



**NATIONAL  
COALITION** FOR THE  
**HOMELESS**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2022**

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# OVERVIEW

First and foremost, thank you to all NCH donors, members and partners for your generous support!

Over the last year, NCH has forged a meaningful partnership with lawmakers and federal agencies that have shaped policy and resources more inclusively and collaboratively. We have been able to support more leaders who have lived experience of homelessness. Further, the funding provided by our community of supporters has led NCH to financial stability.

At the height of the pandemic, the National Coalition (NCH) distributed over 2 million masks to homeless service providers nationwide. We partnered with the Ford Fund during one of the most critical periods of the country's battle with the Coronavirus. In addition, we have provided COVID-specific care packages in the DC, Maryland, and Virginia areas to many homeless and shelters. The packages included hand sanitizers, socks, batteries, feminine hygiene products, and other non-traditional items.

NCH worked closely with the Department of Housing and Urban Development to introduce the first Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the unsheltered homeless population. This funding will be a vital resource in the effort to move people off the streets and into housing in some of the nation's most marginalized communities. With Progressive's support, NCH-trained leaders were instrumental in developing the country's vaccine distribution, communications, and logistics in partnership with the Department of Housing (HUD), Urban Development, and the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

NCH's trajectory from its original organizing principle that people who have experienced homelessness must be leading change has led to participation in various HUD Technical Assistant projects. NCH has been able to employ 30 formerly homeless men and women across the country to provide direct guidance to federal agencies about homeless service delivery.



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The program has been so effective that NCH has been approached by multiple organizations for new projects, including a statewide project in California to promote racial equity and two additional projects with HUD and the Center for Budget and Policy priorities. NCH recently started relationships with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide support for housing 38,000 homeless veterans and with the American Center for Families to work on creating equitable process through the Temporary Assistance for Children and Families Program.

NCH has partnered with the Secretary of HUD to create the People with Lived Experience and Expertise Committee (PWLEE). The PWLEE groups have been instrumental in developing new strategies and procedures to address homelessness, including the Unsheltered Homelessness NOFO mentioned above. PWLEE committees have been appointed to The House America initiative - a group of Mayors, Governors, and Judges convened by the secretary to share successes in ending homelessness.

The incredible advocates employed by NCH have provided numerous trainings to both Federal HUD staff and local service providers, ensuring holistic care and programs for people experiencing homelessness during the COVID pandemic. We have presented on panel presentations and webinars on topics including CARES Act Funds, Stimulus Funds related to people without homes, and eviction prevention resources.

NCH is perhaps most excited to have launched the first-of-its-kind **Lived Experience Training Academy (LETA)**. The mission of LETA is to provide people with lived experience of homelessness the tools to serve on board of directors, as consultants, as well as other professional employment opportunities. NCH plans to provide services to 25 communities with cohorts of 25 individuals in 2023.



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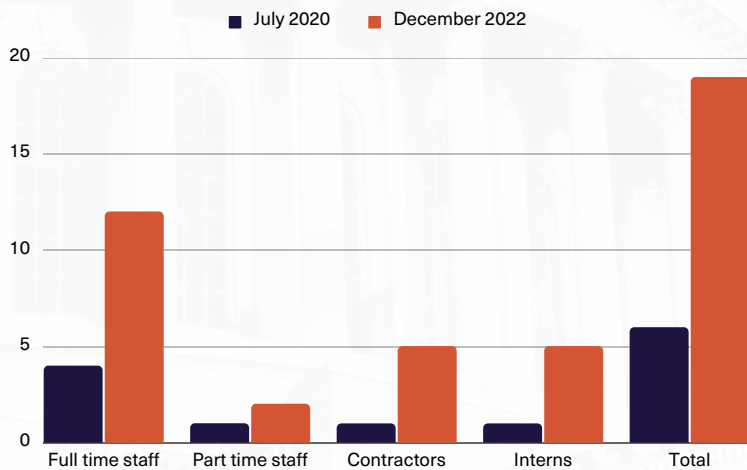
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# STAFFING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Over the last year, NCH has added staff in its Civil Rights, Development and Public Education departments. True to our mission, 90% of staff have experienced homeless in their lifetime.

