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A Service Provider of the Detroit-Wayne County  
Community Mental Health Agency



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To: Friends, community partners, and supporters of the NSO  
Project Helping Hands

From: Sheilah Clay  
President and CEO: Neighborhood Service Organization

Date: April 23, 2010

It is with great regret that I inform you that, effective April 30, 2010, Neighborhood Service Organization (NSO) will no longer be providing support services to the Project Helping Hands program due to a catastrophic 67 percent budget cut from the Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency (D-WCCMHA). This cut was the direct result of a \$20.7 million budget reduction passed on by the State of Michigan to D-WCCMHA.

This unique mobile outreach program quickly and compassionately makes direct contact with homeless individuals who are living on the streets of Detroit. The team is comprised of dedicated mental health and substance abuse professionals, case managers and para-professionals who respond to calls from individuals, companies, and law enforcement officials from the central business district of Detroit. After an initial assessment to assess their needs, individuals are transported to an appropriate facility to receive proper care, support, and housing.

**Please show your support for efforts to end homelessness by joining me, Veda Sharp, Executive Director of D-WCCMHA, and the Project Helping Hands team at a news conference to discuss the impact these devastating cuts will have to homeless services in our community.**

**Date: Wednesday, April 28, 2010**

**Time: 10:00 a.m.**

**Place: Project Helping Hands, 3523 Cass Avenue  
(Corner of Cass and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard)**

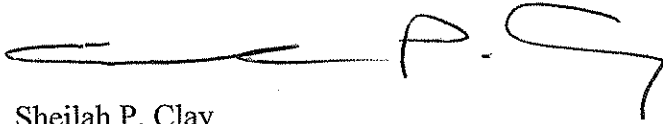
At that time we will call for the State of Michigan to immediately restore funding to these vital outreach programs. NSO will also call on the City of Detroit, Wayne County, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to come together with the Homeless Action Network of Detroit to develop a long-term comprehensive strategy to provide homeless services for our community

NSO is well aware of the impact and hardship this will cause to our consumers, to the many service providers who care for homeless and disenfranchised individuals throughout Detroit, the local business and residential community the police department, hospitals, and more. Many of the consumers that Project Helping Hands staff encounters are severely mentally ill, chemically dependent, have contracted HIV/AIDS, are chronically ill, and are uneducated, jobless, and indigent. Ultimately, this is a community issue that affects our brothers and sisters who struggle with a sense of hopelessness due to life conditions which are beyond their control. As a community we must come together at every level to address this life and death issue.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached at (313) 961-4890 or via email at [sclay@nso-mi.org](mailto:sclay@nso-mi.org).

We look forward to you joining us on Wednesday, April 28 at 10 AM to show your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. P. Clay', written over a horizontal line.

Sheilah P. Clay  
President and CEO