

Donald Whitehead Jr.



Executive Director

National Coalition for the Homeless

Donald Whitehead is a person in long term recovery. What that means is that he has been completely free from the use of all substances for over 22 years. Due to the disease of addiction he found himself trapped in the terrible realities of homelessness. In 1995, he completed a six-month treatment program. Since that time he has become one of the country's leading advocates for recovery from addiction and homelessness.

Donald served as the Executive Director of the National Coalition for the Homeless; Executive Director of the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless; Assistant Director at St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore; Program Director at Ohio Valley Goodwill; Grant Manager at Goodwill of Greater Washington; and Director of Communications at Greenpeace Ohio. Donald served two terms as President of the Board of Directors and currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the National Coalition for the Homeless. He served two terms on the Board of Directors for Faces and Voices of Recovery and two terms on the Georgetown Center for Cultural Competency.

Also, Donald Served two terms on the State Coalition on Housing and Homelessness in Ohio; the State of Maryland Drug and Alcohol Policy Council; the Baltimore Ten Year Planning Committee to End Homelessness; and the Cincinnati Continuum of Care Board. Donald was one of only 100 advocates to be invited to the first National Symposium on Homeless Research. He testified before committee committees in the 107th and 108th Congress. Donald, along with staff members of the offices of Representatives John Conyers, Julie Carson, Barbara Lee, and the staff of the National Coalition, directed the creation and introduction of the "Bringing America Home Act." This is the most comprehensive legislation to date to address homelessness in America. Donald has served on advisory committee's for Presidents Bush, Clinton, Bush II and Obama. In 2005, he received a distinguished service award for his work on homelessness from the Congressional Black Caucus. He received a second award

of Special Recognition from Congress in 2008. In 2011, he completed the prestigious American Express Leadership Academy.

Donald has been interviewed in the printed media, radio, and television on numerous occasions. Donald has been a featured guest on CBS News, ABC News, FOX TV, CNN, MSNBC, and many local stations. Radio appearances have included CBS Radio, NPR, The Tavis Smiley Show, and The Tom Joyner Morning Show. He has appeared on stations throughout the US along with stations in Great Britain, Germany, Canada, and Mexico. Donald has been a dinner guest of former President Bill Clinton and Senator Hillary Clinton.

Donald majored in Communications at the City College of Chicago, the University of Cincinnati, and Union College and University in Ohio. Donald served as a journalist in the United States Navy. On a personal note, he is a stand-up comedian and actor. He has performed in five movies and has received a regional Emmy for a role in the movie Open the Sky.