O'Neill Foundation
George Gund Foundation
Clyde Williams Foundation
Community Foundation of Greater Lorain.
Disabled American Veterans
Ida B. Wells Fund
Cleveland Bar Foundation
Mc Carthy, Lebit, Crystal, Liffman Fund
Key Bank National Association
The Stocker Foundation
Sister of Charity of St. Augustine
Cleveland Disc Association
Booz, Allen, Hamilton Inc.
First Unitarian Church of Cleveland
Grapevine Vendors
Lutheran Church of Good Shepherd
A.T.& T.



**Congratulations to the Northeast Ohio Coalition for
the Homeless on their 2004 Annual Meeting.**

**Thank you for your work in Cleveland and your
help in pushing for the preservation and expansion
of affordable housing**

Councilwoman Merle Gordon

Cleveland City Council Ward 15
Ward 15 office 216/459-8400

1700 Denison Ave. #206
Cleveland, Ohio 44109

Paid for by Merle Gordon

2003



Future Endeavors of the Programs

AmeriCorps*VISTA

2003 was a rough year for our AmeriCorps*VISTA program. By August 2003, we lost five VISTA members. Recruitment was tough because of the Federal Budget constraints. We could not offer the education award and NEOCH's Lead VISTA, who is responsible for the statewide recruitment, was promoted to the Director of Operations position. Although the program had major barriers we recruited three awesome VISTA members Tenecia, Joe and Randy, in addition to four VISTA members statewide. In 2004, we plan to fill all our vacant VISTA slots and continue the important work the VISTA members do in the community. Our VISTA members are working on creating an identification program that will allow homeless individuals to get birth certificates, state ID. etc. They are also working on creating a stable women's resident committee similar to the men's shelter committee, as well as the creation of unique public awareness campaigns, such as a video depicting homelessness in Cleveland.

Bridging the Gap

BTG has been on a roller coaster ride over the past year. 2003 began very shaky with the resignation of the program director and the housing crisis with CMHA announcing a three to five year waiting list. BTG moved forward and made some changes. In November 2003, we hired a new program director, Leigh Ann Portler, and expanded our program to include Project Based Section 8 housing as well as private landlords. We applied once again for the Continuum of Care grant, and BTG was awarded funds to support the new *Find Your Home* initiative, an extension of the BTG program. Through this new initiative, we have housed 15 individuals. We will continue to increase the number of Project Based Section 8 Units and private landlords in our rental database with a goal of creating a public web database with bi-weekly housing updates.

Cleveland Community Voice Mail

CCVM had a wonderful year in 2003, serving over 5,200 individuals and successfully expanded into Lorain County. CCVM is having a difficult time securing corporate sponsorship for this program. Although CCVM pays SBC over \$14,000 a year and has proven to be a successful program, SBC will not provide financial support. CCVM is the only program in Ohio. Toledo had a program, but because of the lack of financial support, this program was forced to close their doors. In 2004, we hope to secure more corporate support to sustain this program that has proven to help homeless individuals better their situation. CCVM hopes to expand to surrounding counties in 2004, and we are helping Cincinnati and Columbus start their voicemail program as well.

Cleveland Homeless Legal Assistance Program

CHLAP served over 250 individuals who needed legal advice in 2003, and we have finally established a good relationship with the Cleveland Bar Association. We currently have six intake sites, and our Program Director is working on including two additional sites before the end of 2004. CHLAP continues to struggle in its effort to gain support from the legal community. In 2004, we will host forums to try and recruit more volunteer lawyers and firms to "adopt a shelter". The forums will also be an opportunity to discuss sustainability of the project. CHLAP will also work to create a partnership with law students, and will give the student's experience while helping CHLAP serve additional clients.

If you have questions or need assistance with regard to the NEOCH programs call Teri at 216/432-0540.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors reported in 2003 that Cleveland had 19 straight years of increases in homelessness. According to Ohio Policy Matters, the foreclosure rate on houses increased by 23% in Ohio between 2000 and 2002.

