



**MASSACHUSETTS COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS**

Committed to ensuring that everyone has a place to call home

December 21, 2011

**Online, On TV, and At the State House:  
Launching Our New Website, Chronicle HD Highlights the Work of the  
Coalition, Movement for the Unaccompanied Youth Homelessness Bill, and  
Legislative Action Day 2012**

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Dear friend,

Happiest holiday wishes to you from the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless! Thank you for all of your support and advocacy throughout 2011!

Please see below for some exciting updates from the Coalition.

**Brand New Coalition Website**

**We are very excited to announce the launch of our brand new website, still located at [www.mahomeless.org](http://www.mahomeless.org)!**

We have been working with the wonderful staff at [SocialRaise](#) over the past several months to create a new, more interactive and user-friendly website.

We will be adding new content over the next weeks and months, so we encourage you to visit and come back often.

**Coalition's Highland Kids Initiative to Be Featured Again on Chronicle Next Tuesday, December 27th at 7:30 p.m.**

We also are pleased to let you know that WCVB Channel 5's Chronicle HD program will be rebroadcasting its show on the Coalition's Highland Kids Initiative next **Tuesday, December 27th, at 7:30 p.m.!**

The Highland Kids Initiative is a collaboration among the Coalition, the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), the City of Lynn Public Schools, and the Lynn Housing Authority and Neighborhood Development. This exciting initiative provides rental assistance, housing supports, and other services to families with children in the Lynn public schools who are at risk of homelessness. It is designed to improve the educational achievement of low-income children by eliminating the residential mobility of their families.

Here is the show description from the [Chronicle web page](#): "They were two families on the verge of homelessness: one, political refugees from Africa; the second, struggling with the death of a child and financial challenges. They enrolled in a pilot program run by The Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless, called the Highland Kids Initiative, designed

to pull them back from the brink. For the last year Chronicle has documented their progress; tonight we see how far they've come."

### **Unaccompanied Youth Homelessness Bill Receives Another Favorable Report**

As we reported last month, the Legislature's Joint Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities gave a favorable report to House Bill 1862, [An Act Providing Housing and Support Services for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth](#). If passed, this bill (now renumbered [House Bill 3838](#)) would lead to the establishment of a special commission to examine the needs of unaccompanied youth and create new housing and services to help eradicate youth homelessness. Click here to see the Coalition's [fact sheet on the bill](#).

The bill had a brief stop at the Joint Committee on Rules, chaired by Senator Frederick Berry and Representative John Binienda, before promptly receiving a second favorable report.

House Bill 3838 was sent last week to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Please ask [your State Representative](#) to weigh in with [Chairman Brian Dempsey](#) of House Ways and Means to express her/his support of the unaccompanied youth homelessness bill!

We will be in touch soon with additional next steps.

### **Save the Date: Join Us on February 29th for Our Annual Legislative Action Day at the State House!**

Please click [here](#) for more information. Registration will open in January. We hope you will be able to join us to advocate for housing, homelessness prevention, and income support programs in the FY'13 state budget.

**Happy holidays and best wishes for 2012!**

mchalert  
Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless



Please join us in raising money to help end homelessness, just by searching the Internet or shopping online with GoodSearch.

GoodSearch for the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless by following this link:  
<http://www.goodsearch.com/?charityid=849550>.

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