



HEAR US OFFERS YOU...

HEAR US offers products and services to help professionals and caring individuals understand homelessness and help ease it. Among the HEAR US offerings:



► **My Own Four Walls '09**, a series of documentaries featuring homeless children and teens, discussion guide, and new REACH training video ...DVD \$40 +s/h

► **Crossing the Line: Taking Steps to End Homelessness**, a compelling, reader-friendly book to help readers understand non-urban homelessness, by Diane Nilan.....\$17.95+s/h

► **Where Can I Build My Volcano?, A Family of Five or Six, and A Place of Our Own (9/08)**, poignant children's books by accomplished photographer, author and activist Pat Van Doren, founder of **It's About the Children**, a program of HEAR US. Each book \$15+s/h, set of 3, \$40+s/h.

► **REACH**—McKinney-Vento outreach video (11-min.) and brochure (Eng. & Span.) to empower parents in jails (or caregivers) to assist homeless children with school enrollment. Check website for prices (New 1/09)

► **Presentations**—contact Diane for a tailor-made informative, inspiring presentation at your next conference.

► **Jonathon's Heart**, an e-module aimed at teachers-in-training. Download it FREE—HEAR US website.

► **Web-presence**—the HEAR US website and provocative blog provide extensive information and resources. **More product information at:**

www.hearus.us



HEAR US INFORMATION

HEAR US President/Founder: Diane Nilan

Video Collaborator: Dr. Laura Vazquez, NIU, DeKalb, IL

HEAR US Board:

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HEAR US Advisory Team:

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Dan Riefstahl, DJR Interactive, Erie, PA

Erika Wilson, Youth Worker, Maywood, IL

MISSION STATEMENT: HEAR US, Inc. exists to give voice and visibility to homeless children and teens.

HEAR US is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations to HEAR US are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

DONATE SECURELY ONLINE at www.hearus.us or by mail to the HEAR US address below.



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3/09



HEAR US Inc.

...giving voice & visibility to homeless kids...

INVISIBLE HOMELESS CHILDREN & TEENS



NEED VOICE & VISIBILITY

www.hearus.us



HOMELESSNESS A BLEAK REALITY FOR OVER 1.5 MILLION KIDS IN AMERICA...



Few people in America know the extent of—or even the existence of—children and teen homelessness, especially outside urban areas.

National efforts fall far short of counting families and unaccompanied teens, much less aiding them, especially those staying with family/friends or in motels, or those in areas without shelters. Federal programs offer inadequate and fragmented assistance. Schools struggle to identify homeless students.

Unless more comprehensive services are available, children and teens will continue to invisibly fall into and struggle with homelessness, at greater risk of becoming homeless adults.

HEAR US believes homeless kids count. Stronger efforts are needed to address homelessness and poverty. HEAR US advocates for easing and ending homelessness for families and teens.

Children and youth are the most effective spokespersons. Their compelling stories and images inspire action and advocacy.

HEAR US gives voice and visibility to over 1.5 million homeless children and teens to inspire changes to this country's approach to homelessness.

HEAR US needs you to help make it happen in your community!

HEAR US
BELIEVES:
HOMELESS
KIDS
COUNT!

HEAR US—the INSTRUMENT

Homeless kids have a lot to say about life without a home. HEAR US is the instrument to give them voice and visibility.

“My Own Four Walls,” the award-winning documentary collection (DVD) featuring homeless children and teens from non-urban areas, opens eyes, minds and hearts! (09 version now available)

Other effective HEAR US tools:

- ▶ books for children and adults;
- ▶ teacher training materials;
- ▶ training video and brochure for incarcerated parents to facilitate children’s school enrollment;
- ▶ posters , key chains, magnets;
- ▶ presentations to inform and inspire;
- ▶ a feature-length documentary on homeless families (now in process); and
- ▶ extensive homelessness information on the HEAR US website.

HEAR US—SUCCESSFUL ADVOCACY

HEAR US helps educators and communities understand more about homeless families and teens to better address their needs.

Successful HEAR US involvement in the campaign to remove barriers to college for homeless teens led to passage of the FAFSA Fix law in 2007.

HEAR US continues to build and work with existing advocacy networks to give homeless families and teens improved access to housing and services.



HEAR US Inc.

...giving voice & visibility to homeless kids & families...by

- Awareness-raising products
- Public education and
- Advocacy

Homeless kids don’t have a choice. They cope with homelessness the best they can. They rely on caring adults to help them.

This nation needs to increase its awareness of this problem. Policymakers, community leaders, educators, adults and children can learn from experts—young people who have experienced homelessness.

HEAR US invites you to join the effort to make homeless kids count.



www.hearus.us