

October 19, 1995

Greetings to everyone gathered at the Corcoran Gallery of Art for the curator's lecture and viewing of Jim Goldberg's "Raised by Wolves" exhibition, sponsored by the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty.

America is a country of many blessings -- a rich land, a thriving democracy, a diverse and determined people. In a nation of such infinite promise, the number of runaway youths on our streets is a national tragedy, and it is imperative that we not turn our backs on them. We must strengthen our efforts, both as individuals and as a nation, to provide these young people with the care, guidance, and practical solutions they need to get off the streets and take their rightful place in our society.

I commend the staff and volunteers of NLCHP for working with energy and dedication to provide these solutions -- you have brought help to countless people in need. I applaud each of you for your commitment to the American ideal of service. Your work is going a long way toward healing and renewing our society and providing hope for those who have lived too long without it.

Best wishes for a memorable event and for every future success.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 20, 1995

As you gather in Lafayette Park on the first day of winter, I join you in remembering those who died homeless this year.

In a nation of such infinite promise as ours, it is wrong for people to live and die on the streets of our communities. While it is too late to help those we mourn, we must not turn our backs on the homeless who still live among us. We must strengthen our efforts, both as individuals and as a nation, to end the cycle of homelessness in America and to ensure that all of our citizens have the opportunities they need not only to survive but also to succeed.

Every one of us who is blessed with a safe, warm, decent home must share in the responsibility of reaching out to those who have been left behind. We must work to build caring communities that offer adequate housing, accessible health care, and jobs that pay a living wage. Only in this way can we renew the spirit of caring and shared responsibility that is so much a part of our nation's heritage and of this holiday season.

I commend all of you for setting aside this special time to remember the homeless persons who died this year -- let us work together to prevent such tragedies in the future.

Bill Clinton

HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY

***Please Join Us in Remembering Those
Who Died While Homeless in 1995***

**Thursday, December 21st at 5:00 PM
Lafayette Park**

Metro: McPherson Square

It's a day to stop...to pause...to mourn...
To remember lest we forget...
To feel ashamed that the wrong we know should be made right, has not...
And never can be for them.

It's a day to remind ourselves that they are we and we are they...
Except for the difference in where we landed in the socioeconomic constellation of things...
Which means, we have a home and they did not... and we didn't make sure they did...
Before they died.

It's best to remember them by name...
Because it has all become so depersonalized...so hardened against those different from ourselves...
The fear is of the numbing of the soul...
Ours, not theirs...for their pain ran too deep.

It's a too long list...
Too young, too ignored, too abandoned...
Too many and too many more coming...
Sacrificed on the altars of greed, self indulgence, passivity, hype, judgement.

It's called Homeless Persons' Memorial Day...
They died without a home, because we allowed them to live without a home...
Our tears mourn their loss and our national disregard...
Their tears mourn their exclusion, their pain, their dried up dreams that we did not water.

Mark - 32, found dead in a diabetic coma because, being homeless, he had no place to keep his insulin, had used up his 30 day allotment in the shelter, was too newly employed to be able to afford both the security deposit & rent.
Rita - 35, found beaten to death....too many batterings....too little help....
Harvey - 49, found frozen to death under a piece of plastic in the tent he called home...put up on the east end of town, where low income housing used to be, but was torn down for riverside condos that cost \$600,000...wages from his temporary job didn't yet add up to the cost of rent...
Unidentified - 45, found dead under an overpass - TB the morgue said - he weighed 95 pounds
Dana - 24, mildly mentally disabled, fled domestic violence to a community where she was murdered on the streets

Co-sponsored by:

+Coalition of Housing & Homeless Organizations (COHHO)

+National Coalition For the Homeless

1612 K Street, NW, #1004, Washington, DC 20006. 202-775-1322. Fax 202-775-1316

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 20, 1995

As you gather in Lafayette Park on the first day of winter, I join you in remembering those who died homeless this year.

