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NPACH Announces Board of Directors

WASHINGTON, DC, 22 October 2004—The National Policy and Advocacy Council on Homelessness (NPACH) is pleased to announce the election of the following board members:

- Robyn Frost, President (Executive Director, Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless)
- Dr. Mary Joyce (Gianneschi Endowed Professor in Non-Profit Marketing, California State University Fullerton)
- Paul Boden (Executive Director, Coalition on Homelessness-San Francisco)
- William Cobbett (Senior Urban Upgrade Advisor, Cities Alliance and United Nations Habitat)
- Barbara Duffield (Director of Policy, National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth)
- Tim Harris, (Editor, Real Change, Seattle, Washington)
- Rene Heybach (Director of Law Project, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless)
- Greg Mellowe (Executive Director, Florida Coalition for the Homeless)
- Yonce Shelton, (Director of Public Policy, Call to Renewal)
- Dr. Theresa Singleton (Research and Information Director, Housing Assistance Council)

NPACH was formed in December 2003 amidst concerns about the current direction of federal homelessness policy. Despite its inextricable connection to core economic indicators, homelessness is now treated as an insular policy area, separated from the poverty and housing crises that underlie it. The perpetuation of homelessness as a phenomenon that is distinct and somehow “different” from poverty has contributed to the marginalization of the issue among the public and policymakers, and thus distanced it from the very constituencies with the power to end it. NPACH is dedicated to ending homelessness through grassroots advocacy driven by the experiences, insights, and data of local communities, and through inclusive partnerships with anti-poverty organizations.

For these reasons, NPACH will incorporate all sectors of anti-poverty work, including housing, labor, health, education, immigration, civil rights, domestic violence, disability, gender equity, child welfare, and faith-based initiatives. “NPACH’s staff will ensure our success as an organization. They are veterans of the struggle against poverty and homelessness, bringing a keen eye to the issues and a daunting ability to see things through when it comes to *really* changing policy,” commented Rene Heybach.

Remarked Dr. Mary Joyce, “NPACH’s staff and board members intend to redefine homelessness within the context of deep poverty, housing instability, and an outcome of public policy which ignores basic human rights. I am impressed by the experiences and imaginations of the individuals involved with NPACH, and I’m confident of the group’s ability to impact positive social change.”

“Rural areas, which are often ignored in the discussions about homelessness, need an organization like NPACH, which understands rural homeless issues and is committed to working to meet the needs that exist in all communities,” added Dr. Theresa Singleton.

Brad Paul, NPACH Executive Director, concluded “NPACH’s Board of Directors offer expertise from numerous disciplines and from diverse geographic contexts. This inclusive approach to public policy advocacy – grounded in local realities and informed by real experiences – is needed now more than ever in the struggle to end homelessness in the United States. I look forward to working with the Board to ensure the success of NPACH’s mission.”