NCH has embraced a hybrid work environment. We now have a presence in the Midwest (Cleveland, OH), the West (Los Angeles, CA), the Northeast (NYC and upstate NY), and the South (Miami, FL and Charlotte, NC), as well as the DC Metro region. We have focused growing our support for communities that are not providing a healthy, therapeutic, or speedy path back to housing for the population by working with local advocates to seek better solutions and better outcomes. NCH partnered with several organizations to request that the federal courts enforce the existing fair housing laws. We have also expanded in recruiting new network members from all fifty states, including numerous individuals with lived experience of homelessness.

## STAFFING



NCH has increased staff drastically in the last 3 years. The increase in fulltime staff has nearly doubled the capacity and reach of the organization, improving our image, and furthering our movement.

# COMMUNICATIONS

## SOCIAL MEDIA


Our social media has taken a sharp turn with the introduction of a communications coordinator. With a dedicated staff member committed to communications, we were able to streamline our online presence in 2022.

	FACEBOOK	TWITTER	INSTAGRAM
<b>FOLLOWERS</b>			
<b>'20-'21</b>	<b>38.3k</b>	<b>35.5k</b>	<b>2.3k</b>
<b>'21-'22</b>	<b>42.8k</b> ↑	<b>36.2k</b> ↑	<b>2.6k</b> ↑


## ENGAGEMENT

Our streamlined online presence that coincides with our rebrand (logo, color, and website change) came with a more frequent, consistent posting habit that aided our engagement. Here is a sneak peak of our updated branding and website, to be launched in early 2023.


**What we do** [♥ Donate Today](#) [Other Ways to get involved](#)




**Our Direction comes**  
from personal experience with being unhoused and using homeless and housing services – **80% of our staff** and **60%** of our Board have experienced homelessness themselves.



**We advise federal,** state, and local governments and agencies on improving their programs and systems so they work better for people needing assistance.



**We work** to end homelessness by addressing the underlying issues of racist housing policy, disinvestment in affordable housing, and other policies that have created sustained and growing inequalities.



