

Save Our Homes Campaign

“Have a Heart, Save Our Homes” Actions

Valentine’s Day 2011 to Date

Contact: Michael Kane, NAHT 617-233-1885
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for background or referrals

The Save Our Homes Campaign to fight housing budget cuts was initiated by the [National Alliance of HUD Tenants \(NAHT\)](#), a national tenant-led organization working since 1992 to preserve affordable housing, protect tenants' rights, and promote resident control and ownership in low-income housing. NAHT is the only national tenants union in the US, affiliated with the [Habitat International Coalition](#). The campaign is also supported by the [USA/Canada Alliance of Inhabitants \(USACAI\)](#), the North American chapter of the [International Alliance of Inhabitants](#); the [Resident Engagement Group \(REG\)](#), a network of Public Housing and Section 8 tenants; and many other groups including those listed below.

We are collecting the photos, video, media coverage & results starting with the Valentines Day actions, nationwide, at this site: <https://sites.google.com/site/haveaheartsaveourhomes>

NATIONAL / INTERNATIONAL

The Nation BLOG | 021411 | Katrina vanden Heuvel

Valentine's Message: Home Is Where the Heart Is

<http://www.thenation.com/print/blog/158540/valentines-message-home-where-heart>

HUFFINGTON POST | 021811

House GOP Budget Proposal Would Slash Low-Income Housing Aid

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/02/16/2012-budget-housing-aid-house-gop_n_824189.html

Emirates 24/7 | 021511

US budget cuts a 'Valentine's massacre' of poor

<http://www.emirates247.com/news/world/us-budget-cuts-a-valentine-s-massacre-of-poor-2011-02-15-1.356455>

Pakistan Business Recorder: 021511

US budget cuts a 'valentine's massacre' of poor

<http://www.brecorder.com/world/north-america/2998-us-budget-cuts-a-valentines-massacre-of-poor.html>

Latin America/Univision: 021411

US budget cuts a 'Valentine's massacre' of poor: critics

<http://wires.univision.com/english/article/2011-02-14/us-budget-cuts-a-valentines>

LOCAL ACTIONS

Portland, ME. On Valentines Day, tenants & allies organized by the Portland Tenants Union held a rally at 12:00 noon on Canal Plaza in Portland, then delivered Housing Valentines to Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME), newly named Ranking Member of the Sen. Appropriations Subcommittee for Housing and Transportation, Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME), Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME-01), and Rep. Mike Michaud (D-ME-02). They gained TV coverage on their local NBC affiliate (WCSH6.com) and local CBS affiliate (WGME.com) as well as a radio interview for a larger story in the works on Maine Public Radio (MPBN.org). **Contact:** Ed Democracy (207-210-7253, Ed@PortlandTenants.org). (**PHOTOS-ME**)

WGME 13 Top Stories | TV | FEB14 | **Hearts with a message in Portland**

http://www.wgme.com/newsroom/top_stories/videos/wgme_vid_6833.shtml

Boston, MA. On Valentines Day, more than 120 tenants gathered at a Boston City Council hearing on a Resolution, filed by Councilor Rob Consalvo and all 12 other Council members, urging the Massachusetts Congressional delegation to support full funding for vital HUD programs. Tenants and allies then marched across City Hall Plaza and rallied at the JFK Federal Building to deliver Valentines to Sen. Scott Brown (R-MA), urging him to oppose HUD budget cuts and support new vouchers for currently ineligible tenants to save their homes. More than 13 tenant organizations and allies have joined the Save Our Homes Coalition initiated by the Mass Alliance of HUD Tenants. **Contact:** Hannah Weinstein, MAHT 617-312-0875, maht@saveourhomes.org) (**PHOTOS-MA**)

BNN TV | 021811 | **Tenants: Affordable Housing at Risk**

<http://vimeo.com/20288615>

MAHT | 021411 | **Save Our Homes Budget Cuts Action**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IhdNlKVRXOc>

MAHT | 021411 | **Stop in the name of love!**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-XJz5qexh2w>

Roslindale Transcript | 021511 | **Boston rally highlights proposed changes to HUD funding**

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/roslindale/features/x1240516125/Boston-rally-highlights-proposed-changes-to-HUD-funding#axzz1EwTg90Ji>

Newton TAB | 021411 | **Newton Mayor Warren leads fight for federal housing money**

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/newton/news/x454338531/Newton-mayor-fights-for-federal-money-in-Boston>

Ibis Radio: <http://www.openmediaboston.org/node/1700>

BNN TV | 021811 | **Tenant Leaders Protest Rental Housing Cuts**

<http://vimeo.com/20288783>

BNN TV 021811 **City Councilor Consalvo interview protesting cuts:**

<http://vimeo.com/20288783>

More video of the Boston rally: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEgcBs_y6D8

