

# A'Court busks and raises funds to help prevent homelessness

Halifax, NS—Roots and blues musician Charlie A'Court on September 4, 2009 presented Halifax Housing Help with a donation of \$4,029.17, representing the funds he collected during the previous week's "Busking 4 Bucks" event. A'Court spent five days busking in three locations—on the Halifax-Dartmouth Ferry, at Grand Parade and in front of the Spring Garden Road Library—in support of the

local agency which has hit a funding shortfall.

"Busking 4 Bucks was a very heartening experience," said A'Court, who also learned today he has been nominated for three Nova Scotia Music Awards. "During those performances I was connected to all walks of life who would come up and donate to HHH. The response was tremendous and it

shows in the final tally of donations. I'm extremely proud to call Halifax home and I'm particularly proud of those who live here that came and supported the cause."

Darcy Harvey, Project Coordinator with Halifax Housing Help was on hand to accept the donation on behalf of the organization. "We are so thankful to Charlie and Dawn Sloane for their commitment to this

initiative and their recognition of the important work being accomplished at the community level for individuals who face tremendous barriers and are among the most vulnerable to homelessness," said Harvey. "Busking for Bucks brought issues of homelessness and housing to the public's attention, who were very receptive and generous to the cause and showed how we can come together as a community to address real issues and needs."

A'Court also donated \$5 from every sale of his latest recording, "Live At The Marigold." The performance was recorded at the Marigold Cultural Centre in Truro and released as a digital download keychain. It earned A'Court Nova Scotia Music award nominations in the Blues Artist/Group Recording and Male Artist Recording categories today. A'Court



Joey Bayers photo

Halifax Downtown municipal councillor Dawn Sloane was in attendance at the busking experience.



Joey Bayers photo

was also nominated as the Bell Aliant Entertainer of the Year.

## About Halifax Housing Help:

Halifax Housing Help (HHH) is an innovative project that provides unique support and trustee services to disadvantaged populations, aiding to prevent eviction and

homelessness. The Metro Non-Profit Housing Association, in collaboration with Direction 180 have worked together to develop and implement services aimed at preventing the situations that lead to cyclical homelessness among the most vulnerable populations in the Halifax Regional Municipality.

# KAIROS holds its national gathering: *It's the End*

by Heather Maxwell, Volunteer and Editorial Contributor

Members of Street Feat were recently, honoured to be invited to the national conference of KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives. KAIROS is a national, church-based organization that focuses on social justice, encouraging education and action on issues such as climate change, poverty and human rights, both in Canada and overseas. Among many other actions, KAIROS has provided small grants, through its anti poverty fund, to groups, like Street Feat, who are struggling against poverty.

The conference, held this summer in Waterloo, Ontario, was preceded by a gathering of many representatives of groups from around the country that are working against poverty. This was a unique opportunity to meet and discuss the current challenges to antipoverty work, as well as to find out what others are doing. Along with discussions on housing, rural poverty, and food banks, there were two large issues that were addressed at this gathering. The KAIROS antipoverty fund is no longer



Delegates to the KAIROS get-together pose for the posterity lens of Street Feat's Joey Bayers

available due to the current economy. The small grants that it provided were unique in Canada and supported many initiatives around the country. Participants

discussed options to renew and continue this fund. They also learned about a new campaign entitled: "dignity for all: the campaign for a poverty-free Canada". While there have been many campaigns in the past, both on national and

local levels to pass legislation to reduce poverty, this is the first that is calling for a national plan to eliminate poverty in this country. Building on recent successes at the provincial level, organizers reported, that they are optimistic. More

details on the campaign can be found at [www.dignityforall.org](http://www.dignityforall.org).

The conference itself was entitled "It's the end of the world as we know it, Thank God". Each of the three days had a theme. On the first day of the conference, reflections



"If we idolize wealth, then we create poverty..."

- Thomas Cullinan, Order of St. Benedict

Gary Burrill, MLA  
Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley

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