**We Provide** training and support to ensure the voices of those who have been unhoused are heard and respected.

# TOP STORIES

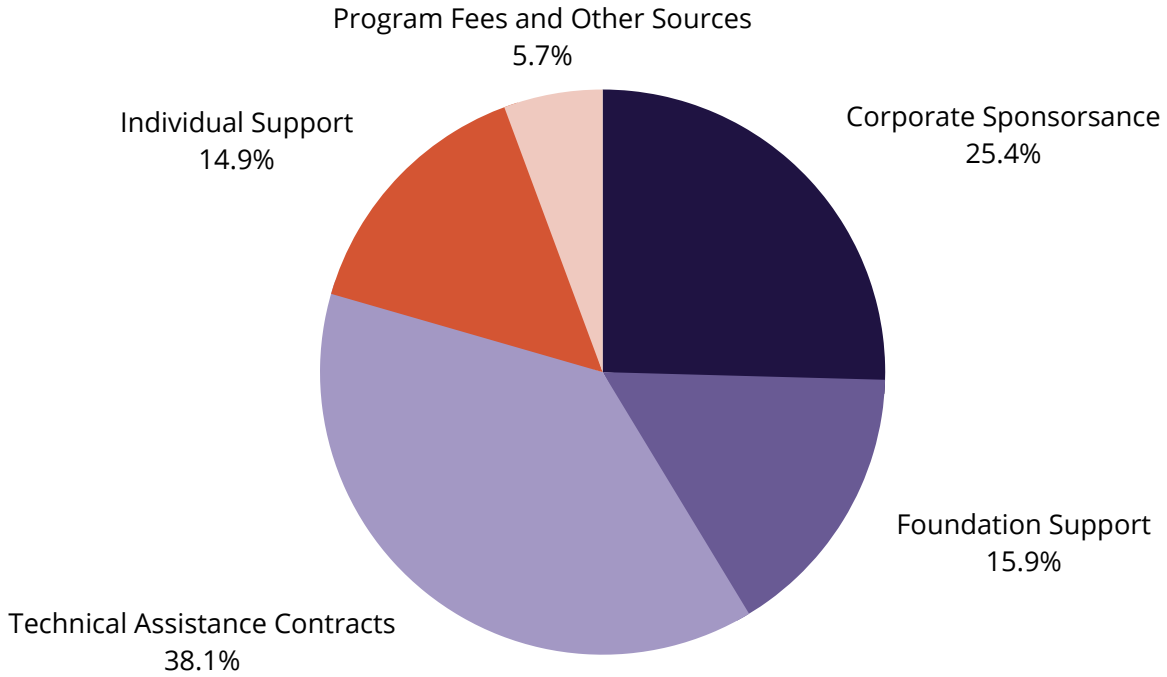
- **The Washington Post, Aug. 24, 2022**  
[America's first homelessness problem: Knowing who is actually homeless](#)
- **The Dr. Phil Show, March 10, 2022**  
[San Diego Man Says Homeless Encampments Are A Danger To Public Safety](#)
- **Phil in the Blanks Podcast, Oct. 4, 2022**  
[Diving Into The Homeless Crisis In America](#)
- **Newsweek, March 23, 2022**  
[Series of Shootings Highlight Rising Violence Against Homeless People](#)
- **Los Angeles Times, April 26, 2022**  
[America's homeless population is getting older as more 'retire onto the streets'](#)

## News Media mentions



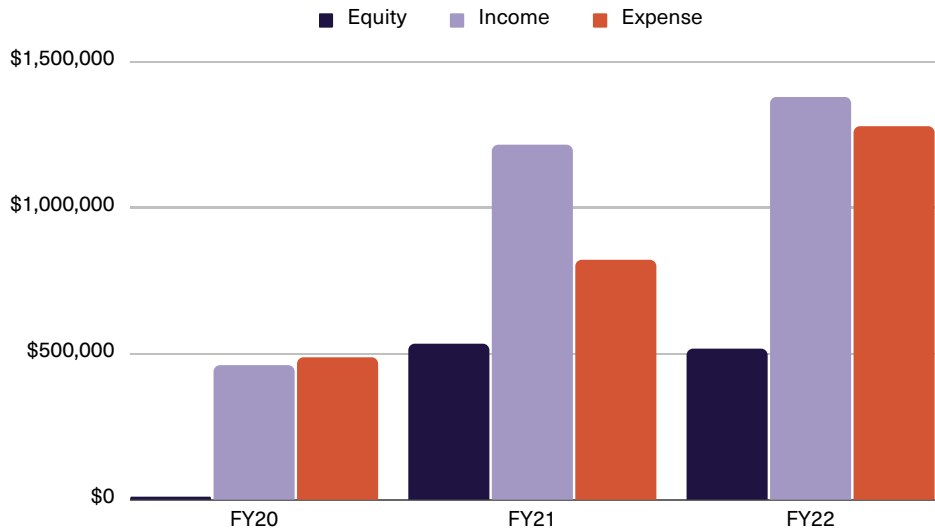
# FINANCES

## INCOME SOURCES



## FINANCES

Income has increased dramatically in the last 3 years. We have now almost 6 months of standard operating costs in reserve.





# GRASSROOTS

## VALENTINES DAY ACTION FOR BUILD BACK BETTER



On February 14th, 2022, NCH went on the hill and led a broken-heart valentine action to advocate that congress pass Build Back Better. We printed cards with each senator's name and the corresponding names of the unhoused neighbors who passed away in their state. NCH collected the names of 5,500 individuals who passed away in 2021, but it is estimated that nearly 17,500 each year pass away.