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEgcBs_y6D8

Newark, NJ. On Valentines Day, tenants mobilized by the Greater Newark HUD Tenants Coalition will rallied at 10 a.m. on the steps of Newark City Hall and marched to the offices of Senators Frank Lautenberg and Robert Menendez (D-NJ), a former resident of public housing, at One Gateway Center on Market Street for a rally at noon, joined by supporters from Amnesty International, The Peoples Organization for Progress, Ironbound Community Corporation and others. The Municipal Council is preparing a resolution opposing the cuts and participated. **Contact:** Victor Monterrosa, GNHTC (973-589-3353x208, tenantorganizer@gmail.com)

NJ.com | 021011 **Proposed cuts to U.S. housing agency could mean loss of Newark jobs, housing subsidies**

http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2011/02/proposed_federal_cuts_could_co.html

New York City, NY. On Thursday, March 3, New York City Council President Christine Quinn hosted a rally and press conference on the steps of City Hall to protest substantial cuts to the HUD budget proposed by Congressional Republicans which will affect many of New York City's housing programs if they were to go through. Programs that could be affected are eviction prevention services, New York City Housing Preservation and Development Code Enforcement, tenant assistance programs and funding for public housing developments. The rally was called at the behest of NAHT's New York tenant board members and affiliates, including New York Tenants and Neighbors, Urban Homesteading Assistance Board and the Pratt Area Community Council and co-sponsored by more than 30 public housing, homeless advocacy, neighborhood and community development organizations.

Contact: Emily Goldstein, NYT&N (212-608-4320x308, egoldstein@tandn.org) or Lonene Crawford, NAHT Board VP/East (646-371-0497, region2naht@gmail.com).

http://manhattan.ny1.com/content/top_stories/134948/protesters-decry-proposed--400m-federal-cuts-to-local-affordable-housing
<http://www.wnyc.org/blogs/wnyc-news-blog/2011/mar/03/housing-advocates-warn-federal-cuts-threaten-public-housing/>

Washington, DC. More than 60 tenants mobilized by Empower DC, One DC, homeless advocates and supporters demonstrated at 1:00 p.m. on Valentines Day at the Russell Senate Office Building, Constitution Avenue and 2nd Street, NE to urge the Congress, the Senate in particular, to “have a Heart—Don’t Take Our Homes” and fully fund subsidized housing programs. As NAHT’s “tenant lobbyists,” they delivered Valentine Cards and letters from local tenant groups to six Senate offices (from CA, MD, MA and VA) telling stories of how families will be harmed by proposed cuts. The action was covered on two local radio stations and progressive community papers. **Contact:** Linda Leaks at Empower DC (202-234-9119x101, lleaks1@juno.com). (**PHOTOS-DC**)

Houma, LA. More than 80 tenants from the Senator Circle resident group, a public housing development owned by the Houma Terrebonne HA, demonstrated along the Interstate Highway in Houma, urging Senator David Vitter (R-LA) and former Rep. Charlie Melancom (D-LA) to support full funding for HUD programs. High school seniors from Ellender Memorial High School made signs and joined in. The Parish Council passed a resolution urging federal officials to oppose the cuts. The action was covered by the Houma Courier and radio station KBZE. **Contact:** Telisa Clark, tenant member of the Resident Engagement Group (REG) coordinated by the National Housing Law Project, (985-360-6555, telissad@msn.com).

New Orleans, LA. About twenty supporters of affordable housing gathered in the Christopher Park Homes on the West Bank to voice their opposition to cuts in the federal affordable housing budget and to thwart the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO)’s request for a Neighborhood Choice Grant to “redevelop” the Iberville Housing Development. The event was held at 2000 Murl Street to put the spotlight on HANO ’s attempt to shift 263 units of affordable housing now at the Iberville Housing Development to this isolated and economically challenged section of Algiers .

The event drew supporters of affordable housing from the West Bank and the East Bank. West Bank residents and housing activists who participated in the VDAY action included, among others, long time grass roots activists Eloise and Ivan Williams. The East Bank organizations represented at the action were C3/Hands Off Iberville, MayDay New Orleans, Merge and Crescent City Anti-Authoritarians. Housing advocate Bill Quigley addressed the group. Although there was no mainstream media coverage, at one point five NOPD cruisers descended upon the scene of the non-violent protest. **Contact:** Mike Howells (504-587-0080). (**PHOTOS-LA**) & more @ <http://www.maydaynolahousing.org/?p=708>

Raleigh, NC. The North Carolina Housing Coalition sent an action alert to over 3,000 statewide contacts urging low income tenants and advocates to send a Valentines Day message to Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC) and Kay Hagan (D-NC) urging full funding for HUD programs. **Contact:** Regina Greene (919-827-4494, 919-673-5030 cell, rgreen@nchousing.org)