In a nation of such infinite promise as ours, it is wrong for people to live and die on the streets of our communities. While it is too late to help those we mourn, we must not turn our backs on the homeless who still live among us. We must strengthen our efforts, both as individuals and as a nation, to end the cycle of homelessness in America and to ensure that all of our citizens have the opportunities they need not only to survive but also to succeed.

Every one of us who is blessed with a safe, warm, decent home must share in the responsibility of reaching out to those who have been left behind. We must work to build caring communities that offer adequate housing, accessible health care, and jobs that pay a living wage. Only in this way can we renew the spirit of caring and shared responsibility that is so much a part of our nation's heritage and of this holiday season.

I commend all of you for setting aside this special time to remember the homeless persons who died this year -- let us work together to prevent such tragedies in the future.

Bill Clinton



National Coalition for the Homeless

December 14, 1995

Ms. Carol Rasco
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Carol,

I am writing to invite you to attend and speak at our National Homeless Person's Memorial Day Service on Thursday, December 21st at 5:00 p.m. Since 1990, the National Coalition for the Homeless has sponsored this memorial service on the first day of winter to remember the men, women and children who have died during the year while homeless in communities across our nation. They died for a variety of reasons, but all died without a home, because they lived without a home. Mourning their death also urges us to continue to work very hard to end the tragedy and irony that is homelessness in this nation.

The memorial service will be held in Lafayette Park. It will consist of a few people speaking briefly, the recitation of a universal prayer, the naming of those who we know have died in Washington, D.C. in 1995 and the lighting of luminarios for each of them. The service lasts 30-40 minutes.

I want also to express our gratitude to you for convening the White House forum on homelessness. It was a useful and important beginning to the ongoing dialogue that is so needed as we see city after city reporting their inability to meet the need for the housing and support services that can make home and stability a place and not just a dream for the families and individuals whose lack of liveable income has forced them into homelessness.

We look forward to seeing you, if possible and to continued collaborative work. May your holidays be peace filled.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Gleason
Interim Executive Director

December 21, 1995

Greetings. As you gather on this first day of winter, I would like to add my words of remembrance and mourning for those who died while homeless this year.

In a nation of such infinite promise as ours, it is wrong that people live and die on the streets, without homes. It is too late for those we remember today, but it is imperative that we not turn our backs on the homeless. We must strengthen our efforts, both as individuals and as a nation, to ensure opportunities for all of our citizens and to end the cycle of homelessness in our nation.

Every one of us that is fortunate enough to have a safe, warm, decent place to go home to tonight must share in the responsibility of reaching out to those who have been left behind. We must work to build caring communities with adequate housing, accessible health care, and jobs that pay a living wage. It is only by recapturing the spirit of caring and shared responsibility that is so much a part of this holiday season and this country's heritage that we will ensure that no one will have to live or die on the streets of our nation's cities and towns.

Thank you to all of you gathered today to remember and mourn the homeless who died this year, and to all of you who work to prevent this tragedy in your daily work.

Office of HIV/AIDS Housing

Office of Community Planning and Development
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 Seventh Street SW, Room 7154
Washington, DC 20410-7000

PHONE: (202) 708-1934
TDD: (202) 708-2565
FAX: (202) 708-1744

Facsimile Cover

Date: 12/20/95

Number of pages, including cover: 2

Material sent to: HOLLY BROSTROM

Comments:

JACQUIE HAS NOT LOOKED AT
THIS YET SO THERE MAY BE
CHANGES. LET ME KNOW IF YOU
NEED A DIFFERENT TAKE... OR
MORE DETAILS. I'LL CALL YOU OR FAX YOU
JACQUIE'S IDEAS

Material sent by: FRED KARNAS

Fred

D-R-A-F-T

Tonight I join you in spirit as you memorialize those men and women across this nation who, sadly, have lost their lives as a result of their homelessness. To honor their memories, I call on each and every one of my fellow citizens to join in the effort to end this American tragedy. I believe we all must share the responsibility building a nation that leaves no one behind.

