

Housing Forum
“Kids Count: Meeting the Needs of Homeless Children”
October 28, 2009 2-4:30 N/S Auditorium Worcester State College

Moderator: Maureen Power, Urban Studies professor and Executive Director of the Intergenerational Urban Institute

Discussant: Linda Weinreb, M.D., Vice Chair, Family Medicine and Community Health, Medical Director, Homeless Families Program, Family Health Center, Worcester, MA

Kate Kerr, WSC '2008, will present an Introduction to Homeless Children : the View from the Village, a family shelter in Worcester. As an Urban Studies major, Kate became involved with CMHA while taking the “Housing Dilemma” course in 2008. She went on to do an internship with Central MA Housing Alliance and helped to develop YAH (Youth Against Homelessness at South High). She now works as a child advocate at The Village and is developing YAH chapters at all high schools in Worcester..

Grace Carmark, Executive Director, Central MA Housing Alliance (CMHA) will give an overview of the latest report on the National Commission Against Homelessness, highlighting on Report for Massachusetts. From her vantage point as director of CMHA, she will give an overview of the shelter situation in Worcester.

Dr. Patricia McQuilken, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at UMass memorial Health Care, is the pediatrician for the homeless families program at Family Health Center in Worcester . She will discuss the impact of homelessness on children’s health. She also volunteers in area free clinics, and is currently running a program which sends pediatric faculty and residents to a hospital in Liberia, West Africa

Shirley Fan-Chan, Shirley Fan-Chan is the Chief of External Programs at Horizons for Homeless Children (HHC). She oversees the Training and Technical Assistance Program and the Policy and Advocacy Program . Shirley will discuss why early education and play space is so important for the growth and development of homeless children.

Stephanie Ettinger de Cuba, is the Research and Policy Director, Children’s Health Awareness (formerly C-SNAP at Boston University Hospital) a pediatric research center which monitors the impact of economic conditions and public policies on young children’s health and development. Stephanie will discuss the findings of their report “In From the Cold” about Boston’s hidden homeless children.

Judy Thompson , W M.Ed./CAGS, NCSP, Coordinator of Counseling/Psychology and Community Outreach Services for the Worcester Public Schools. Judy will discuss initiatives from the school department to better understand and meet the needs of homeless children.

Danielle LaRiviere, WSC, ' 2008, Danielle will discuss her role as a housing counselor at CMHA and encourage the audience to assist homeless families by participating in a Donations Clearinghouse Drive on campus Nov 17th . As an Urban Studies student she helped to organize a Donations Drive in Spring 2007, now that is part of her role at CMHA

Special Guests: Youth Policy council of South High School

Free and open to the public. Refreshments will be provided