Chattanooga, TN. On Valentines Day, CHANGER (Chattanoogans and North Georgians for Economic Human Rights) alerted residents at Dogwood Manor, a Project Based Section 8 hi-rise in downtown Chattanooga, about drastic cuts threatening Tennessee tenants. Representatives of the newly formed Residents’ Association at Dogwood Manor appealed to residents of this and nearby buildings to contact Senators Bob Corker and Lamar Alexander (R-TN), a member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation and Housing, to “Have a Heart, Save Our Homes.” On Tuesday, February 15, tenants asked the Chattanooga City Council to enlist their support to help tenants stay in their homes. Attending the City Council meeting with community allies from CHANGER and Chattanooga Organized for Action (COA), they explained that HUD budget cuts would likely result in increased costs to the city for help for homeless and other poor people. They also asked the City Council members to send the “Have a Heart” Valentines to the federal elected officials. At least one councilman pledged to do so. **Contact:** Landon Howard, landon-howard@mocs.utc.edu)

Central Florida. Florida tenants from several cities (Daytona Beach, Ft. Lauderdale, Lakeland, Largo, Miami, Sanford, and Sarasota) coordinated a Valentine’s Day “call-in” to Senators Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Bill Nelson (D-FL), as well as House Appropriations Committee leader C.W. Bill Young (R-FL), urging them to “Have a Heart” and save peoples’ homes. Tenants also made calls to Florida Governor Rick Scott (who grew up in public housing) opposing related state housing budget cuts proposed by Scott. The group is sponsoring an areawide “Conversation with Section 8 Tenants” on March 17 to follow up. **Contact:** Organizer Rachel Johnson (954-549-5010, igotsomethin2say@yahoo.com); Section 8 Voucher tenant leader Julie Grigg (727-581-3052, juwelsbythesea@earthlink.net); Section 8 tenant leader and Organizer Ericka Sipp (386-631-8584; sippericka@yahoo.com); Keith Ivory, Organizer, Power U in Miami (786-277-7770).

Chicago, IL. On Valentines Day, Tenants organized by NAHT Board President Herman Bonner sent 110 letters, placed 100 phone calls, and sent 25 email messages to Senators Mark Kirk (R-IL) and Richard Durbin (D-IL), both members of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Housing and Transportation, urging them to oppose cuts and fight for full funding for Section 8 and Public Housing. **Contact:** Herman Bonner (773-615-8329, Region5naht@gmail.com)

Post Valentines Day: 300 Chicago Protestors Shut Down Traffic, 11 arrested. On Friday, February 25, more than 300 HUD tenants, service providers and allies from across the Chicago metro-region marched to protest deep cuts to the HUD Budget which threaten thousands of Illinois families with deteriorating housing conditions and homelessness. Protestors constructed a cardboard box "Tea Party Housing Development" to block traffic on Clark Street during rush hour to draw public attention to the injustice of targeting the deepest federal budget cuts to programs for low- and moderate-income communities, including vital HUD housing programs. 11 protestors participating in the traffic blockade were arrested and released a few hours later. The action shut down traffic at the Chicago Federal Building which houses the offices of Illinois two U.S. Senators, Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Mark Kirk (R-IL), both members of the Senate Appropriations Committee. The action was organized by the Chicago Housing Initiative, NAHT's affiliate in Chicago, and several statewide and local housing groups. **Contact:** Leah Levinger (773-787-6875, Leahlevinger@gmail.com).

<http://www.suntimes.com/news/metro/4014509-418/protestors-rip-republican-cuts-to-housing-budget-block-downtown-traffic.html>
<http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=news/local&id=7981132>
<http://www.wgntv.com/news/wgntv-arrests-protest-loop-hud-feb25.0.4982202.story>
<http://chicago.cbslocal.com/2011/02/25/police-arrest-11-in-rush-hour-protest-in-the-loop/>
<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/sns-ap-il--protestarrests.0.6381551.story>
<http://www.progressillinois.com/quick-hits/content/2011/02/25/pushback-against-federal-austerity-bubbles-chicago#comments>
<http://www.google.com/search?q=Chicago+loop+protests&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8&aq=t&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a#q=Chicago+loop+protests&hl=en&client=firefox-a&hs=UWN&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&prmd=ivns&tbs=qdr:d&tbo=u&sa=X&ei=WyVpTYKTDtOEtgewpsTmAg&ved=0CCIQmAcwAQ&fp=2affa4daec1e7f43>

(PHOTOS-IL-CHI) More photos:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/carol.youngquist/HUDCutsProtest?authkey=Gv1sRgCLmS5tmhnc3sQg&feat=directlink>

