

a sample from the articles posted each week by HandsNet members.

I signed up for a free 30-day trial on HandsNet on CONNECT. While Handsnet membership has never been particularly cheap, accessing the information through the web avoids costly download charges, making it more affordable to groups with small budgets. This is a program that any organization involved with social issues should "connect" with.

Institute for Global Communications

<http://www.igc.apc.org>

IGC began in 1986 with PeaceNet, a project to link peace activists through the Internet. Over ten years, it has grown to a national membership of over 15,000, with links to networks and activists worldwide working on peace, justice, human rights, environmental protection, labor issues, and conflict resolution.

One section, EcoNet, was the world's

first computer network dedicated to environmental preservation and sustainability, and is the best known and most comprehensive on-line network of its kind.

IGC has six international partners, including GreenNet in the U.K., forming the Association for Progressive Communications (APC). Since 1992, IGC and its APC members have been the primary information and communications service provider at UN world conferences, including the 1992 United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, the 1993 United Nations Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, and the 1995 World Conference on Women in Beijing.

Most of what I found on homelessness and poverty was in the JusticeNet area., including links to articles on Welfare reform and a coroner's inquest into the deaths of three homeless men, and to the National Coalition for the Homeless and the Homelessness Home Page.

National Coalition for the Homeless

<http://nch.ari.net>

The National Coalition for the Homeless is active right here in Seattle. They have the simplest mission statement I have ever read: "Our Mission is to end homelessness."

NCH engages in public education, policy advocacy, and grassroots organizing. NCH provided leadership in the successful effort to pass the Stewart B. McKinney Homelessness Assistance Act in 1987, continues to monitor the reauthorization and appropriations process, and publishes a newsletter, Safety Network, keeping up with services and legislation in many areas. Moreover, NCH has contributed to the development of dozens of state and local coalitions. While members of NCH's 41-member board include service providers, academics, and organizers, some 20 percent of the board are homeless/formerly homeless men and women.

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