



Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Minnesota homeless community mourns the loss of Steve O'Neil, Duluth organizer and St. Louis County Commissioner

St. Paul—Minnesota's homeless community mourns the loss of Steve O'Neil. Our friend passed away after a battle with cancer at the age of 63. Steve was a grassroots organizer and an effective political leader. He pushed hard—and successfully—for St. Louis County to adopt a *Plan to End Homelessness*. Steve brought business, faith, government, and nonprofit leaders together to create housing opportunities. Steve worked for, and alongside, the people in poverty. In 2005, he was the recipient of the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless' Bruce Vento Distinguished Service Award.

Liz Kuoppala, Executive Director of the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless stated:

"In the final days of the 2013 legislative session, when cancer made it hard for Steve to speak, he insisted that he still had his advocacy voice. He urged lawmakers, through email, to invest in housing options for low-income Minnesotans. He was a tireless advocate for the poor and homeless. He used his position to make things better for the less fortunate. Steve was optimistic that we can do better as a state. He will be missed."

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The Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless is a statewide organization comprised of 150 nonprofit members. MCH's mission is to generate public policies, community support, and local resources to end homelessness in Minnesota. www.mnhomelesscoalition.org

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