[You can watch our facebook live video here.](#)

## NCH CONSTITUENTS HAVE SENT OVER 33,000 NOTES TO THEIR CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

### FIELD OFFICES

NCH hired a full time Director of Grassroots Organizing who has been busy expanding NCH's network. An official NCH Field Office opened in Cleveland, OH in the Fall of 2021, and LA and Miami Field Offices due to open 2022.



# PROGRAMS

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

### ABT HUD ESG TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Ensure the ESG-CV TA strategy and related products are informed by expertise gained through lived experience of homelessness

### ICF HUD ESG PROJECT

Assist in the ESG-CV Stimulus Response TA effort to help communities develop large-scale rehousing activities that limit spread of the coronavirus and facilitate assistance to households impacted by COVID-19

### CALIFORNIA REAL TA PROJECT

Subcontract with TAC to design racially equitable homelessness systems in 35 communities in CA

### HUD EQUITY DEMO TA

Serve as Lead for the Meaningful Incorporation of Persons with Lived Experience Group on HUD's Equity Team.

### REIMAGINING SHELTER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT

Support communities to begin to transform approaches to providing shelter by convening Focus Groups of people with lived experience, inventorying and assessing gaps in existing emergency shelter programs and practices, and developing tools for positive change

## NCH CORE PROGRAMS

### LIVED EXPERIENCE TRAINING ACADEMY (LETA)

Develop a curriculum to assist people with lived experience to assume roles on boards, planning committees, service providers and governmental bodies.

### YOU DON'T NEED A HOME TO VOTE CAMPAIGN

Work with local and national advocates to secure access to the ballot box for those without income and those who move frequently

### FACES OF HOMELESSNESS SPEAKERS' BUREAU

NCH's longest running program provides trained speakers to community groups to dispel some of the myths around homelessness.

### UNIVERSAL GUARANTEED INCOME PROJECT

The GIP provides direct, recurring cash payments of \$1000 a month, with no restrictions on use, to 400 individuals in Washington DC for two years.

# BRING AMERICA HOME NOW

## EVENTS AND WORKING GROUPS

The Bring America Home NOW campaign is a comprehensive, multi-agency, grassroots campaign to end homelessness in the United States. Led by people who have themselves experienced homelessness, we focus on the passage of federal legislation aimed at addressing the interconnected solutions to the decades-long epidemic of homelessness.

Recent events include:

- Interfaith Working Group launch: March 17, 2022. Hosted by Pastor L. Michelle Bush and Rev. John P. Kee. [View the recording.](#)
- Women, Children, and Families Working Group launch: April 22, 2022. Held in conjunction with Stetson University's Poverty and Homelessness Conference, hosted by Dr. Rajni Shankar-Brown and Christian Nunes, President of NOW. [Learn more.](#)
- Congressional Briefing: June 23, 2022. Sponsored by Congresswoman Maxine Waters and the House Financial Services Committee. Full recording of the briefing is [available on YouTube.](#)

## OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

The BAHN campaign has taken off strong, and has solidified many administrative actions that have pushed the campaign forward. Prominent national leaders on the campaign include: NAACP, LULUC, NOW, NLHC, NAEH and the National Homeless Union, The National Healthcare for the Homeless Council and National Consumer Advisory Board.

Apr 22 WOMEN, CHILDREN, FAMILY AND YOUTH INITIATIVE

Join BAHN as we host the Women, Children, Family and Youth Initiative.

OUR HOSTS

On April 22nd at 2pm EST, NCH is partnering with Stetson University to host the Women, Children, Family, and Youth Initiative. The event will be the kickoff event for Stetson University's Poverty and Homelessness Conference, taking place on April 23rd, 2022.

