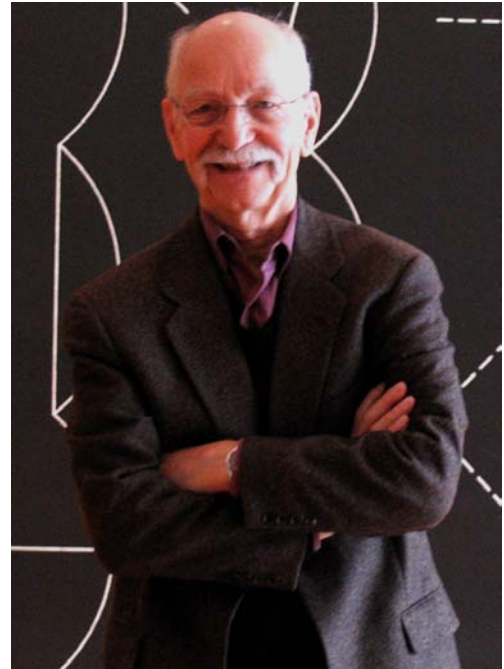




Remembering Bob Hohler

The staff and Board of Directors of the Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) are mourning the loss of our dear friend and extraordinary colleague Bob Hohler, who died suddenly on June 2, 2011.

Superlatives are common when someone dies, but even superlatives cannot capture the essence of Bob Hohler. Our country has lost a true champion and hero who worked tirelessly so that the most vulnerable of our citizens would achieve the dignity that comes with having a place they call home. As Executive Director of the Melville Charitable Trust, Bob's vision, brilliance, leadership, passionate energy and enthusiasm motivated and sustained us at TAC -- as well as many others who were fortunate enough to work with him during his long and distinguished career.



Bob's commitment to social justice was unequivocal. He knew from childhood what it was like to live in poverty, and transformed that experience into passionate advocacy for others. As a Freedom Rider in the 1960s, Bob bore personal witness to brutal bigotry and discrimination, a baptism that affirmed his deeply held belief that what our government does matters, especially to those who need its compassion and protection.

Bob's incredible support for TAC's work on behalf of vulnerable people with the most significant and long term disabilities was unwavering. As a philanthropist, he believed that government could and should solve intractable problems, such as chronic homelessness and the warehousing of people with mental illness in decrepit board and care facilities and institutions. Of course, he was right. Bob's vision became the powerful driving force behind the work of TAC, as well as the National Alliance to End Homelessness, the National Low Income Housing Coalition, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the Corporation for Supportive Housing in Connecticut and many other groups. He marched beside us – and often ahead of us – every step of the way, as he did during the civil rights movement, always encouraging, cajoling, praising, and motivating. He expected us to work very hard and to get results, but he also cared deeply about us as people and as friends.

It is truly impossible right now to think about what it will be like without his twinkling eyes, and inspiring presence. Our loss is as profound as his legacy. We will redouble our efforts because that is what he would want us to do. We extend our deepest sympathy to the entire Melville Charitable Trust family, and especially to Bob's wonderful wife Karen and their family. It was truly an extraordinary privilege to work with Bob, and he will be deeply missed.

The Staff and Board of Directors of the Technical Assistance Collaborative
June 10, 2011