



Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless

Working to ensure that everyone has a safe, decent, affordable place to call home

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Record Number of Homeless Children in Minneapolis Shelter – \$134 Million State Investment in Affordable Housing Marks Progress

October 31, 2012 St. Paul—As shelters across the state serve record numbers of homeless families, Minnesota Housing recently announced [\\$134 million in funding awards](#) for affordable housing development. This investment will build or preserve affordable housing for 3,100 households across the state. Family homelessness has risen dramatically since the economic recession.

Between July 2011 and June 2012, public school districts identified 6,452 students in Minneapolis, 2,226 students in St. Paul, and 359 students in Duluth without stable housing (MN Housing Partnership, 2012).

Daniel Gumnit, CEO of People Serving People stated: “We know the factors that have driven a record breaking number of homeless children and their families to our emergency shelter: lack of affordable housing, high unemployment, and the high cost of quality child care.”

Gumnit added, “It’s shocking to say that the new face of a homeless person is that of a young child. We are seeing record breaking numbers of homeless children and their families at People Serving People. On a recent night almost 260 children called our shelter home. The average age is between five and six years old.”

Minnesota Housing’s strategic investment in affordable housing marks progress towards comprehensive solutions for housing stability. From homelessness prevention to affordable housing, more investments are still needed. Approximately 13,100 Minnesotans are homeless on any given night (Wilder Research, 2009).

The Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless is a statewide coalition of 180 direct service organizations working for policy solutions to end homelessness. People Serving People is Minnesota’s largest family-focused homeless shelter, located in Minneapolis. www.peopleservingpeople.org

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