Register today:  
<https://www.bringameriahomenow.org/wcyf/>

Christian Nunes, National Organization of Women President  
Dr. Rajni Shankar-Brown, Stetson University Professor, NCH Board VP

June 23 BRING AMERICA HOME NOW CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING

Join the House Financial Services Committee, National Advocates and the BAHN Campaign for a luncheon briefing, "The Growing Homeless Crisis in America: Challenges and Solutions"

June 23, 2022 12:30 - 2pm EST U.S. Capitol Visitors Center  
In-person for Congressional staffers only

Live streaming on Zoom and Facebook  
Register today! For details of the event, visit:  
<https://bringameriahomenow.org/events/>

**229** + **210** = **439**

Individual Partners      Organizational Partners      Total BAHN Partners

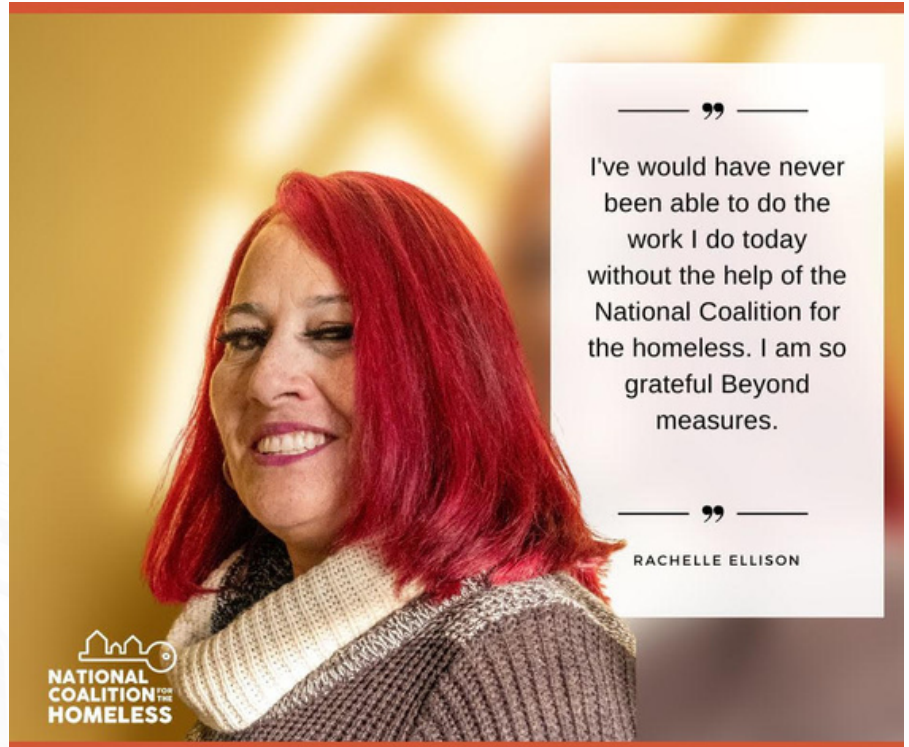
# IMPACT STORIES

## Rachelle Ellison

I am Rachelle Ellison I became a speaker and Advocate at the National Coalition for the homeless 9 years ago, after experiencing homelessness with co-occurring disorders for 17 years. They brought me on as a Speaker and Advocate they gave me the jump start and the foundation to work for many organizations at one

time. They gave me the courage and taught me the perseverance it took to be passionate about helping the most vulnerable population and understanding that housing is a human right. They gave me the opportunity to work for HUD as a technical assistant I worked on policy on monitoring of the ESG grants and ESG subrecipients who monitors why they monitor and how they monitor. They have helped me gain knowledge beyond my wildest dreams. I wrote the curriculum for the Lived Experience Training Academy and recently was part of the pilot.

None of this would be possible without NCH. They have helped me to become the professional woman who has so much passion making sure that another homeless individual has the opportunities that I received to elevate and to believe in themselves so they can see themselves in a new light. I am grateful beyond measure.