2003

Saint in the City II



Daniel Thompson 1935-2004

by Brian Davis

In this difficult time for our country, in this difficult time in the struggle to reduce the numbers living in poverty, in a time of huge unemployment numbers, growing homelessness, an affordable housing crisis, along with growing number of uninsured, we must carry forward the struggle without the progressive culture minister—Daniel Thompson. In a time when the progressive agenda is but a whisper, and our state government is dominated by cold-hearted businessmen who have turned their backs on the poor—our gifted street warrior with a golden pen has stepped aside. He was a great friend, a tremendous activist, forever hopeful, a tireless wordsmith, a mediator of conflicts in the art community, a great poet, and will forever remain at the side of those who sleep on the streets or in the shelters. First and foremost he was a poet. It is called the Tears of Jesus:

He was well known to the homeless community for bringing bread, pastries and water to those who choose not to sleep in the shelters, as well as the women who found themselves living in a shelter. A man of no material wealth providing the ancient currency of bread to those with even less material wealth—Daniel, without a lot of fanfare, went to Presties and Starbucks at the end of business and took donuts rolls and bread out to the streets in his little compact car and later his green pickup. Social justice by breaking bread with those alienated from our society—Daniel said, “Under the charity of darkness with Godspeed I drive.”

I first met him while I was doing a weekly poetry radio show at WRUW 91.1 FM radio. Daniel came down with his dog and did three hours of poetry. He gave me so much material that I had two weeks worth of shows. He had an amazing passion for distributions of his words like a virus throughout the community. I always felt that if enough people were exposed to Daniel’s civil or human rights poetry virus we could begin to convert people into acting with compassion toward everyone. He performed in a junkyard, at protests, in classrooms, in the jails, in courtrooms, and in shelters. “Nobody who says this country is great sleeps on a grate.”

When I took a volunteer job at the Coalition for the Homeless publishing the *Homeless Grapevine*, Daniel also started sending in material. Then he started coming to our demonstrations. Warming up the audience with “Train” or “The Heart of it All.” I remember that he stayed late into the rainy night at our memorial day sleep out talking to homeless people about their issues. He performed at our mock auction when we pretended to sell one of the shelters to the highest bidder after we determined that the building’s owner, a local social service provider, was making decisions for money instead of for homeless people. I actually think that Daniel won the mock auction with his proposal to open a shelter for albino, homeless, blind poets confined to wheelchairs. “The best things in life are free they’re fond of saying. Of course if you help yourself to what’s second best, they lock you up.”

continued on page 12

Zero Weather

by Daniel Thompson

Zero weather on the vagrant faces
I wake from sleep with the black of the raven
Am ravenous for justice and song
In blue Appalachian turnpike dawn
Revolution is yes and everywhere
Squats on its haunches in backyard gossip
With a jackleg quickness claims its own
On the wings of children, the rings of the phone
Moves on the deeds of the dead before us
Lets flesh and spirit be one and the same
Though nothing is sure save death and dying
In the dead of night it calls you by name
Endings/beginnings again lead to Eden
Where with pen and flourish, truth and friend
I root for anarchy in dark places
And trail my verse in the wake of the wind

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your home or office
deserves!



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2003

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African Safari Wildlife Park
Ambiance The Store for Lovers!
Northfield Park
Anything But... Ordinary
Lo Los Catering
Beran's Studio
Betty Sobieski
Kelly Burd
Joan Burda
Café Tandoor
Cain Park
Carousel Dinner Theatre
Cassidy Theatre
City Budda
Cleveland Cinemas
Cleveland Barons

Cleveland Browns
Cleveland Force
Cleveland Indians
Dave Dawson
Wilbur Leatherberry
Cleveland Museum of Natural History
Cleveland Opera
The Cleveland Orchestra
Cookies by Design
Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad
Dennis Kucinich
Dobama Theater
Einstein Bros Bagels
Filer's Florist
Fine Arts Association

Gesu Catholic Church Social Concern Commission
Great Lakes Brewing Company
Great Lakes Historical Society
Great Lakes Theater Festival
Hard Rock Café
Improvisation Comedy Club
John Roberts Hair Studio & Spa
Karen Bourquin
Lake County Captains Minor League Baseball Team
Lake Metro Park
Malley's Chocolates
Mohican Resort (Xanterra Park & Resorts)
Northern Ohio Golf Association
Patricia Sobieski
Pickwick & Folic Restaurant & Club home to Hillarities
Plants Plus
Sheraton Cleveland City Center Hotel
Six Step Down Bookstore
Truffle's
Thistledown
Thompson Hine
Thomas Pretlow
USS Cod Submarine Memorial
Willoughby Lost Nation Municipal Golf Course

Danes Guest House Bed and Breakfast

2189 West Blvd.
Cleveland, Ohio 44102

216/961-9444



Danes Guest House is located on West Boulevard, in one of Cleveland's well-known historic districts. The house is situated on a wide tree-lined street. Lake Erie is within walking distance where one can view downtown. The bed and breakfast private home is a spacious colonial home built in 1922.

