

## HEAR US- SUCCESSFUL NATIONAL ADVOCACY

HEAR US helps educators and communities across the country understand more about homeless families and youth to better address their needs.

HEAR US develops and cultivates successful nationwide grass-roots advocacy activities, such as ...

- The successful campaign to remove barriers to college for homeless teens led to passage of the FAFSA Fix law in 2007.
- Additional resources for McKinney-Vento Homeless Education efforts.

HEAR US continues to build and work with existing advocacy networks to give homeless families and teens improved access to housing and services. Check the HEAR US website, "**Compassion Epidemic**," for the latest advocacy campaign.



Piggies © Pat Van Doren

**HEAR US Inc.**

*...giving voice & visibility  
to homeless children & youth...*

by

- Awareness-raising products
- Public education and
- Advocacy

## HEAR US INFORMATION

**HEAR US President/Founder: Diane Nilan**

**Video Collaborator: Dr. Laura Vazquez,  
Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL**

### HEAR US Board:

Linda Bonifas Guzman, Friendship UMC, Bolingbrook, IL

Helen Jilek, OSB, Benedictine Sisters, Lisle, IL

Ken Johnson, Testech Ltd., Oswego, IL

Marilyn McGowan, Community Volunteer, Aurora, IL

Rita Sullivan, Community Volunteer, Naperville, IL

Karen Turk, Consultant, St. Charles, IL

Pat Van Doren, It's About the Children, Naperville, IL

Maria Wilson, Financial Network, Naperville, IL

### HEAR US Advisory Team:

Edgar Barens, Documentary Filmmaker, Aurora, IL

Diana Bowman, Serve/NCHE, Greensboro, NC

Barbara Duffield, NAEHCY, Washington DC

Pat LaMarche, Safe Harbour, Carlisle, PA

Ellie Nilan, Media Monitor, Atlanta, GA

Markus Redding, Professor/Attorney, New York City, NY

Dan Riefstahl, Pixel Point Creative, Erie, PA

Nancy Wiersum, Naperville Community TV, Naperville, IL

Erika Wilson, DuPage Sheriff Dept., IL

**MISSION STATEMENT: HEAR US Inc. exists to  
give voice and visibility to  
homeless children and youth.**

HEAR US, established in July 2005,  
is a 501(c)(3) organization. FEIN 32-0155105  
Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

**DONATE SECURELY ONLINE** at  
[www.hearus.us](http://www.hearus.us)  
or by mail (HEAR US address below).



**HEAR US Inc.**

115 E Ogden Ave. 117-329

vm/fax: 630/225-5012

diane@hearus.us

[www.hearus.us](http://www.hearus.us)

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Hear from  
experts on  
homelessness...  
over  
1.5 million  
invisible kids...  
**HEAR US Inc.**

*They need...*



[www.hearus.us](http://www.hearus.us)

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

## HEAR US, SEE US, HELP US



**Few people in America grasp the extensiveness of this nation's homeless families and youth.**

Millions of invisible children in families and unaccompanied youth lack basics to survive, much less to thrive.

- Schools struggle to identify homeless students.
- Federal, state and local programs offer inadequate and fragmented assistance.
- Communities are blind to this growing dilemma.

Without comprehensive services, children and youth will continue to invisibly fall into and struggle with homelessness, tragically increasing their risk of becoming homeless adults.

**HEAR US believes homeless kids count.** In addition to working hard to make sure they can get an education, HEAR US also provides opportunities for children and youth to share their compelling stories, HEAR US aims to inspire a **compassion epidemic** to change this country's approach to homelessness.

**To give voice and visibility to over 1.5 million homeless children and youth, HEAR US needs you!**

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! This great training tool works well for all kinds of audiences and is appropriate for adults, teens and children.



ON THE **EDGE**  
WINNER! BEA FILM FESTIVAL - 2011  
NOW AVAILABLE!

**"on the edge,"** a 60-minute documentary, provides an intense look at realities of invisible homeless families in America, filmed and produced by Diane Nilan and Laura Vazquez.

Audience reactions have been tremendous! It's an ideal film for homelessness awareness events. Perfect for college/university classes. More info on the HEAR US website.

HEAR US Inc.  
www.hearus.us

## HEAR US Products

- on the edge**, DVD (2010) \$30  
feature-length (60 min) documentary featuring stories of 7 women and their experiences of homelessness. Includes 4 and 8 min. trailer.
- My Own Four Walls '09**, DVD \$40  
series of 5 documentaries featuring homeless children and teens, new REACH training video. Online discussion guide.
- My Own Four Walls** pins (new 3/10) \$15  
A great gift, conversation starter, reminder about what homeless kids need!
- 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
- Where Can I Build My Volcano?**, \$15  
**A Family of Five or Six**, and set of \$15  
**A Place of Our Own**, poignant children's books 3-\$40  
by Pat Van Doren.

**Shipping/handling additional.** Quantity discounts available. Order form and shipping prices on the HEAR US website. Purchase orders, Visa and Master Card accepted. Questions? Call Diane, 630/225-5012.

MOFW pin →



## HEAR US Services

**Presentations**—tailor-made informative, inspiring presentation at your next event.

**Web-presence**—the HEAR US website and provocative blogs provide extensive information and resources.

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

**Advocacy "Compassion Epidemic"**—simple, creative opportunities to contact elected officials about issues affecting homeless families and youth.