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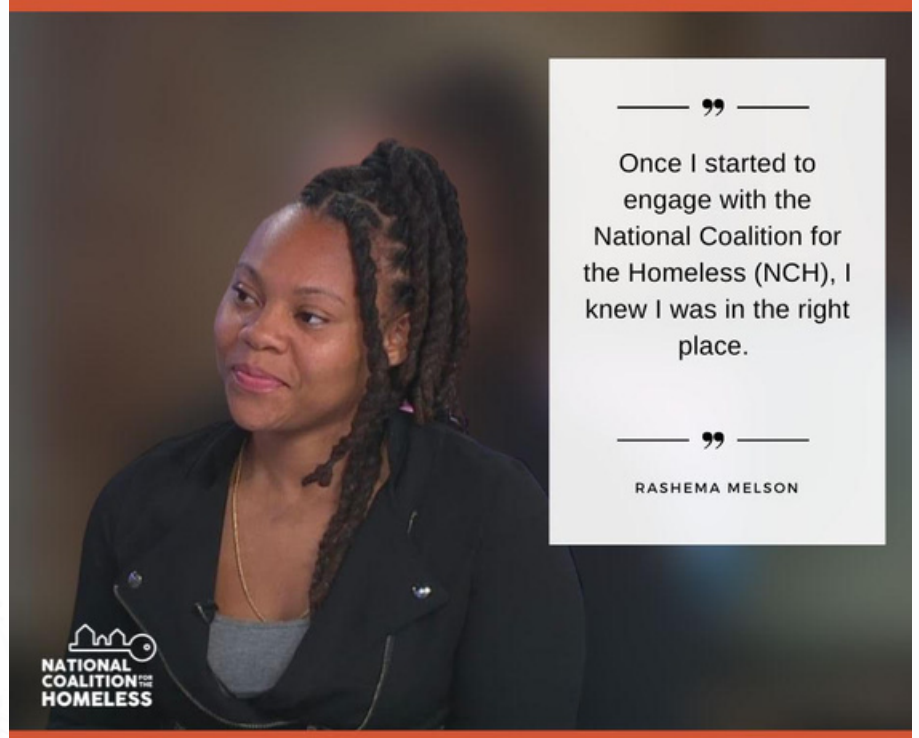


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## Rashema Melson

Hello, my name is Rashema Melson, I am a born and raised DC native. I experienced homelessness consecutively for 12 years, from the age of 12-24 years old. I graduated from Georgetown University in 2019, and that was the same year I joined the Speakers' Bureau, which has been absolutely life changing. I was in a place in my life where I wanted to invoke change and help others who

have experienced similar traumas as mine, such as homelessness and lost hope. Once I started to engage with the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH), I knew I was in the right place. I was able to speak at so many different events: schools, universities, businesses, and conferences helping people become more aware of homelessness and how they could make a difference in ending it. Through my speaking, I gained more confidence and value in my identity, and not just thinking of myself as the "quitter Homeless Valedictorian" or a "homeless person" and others began to notice the humanness in me as well. Donald Whitehead, Executive Director of NCH, offered more opportunities to me and others to partner with HUD to do profound and groundbreaking work within the homelessness response system, and while also making a generous income. In the span of almost 3 years, this opened the door for me to become a TA provider, independent consultant, 1st generation homeowner, and 1st generation entrepreneur; I am now CEO and Founder of Pain Into PURPOSE, Founder & President of the Melson Foundation, and own 1.5 acres of land. My life has completely evolved for the better and I deeply enjoy working with and alongside NCH to continue to bring change to our impoverished and under-resourced communities that need us. If it wasn't for NCH's Speakers Bureau allowing my light to shine, none of this would be possible without NCH. They have helped me to become the professional woman who has so much passion making sure that another homeless individual has the opportunities that I received to elevate and to believe in themselves so they can see themselves in a new light. I am grateful beyond measure.



