

# NATIONAL CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INTERVIEWS/PHOTOS AVAILABLE

## NATIONAL CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE PRESENTS PRESTIGIOUS 2008 LEWIS HINE AWARD TO STEVE KIDD OF PAWTUCKET, RHODE ISLAND FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO CHILDREN AND YOUTH

New York, NY, March 12, 2008--The **National Child Labor Committee** (NCLC) today announced that **Steve Kidd of Pawtucket, Rhode Island**, will receive its prestigious **Lewis Hine Award** on March 31, 2008 in New York City.

Named for the acclaimed photographer who documented early twentieth century exploitation of child labor, the Lewis Hine Awards for Service to Children and Youth are bestowed annually to ten relatively unknown men and women for their efforts on behalf of the health, education, and welfare of children and youth, particularly those at risk. **The Lewis Hine Awards are given to unheralded professionals and volunteers who devote extraordinary time and energy to helping children and youth.** The recipients, who come from many walks of life and from across the United States, are selected by a panel of distinguished judges from nominations submitted by elected officials and community leaders. **Mr. Kidd is one of ten award Honorees who will receive \$1,000 and a trip to the awards ceremony in New York City accompanied by a guest.**

**Steve Kidd, Program Director at Camp AmeriKids/AmeriCares, is being honored for his decade of work at this summer camp for children with HIV/AIDS.** Mr. Kidd has been an inspirational teacher to hundreds of children and has been inspired by them. At Camp AmeriKids, Mr. Kidd became the confidant of a blind and HIV-positive boy. As a tribute to this brave boy, **Mr. Kidd wrote a one-man play called *Sigh, Omelas* after the boy's death. Mr. Kidd travels throughout the Northeast performing this play at middle and high schools, colleges, and community centers.** Mr. Kidd's purpose is to enlighten young people of the plight and strength of HIV/AIDS children and encourage healthy teens to start their own volunteer outreach programs to make the world more compassionate to the less fortunate. **During the school year, Mr. Kidd utilizes performing and visual arts to increase the literacy of students in Pawtucket middle and high schools as Director of Education for The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre, a professional theater in Pawtucket, RI.** Previously he served as the Project Coordinator of The Arts Literacy Project of Art Literacy Learning at Brown University.

Despite over 100 years of work by organizations like the NCLC and the individuals we honor with these awards, too many young people still do not have the access to education, quality health care, and the economic opportunities they deserve, said John W. Lee II, the 2008 Awards Chairman. These awards offer us an opportunity to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of people doing extraordinary things on behalf of young people. We applaud and elevate their work and dedication in the hope that they are an example for the rest of us to be agents of change in our society.

### **About Lewis Wickes Hine**

Lewis Wickes Hine is known for his work photographing child labor practices. Beginning in 1908, Hine became a staff photographer for the NCLC with a difficult and unusual assignment. Often hiding his camera and tricking his way past bosses, Hine even learned to write with his hand inside his pocket in order to get accurate captions without giving himself away. His work—famously never touched up for effect—depicting children laboring in sweatshops, coal mines, textile mills, and on farms outraged the public and shamed the government into acting. His photographs provided the NCLC with the leverage it needed to advance the enactment of state and federal laws to protect the rights of children in the workplace, including the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, which was the first major Federal child labor law ever enacted.

### **About the National Child Labor Committee (NCLC)**

The National Child Labor Committee is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to the well-being of children and youth in the fields of work and education. Founded in 1904 and incorporated by an Act of Congress in 1907, the mission of NCLC is to promote the rights, dignity, well-being, and education of children and youth as they relate to work and the workplace. In its eleventh decade, the NCLC continues the work of its founding visionaries as a leading force in ensuring child labor law compliance, transforming the workplace into a learning environment, improving employment and training opportunities for older youth, and securing youth occupational safety and health.

Additional information about the organization and its programs can be found at [www.nationalchildlabor.org](http://www.nationalchildlabor.org).