At the Federal government level, during my tenure as President, we have more than doubled the budget for homeless assistance programs, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development has made addressing homelessness its number one priority. In addition, we have moved from an emergency approach to one that seeks to move homeless people to permanent housing as soon as possible so that they can once again be part of neighborhoods, ensure their children have stable school situations, and have a place to rest from a hard day of work.

There is no doubt that, despite these efforts, we have not yet turned the corner on this problem. More needs to be done. This holiday season, every one of us that is fortunate enough to have a safe, warm, decent place to go home to tonight must commit ourselves to reaching out to those who have been left behind. We must work to build caring communities with adequate housing, accessible health care, and jobs that pay a living wage. It is only by recapturing the spirit of caring neighbors that is so much a part of this holiday season and this country's heritage that we will ensure that no one will have to spend another cold and lonely night on the streets of our nation's cities and towns.

LIFE'S CHANGED, NOT TAKEN AWAY, FOR ALL WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US.

Hector Alvarez
Owen Barber
Annie Battle
Theodore McDaniel Beales
Jack Brannum
Maurice Britt
Arthur Brown
James Brown
Robert Bruce
Toni Burdine
Marcel Burse
Anthony Butler
William J. Calhoun
Thomas Clark
Robert Coleman
Sharon Coleman
Isaac Collins
Robert Crump
Joseph Curtis
William Downing
Willie Duke
Theresa Edwards
Gertrude Ellis
Robert Edward Evans
Eugene Finch
Jeffrey Foster
Douglas Franklin
George Washington Franklin
Thomas Fuqua
John Gillespie
Anne Govan
Kenneth Graves
John Edward Griffin
Nathaniel Harper

Deborah Harris
Salim L. Harvin
Jimmy Hicks
Leon Hill
Irving Hollander
Ronald Ingram
Mary Jackson
Morris James
Harry Jenkins
Cletus Jobe
Anthony Johnson
Leothis Johnson
Lorraine Johnson
Steve Johnson
Anthony Jones
Nubassa Kenyatta
Bradley King
Maggie Lawrence
Albert Leftwich
Bruce Lloyd
Otis Long
Alice Lytes
Patricia Mahoney
Barbara Marshall
Milton Mason
Montague McCleary
Herman McCrae
Charles McDowell
Ted McMorrough
Eric McWilliams
Charles Montgomery
Gene Montgomery
Robert Nicely
Alexander Ntiewonza
James Pleasant

Doretha Porter
James Ricks
Dan Riley
Eric Roberts
William Ross
James Ruffin
Stephen Sellows
Leroy Scott
Victor Scott
Richard Shorter
Denise Simpkins
Victoria Simpkins
Thomas Sims
Ralph Stokes
Silas Story
Willie Stovall
Robert Streit
Alphonso Sykes
Alfred Tate
Earl Taylor
Donald Vincent Terrell
Arley Thomas
Dan Thompson
Jerry Tyler El
Rita Wade
Robert Walker
Joseph Washington
James Watson
Lawrence P. Watts
Anthony Williams
Nate Williams
Michael Wilson
Frank Wisley
Kevin Wright

PROGRAM

Introduction

Mary Ann Gleason
Interim Executive Director
National Coalition for the Homeless

Remarks

Art Brown
Convenor, Coalition of Housing and
Homeless Organizations
John McBride
Board Member, National Coalition for the Homeless

Memorial Litany

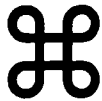
Cheryl Barnes
David Gidley
Frank Hall
Tommy Higgs
Johnny Jackson
Josh Palmer
Joe Poge
John Ratchford
Bernard Sands
Narah Simms
Harvey Slye

Musical Tribute

Coalition for the Homeless
Inspirational Choir

Closing Prayer

The Rev. Linda Kaufman
Executive Director
The Dinner Program for Women



Co-Sponsored by The Coalition of Housing and
Homeless Organizations
and the National Coalition for the Homeless

National Homeless Persons Memorial Day 1995

**A Candlelight Vigil to Remember
The Homeless Members of our Community
Who Died This Year.**

Lafayette Park
December 21, 1995
5:00 p.m.