Thank you
to
Tenecia
Stokes for
compiling
this Annual
Report

No where in the United States does welfare or disability assistance provide enough income for an individual to afford an apartment at the fair market rent--www.universallivingwage.com or www.bringamericahome.org

2003

Daniel Thompson
continued from previous page



Daniel was always pushing us to blend our social justice agenda with support from the arts community. He was present at Camelot, when the knights made a stand to protect their home. We did a series of art exhibits and Daniel always opened the exhibits with his poetry. He helped with a wall calendar. And he attended our annual meetings or discussions with homeless people or our yearly candlelight vigils shouting about Ralph Delaney, or the injustice of standing in a breadline, or the fight against hunger.

He accepted the fallen scepter of justice from Ralph Delaney who was killed doing work on behalf of very low-income people. I only hope one will step forward to become the next Saint in the City. He tormented the judicial system with requests for poor people to be able to perform artistic expressions as part of their community service. Daniel constructed an elaborate music and poetry festival at the shelter in order to pay the penalty from a minor traffic ticket. "Like Gandhi and King, Ralph, this may not be the right time, but we confess...you often bore us with your constant talk about the poor in jail, on the street, in the projects."

He never got any streets or a drinking fountain for homeless people named for d.a. levy or Ralph or Langston, but he regularly talked about it to the power brokers of our community. The *Homeless Grapevine* became the home of Daniel for most of the last 10 years. Nearly every issue featured at least one poem from our own Saint in the City. We had a deal that we struck that if there was anything wrong with the poem even a misplaced comma, we would re-print the poem in the next issue. I would get a late afternoon call or a late at night call at my house the week after the *Grapevine* came out from Daniel saying we had made a mistake. I happily complied even though on two occasions he admitted the mistake actually improved the poem. I would do anything to keep the Bread Man publishing in our small paper.

Goodbye Daniel you have taught me a great deal, and we are all better to have met you. We did not tell you thank you enough. I pledge to do all I can to move Daniel's "street warrior" social justice agenda forward, and to make sure that our demonstrations are never boring. I will make sure that the art community and artists are active in the movement, and I hope that we will find someone who can shout about hypocrisy in the "Comeback City" or "A New Beatitude" like Daniel did. "If I had wings I'd fly after nightfall to the heart of the city. To the darkest part of poverty." This gathering proves that Daniel did have wings—wings of poetry.

The Tears of Jesus

by Daniel Thompson

After the mayoral
Sweep of the homeless
From the streets into jail
Jesus wept.
The mayor then ordered
The tears to be swept away, too
The tears of Jesus are bad for business
During the Christmas rush
I mean, come on, said the mayor to Jesus
Don't be such a big baby

FACE To FACE

Portrait Exhibit

David Hagan, a local photographer, spent nearly two years inviting homeless people into his studio for breakfast and a relaxed photo shoot. He has compiled this work and framed some of the best photos for an art exhibit. These works of art are available for display at churches, synagogues or mosques. This show can raise awareness and provoke discussions on the growing poverty crisis.

For more information on the show call:
216/432-0540 or go to our
website at: www.nepoch.org



Lee Chilcote
Progressive Urban
Real Estate, Inc.

www.progressiveurban.com

office: 216/619-9696
4001 Detroit Ave.

2003

Goals for 2004 and Beyond



NEOCH will:

- Work with City, County, and local businesses to develop a plan to address the homeless and affordable housing crisis in Northeast Ohio.
- Work with state advocates to expand the dollars going to affordable housing in the State Housing Trust Fund.
- Develop a plan to assure better access to health care for homeless people to provide continuity of on-going care.
- Work with local labor, religious, and other non-profit organizations to realize the hope of low-income workers in the City of Cleveland to see the creation of a large scale non-profit hiring hall that could compete with existing day labor companies.
- Work to develop emergency housing opportunities or boarding houses for people with income that have a hard time locating housing.
- Seek a statewide upgrade of the hate crimes law to include homeless people so that we will never again see a slap on the wrist for violently attacking homeless people.
- Assist in the creation of a statewide voice mail system for homeless people that may include an additional universal access fee to pay for this service.