— ” —  
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## John Harrison

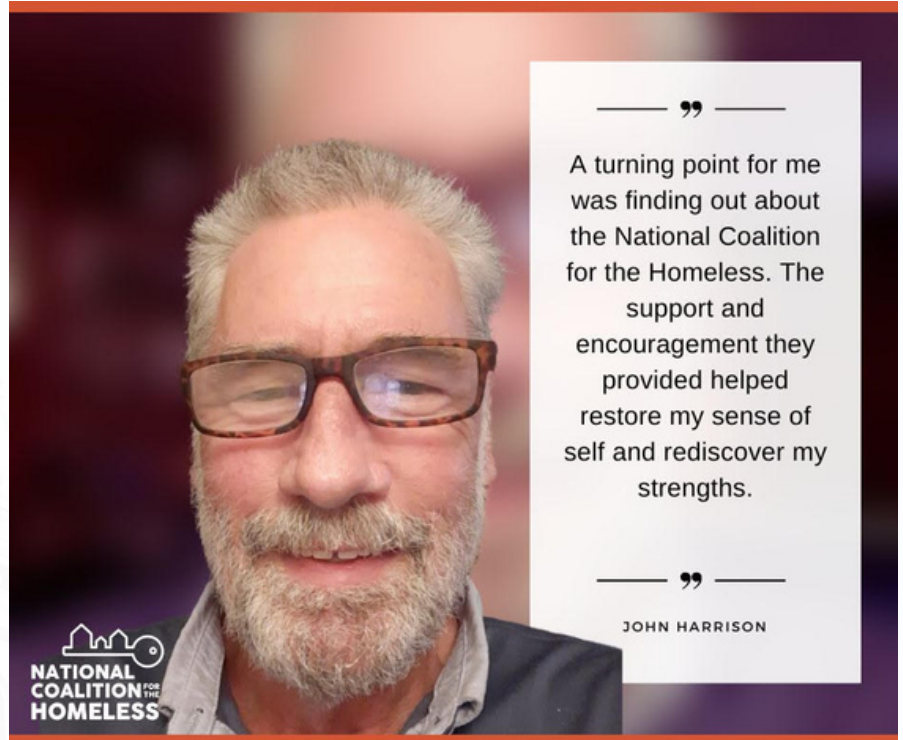
I became homeless in my forties and was on the verge of declining into chronic homelessness.

A turning point for me was finding out about the National Coalition for the Homeless. The support and encouragement they provided me, and their practice of including me and others in their work

and mission, helped to restore my sense of self and rediscover my strengths. Being a member of NCH's Speakers Bureau was instrumental in restoring my sense of purpose as well. With renewed confidence I decided and was able to go to college, in my fifties. Donald Whitehead made me aware of an opportunity to work in the homeless response system and I became a street outreach worker.

The experience I gained in that work led to further opportunities participating in HUD TA work where both my lived experience of homelessness and my role doing street outreach gave me a valued perspective. The guidance and mentoring I've received have transformed the challenges of homelessness into a priceless resource I can draw upon the work I'm doing now. I've helped people that were living in stairwells and laundry rooms just last year now have keys to their own apartment. And I am doing meaningful work in transforming the homeless response system through numerous contributions to HUD Technical Assistance projects.

Respectfully,  
John Harrison



## Deborah Gilbert White

As a member of the Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau, I have spent the last few years speaking to groups, organizations, and legislators about protecting the humanity, dignity, and rights of people identified as homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Experiencing homelessness through eviction in Delaware put me on the path of being an advocate for myself and for others. My training as a social psychologist before homelessness allowed me to focus on issues of diversity and inclusion.

Coming out of homelessness I continue to push for protective legislation such as a DE Bill of Rights for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness and the Right to Representation for tenants during eviction.

Most recently I was hired as Director of Education with the National Coalition for the Homeless, and in this capacity will assist others with the lived experience of homelessness by informing the work of LETA (Lived Experience Training Institute) and supporting the development of leadership skills that move the experience of homelessness beyond telling our stories shaping and framing the transformative change needed to end it.

