



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HOMELESS SERVICE PROVIDERS TO HOLD MEMORIAL FOR 39 PEOPLE *Homeless Memorial Day is December 21, 2009*

Omaha, Neb., December 14, 2009 – Metro Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless (MACCH), the region’s largest network of homeless service providers, announced today it will memorialize 36 people who died while homeless or recently housed over the past year. Also honored will be three people who worked to end poverty and homelessness that passed away in 2009. The memorial observation has been a tradition among providers and the metro community at large.

MACCH has organized memorial services to honor those who died next Monday, December 21st at the following times and locations:

- 4:30 p.m., Stephen Center—2723 Q Street, Omaha, Neb. (402-731-0238)
- 4:45 p.m., Siena Francis House—Baright Building, 1111 N 17 St, Omaha, Neb. (402-341-1821)
- 5:00 p.m., MOHM’s Place, 1435 N 15 St., Council Bluffs, Iowa (712-323-4416)
- 5:30 p.m., inCommon Community Development, 1258 S 13 St, Omaha, Neb. (402-933-6672)
- 5:30 p.m., MICAH House, 1415 Avenue J, Council Bluffs, Iowa (712-322-7570)
- 7:30 p.m., Open Door Mission—Garland Thompson Men’s Center, 2706 N 21 St. East, Omaha, Neb. (402-422-1111)

“It is important for us to remember the humanity of those we serve by reflecting on their lives,” said Erin Porterfield, Executive Director of MACCH. “In looking at this year’s deaths, it is tragic to note the ages range from two years to 73 years. Diverse circumstances surrounded the homelessness of these neighbors, family members and friends. We must continue to share the responsibility to end the preventable tragedy of homelessness.”

The events underscore the urgent crisis faced by over 5,000 men, women and children who experience an episode of homelessness in Omaha and Council Bluffs each year. The memorial events honoring those passed away are held in conjunction with National Homeless Persons’ Memorial Day traditionally held on December 21st—the longest and coldest day of the year.

About MACCH

The mission of MACCH is to lead a collaborative network to prevent and eliminate homelessness. Located in Omaha, Nebraska, the organization collaborates with service providers committed to providing exits out of homelessness for individuals and families in Douglas, Sarpy and Pottawattamie counties. MACCH is a continuum of providers, advocates, funders, government agencies and elected officials interested in issues related to homelessness, and accomplish these goals through convening organizations and individuals toward greater solutions. For more information on MACCH, visit www.macchomeless.org.