Congratulations to the NEOCH 2003 Award Winners



Martin Gelfand

Social Justice Advocate of the Year

for his commitment the past year in preparing the Tenth District Homelessness Summit, assuring that homeless people are not forgotten within the Federal Government. Marty Gelfand has helped the Coalition with setting priorities and making those program priorities a reality in Cleveland.

Ron Reinhart

Advocate of the Year

for his six year commitment to serving homeless people as a member of the Board of Trustees and willingness to participate whenever needed to assure that homeless people's voices are heard.



Denise Sobieski

Outstanding Volunteer of the Year

for her hard work on NEOCH's annual meeting, her participation in the development committee, the Community Voice Mail program, and her willingness to always lend a helping hand.

2003



Charles Hulbert did most of the photos in this Annual Report. He was homeless and lived at 2100 Lakeside shelter. At the shelter, he had all of his camera equipment stolen. A sympathetic *Grapevine* reader saw his story and donated replacement equipment. His work was published in the 2003 *Homeless Grapevines*.



Beyond the Dream

by Daniel Thompson

Astonished by trees
The bird woman stands
Drinking rain
Passages from the King James
Whirl through her head
All her worldly goods
In shopping bags
Her dream book, her day-old bread
Sway as she goes on her crooked foot
To the door of a newfound friend
On whose couch she unbends
Into a watery sleep
When she dreams, she flies above
What matters on the street
The honking cars, the hookers
To the treetops and speaks to birds
Who take her breadcrumb words
Beyond the dream to Jesus



2003

2002 Audited Financial Statement For Year Ending December 31, 2002



Revenue and Support			
(Unrestricted and Temporarily Restricted)			
Grants, gifts and bequests	\$175,878	Depreciation	\$3,876
Governmental support	\$167,509	Dues, publications and conferences	\$4,705
Donated goods and services	\$5,235	Insurance	\$2,485
Program Services	\$10,361	Office supplies and expenses	\$4,183
Special Events	\$14,878	Postage	\$3,004
		Printing	\$16,077
		Program supplies and operations	\$13,432
		Rent and occupancy	\$8,569
		Rent and occupancy donated	\$5,000
		Repairs and maintenance	\$1,254
		Telephone (incl. voice mail system)	\$17,352
		Training	\$931
		Transportation	\$14,964
Total Revenue and Support	\$373,951		
		Total program expenses	\$377,245
		Increase in net assets	(\$3,294)
		Net assets, beginning	\$15,773
		Net assets ending	\$12,479

Operating Expenses

Salaries and wages, administrative	\$69,588
Salaries and wages, program	\$162,226
Employee benefits	\$13,412
Payroll taxes	\$10,319
Accounting/auditing	\$14,828
Bank fees	\$1,536
Contract Labor	\$9,504

2003 Financial Information

This information based on the cash basis accounting, and is not audited to date.

Revenue:		Expenses:	
Foundations	\$190,124	Salaries	\$223,296
Federal Government	\$134,107	Telephone	\$26,282
Community Shares	\$15,010	Taxes/Fringe Benefits	\$25,043
Special Events	\$13,749	Consulting	\$19,363
Individuals	\$12,095	Office Rent	\$19,201
Membership	\$9,688	Professional Services	\$17,324
Religious Organizations	\$8,912	Printing	\$15,639
Grapevine Sales	\$4,120	Equipment Maintenance/Purchase	\$12,617
Program Fees	\$3,942	Program Operations	\$12,227
Corporations	\$1,960	Staff Travel	\$9,350
Program Operations	\$1,057	Office Supplies	\$4,801
Other Revenue Sources	\$753	Conferences/Memberships	\$3,721
Program Balance from 2002	\$12,479	Postage	\$3,098
		VISTA Operations	\$2,400
		Grapevine Printing	\$1,456
		Program Balance for 2004	\$12,140
Total Revenue 2003	\$407,958		
		Total Expenses 2003	\$407,958

2003

2003-2004

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NEOCH's mission is to organize and empower homeless and at risk men, women and children to break the cycle of poverty through public education, advocacy and the creation of nurturing environments.