

®



ACORN

Dear Friend:

Did you know that there are more than 30,000 abandoned homes in the city of Philadelphia? 25,000 in Chicago? 50,000 in New York City? And tens of thousands more in Dallas, Detroit, New Orleans, and most other American cities?

And at the same time there are millions of families in this country living in substandard housing--or living out on the streets, in no housing at all.

If this doesn't make sense to you or me, think how it seems to the family trying to survive in an apartment without heat or hot water. It's not just illogical, it's criminal.

Many of these families have joined together in a pioneering grassroots organization known as ACORN -- the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now. ACORN has over 75,000 low-income members in 30 cities across the country, most of them with incomes below the poverty line, living in houses or apartment buildings that should have been condemned years ago.

These families have joined ACORN because they want to work to improve their condition. They haven't gotten much help from the Bush Administration. In fact, there are more poor families and fewer units of affordable housing now than at any time in the past 20 years.

Yet against tremendous odds, ACORN members are succeeding. And with your help, they can do even more.

In city after city, ACORN members have banded together to petition local governments and federal agencies to turn over these thousands of abandoned homes, for nominal fees, to families in need of housing who promise to fix them up.

These families aren't looking for handouts -- they are looking for a chance to put their own sweat and labor into fixing up houses that are currently sitting empty--tempting targets for drug pushers, rapists and arsonists.

It seems simple enough--putting people without houses into houses without people. But politicians and bureaucrats haven't all been

Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now

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