Dallas, TX. Tenants from four HUD housing developments organized by the Texas Tenants Union and their allies delivered a surprise Valentine's Day greeting urging Congressman Jeb Hensarling (R-TX), a leading advocate of budget cuts to programs aiding the poor, to "Have a Heart." The action was covered on two local TV channels and the local NPR radio affiliate and sparked an op-ed piece in the Dallas Morning News. **Contact:** Sandy Rollins, TTU (214-823-2999, ttu@ont.com). **(PHOTOS-TX-05)**

WFAA 8 TV | 021411 | **Texans ask lawmakers to "Have a Heart"**

<http://www.wfaa.com/news/health/Texans-ask-lawmakers-to-Have-a-Heart-116194259.html>

<http://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/latest-columns/20110214-gerald-britt-targeting-the-poor-in-budget-cuts-will-backfire-financially-.ece>

San Francisco, CA. More than 150 tenants mobilized by several Bay Area groups rallied Valentines Day at San Francisco Civic Center at 2 pm, then marched to the nearby Federal Building to urge Senators Barbara Boxer and Diane Feinstein and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) to do all in their power to fight for full funding for HUD programs. The rally and march featured creative Valentine-themed street theater and visuals. Protesters blocked access to the San Francisco Federal Building for more than two hours. The coalition includes the Western Regional Advocacy Project, the San Francisco Housing Rights Committee, the San Francisco Coalition on Homelessness, Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency, Causa Justa: Just Cause, Planning for Elders, AIDS Housing Alliance/SF, Council of Community Housing Organizations, and many other housing rights groups. **Contact:** Paul Boden, WRAP (415-621-2533, wrap@wraphome.org)

KPFA 94.1 FM | 021411 | **Pacifica Evening News** [segment @ 08:23]

<http://www.kpfa.org/archive/id/67567>

Powerful Collection of PHOTOS of the San Francisco day of ACTION

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/visualanarchy/sets/72157626053865486/show/>

Palo Alto, CA. On Valentine's Day, 50 tenants mobilized by the Affordable Housing Network, InnVision and the Opportunity Center Tenants Council were joined by elected officials at a speak out against proposed cuts at 11:30 a.m. at the Opportunity Center, 33 Encina Avenue, Palo Alto. The event was covered on in local newspapers and a radio station, and secured letters from Rep. Lofgren and Epshoo (D-CA) pledging to support full funding for HUD programs. **Contact:** Joyce Osegiede, Co-President Opportunity Center Tenants Council (650-995-0599) or Sandy Perry, Affordable Housing Network (408-691-6153, perrysandy@aol.com).

<http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2011/02/15/palo-alto-vows-to-fight-cuts-to-low-income-housing-assistance/>

<http://www.el-observador.com/community11.html>

http://www.paloaltoonline.com/photo_gallery/

Roseville, CA. On Valentine's Day, tenant leaders from Rocklin and Auburn took 125 Valentine's Day letters to Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA) urging opposition to housing budget cuts. Tenants also sent letters to Senators Barbara Boxer and Diane Feinstein (D-CA). **Contact:** Annette Smith (916-315-8139, annetteinca@earthlink.net).

Rancho Cordova, CA. Tenants from the Rancho 44 Tenant Association delivered 25 letters to Rep. Dan Lungren (R-CA-03) on Valentines Day urging him to "Have a Heart, Save Our Homes!" Tenants also sent letters to Senators Boxer and Feinstein (D-CA). **Contact:** Sherry Lautsbaugh (916-635-3442 or 916-213-9273 (c), lautsbaugh@att.net).
(PHOTOS-CA-03)

Sacramento, CA. Tenants from Public and Multifamily HUD housing in Sacramento delivered hundreds of Valentines Day letters to the Sacramento offices of Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), and 62 letters to Rep. Doris Matsui (D-CA), urging them to fight for full funding for HUD rental housing programs. **Contact:** Charlotte Delgado, NAHT Board Vice President/West, 916-769-3472, celticcat000@gmail.com and Annette Smith (916-315-8139, annetteinca@earthlink.net).

Portland, OR. Homeless people and advocates organized by the [Housing Alliance/Neighborhood Partnership](#) collected Valentines cards and contacted Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden (D-OR) on Monday during a Statehouse Lobby Day to urge them to fight to fully fund HUD rental housing programs. **Contact:** Julie McCurdy, 503-449-5073, Julie@sistersoftheroad.org

Seattle, WA. Tenants from the Downtowner Apartments in Seattle, WA, an at-risk "expiring use" HUD housing development, visited the office of Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), Chair of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee for Housing and Transportation, urging full funding for HUD rental housing programs and extension of vouchers to currently unprotected families facing displacement. They delivered 173 signatures on a petition and Valentine postcards to Senator Murray's staff, who noted this was the first group in Seattle to visit their office protesting cuts to programs affecting the poor. **Contact:** Jonathan Grant, The Tenants Union of Washington (206-722-6848x112, jonathang@tenantsunion.org)