

Street Sense

Where the Washington area's poor and homeless earn and give their two cents

1317 G Street, NW Washington, DC 20005 • www.streetsense.org

Phone: 202-347-2006 • Fax: 202-347-2166 • info@streetsense.org

For immediate release

June 26, 2006

CEO's of DC Homeless Service Providers Underpaid, Some Nearing Poverty Levels

Street Sense, the area's newspaper covering poverty issues, publishes revealing series on state of homeless service providers in DC

Washington, D.C. -- Most CEOs of Washington, DC's homeless service providers are underpaid compared to their peers nationwide and many of them are nearing poverty levels themselves, according to recent reports published by *Street Sense*, the area's newspaper covering poverty issues.

The average CEO salary of homeless service providers in 2004 was 45% lower than the average for all nonprofits in Washington, DC, according a *Street Sense* review of the 990s for 62 Washington, DC heads of service providers, and interviews with select CEOs. This is despite the fact that the Washington, DC metropolitan region ranks fourth highest in the nation in income per capita for all workers. "Very low-income" for the DC area is defined at \$54,000 for a family of four by the District's Comprehensive Housing Taskforce.

For more on this report in the May 15 issue, visit:

http://www.streetsense.org/articles/article_0506salary.jsp

For a list of salaries for all 62 directors, visit <http://www.streetsense.org/articles/salarytable.pdf>

This article is the first in a series of three articles by Trish Savage that examine the finances behind the various DC nonprofits that offer services to the homeless, including as SOME and Miriam's Kitchen. In the second article, published last week, *Street Sense* examines the lack of benefits offered to the staff of nonprofits (available at http://www.streetsense.org/articles/article_0606compensate.jsp) The third article, to come out July 15, will look at the overall budgets and fundraising efficiency of these nonprofits that serve the homeless.

"This series of reports in *Street Sense* sheds light on a sector of service providers that isn't often discussed," said *Street Sense* Executive Director Laura Thompson Osuri.

"It reveals the dire financial need of some providers while encouraging more scrutiny, accountability and full disclosure from DC's homeless service providers," she added.

About Street Sense:

Street Sense is a Washington, DC nonprofit newspaper with a mission of helping the public become more aware of the District's poverty and homeless issues, while helping those on the street out of homelessness. *Street Sense* has roughly 45 vendors, all of who are homeless or formerly homeless. Vendors sell each paper for \$1, earning 75 cents per paper. This provides the vendors with an economically beneficial opportunity - and a hope for a new beginning. *Street*

Sense is published monthly with a circulation of 13,000 and is one of 24 street newspapers in North America and one of more than 70 throughout the world.

For more information visit www.streetsense.org.

Press contact: Laura Thompson Osuri, 202-347-2006

###