1983

Chris Sprowal, Tex Howard, and Franklin Smith found The Committee for Dignity and Fairness for the Homeless in Philadelphia (Grove, 14)

1984

January – NYPD launches Operation Pressure Point in the Lower East Side, making over 14,000 arrest for low-level drug offenses in 18 months, begins to clear neighborhood for gentrification (Grove, 34)

February – Sprowal, Howard and Smith establish a shelter run and managed by currently and formerly homeless persons (Grove, 14)

1985

Slogan “Homeless Not Helpless” developed – demands for permanent housing, work and healthcare (Grove, 14)

April 6th – Founding convention of the Philadelphia/Delaware Valley Union of the Homeless, constitution adopted (Grove, 15)

Union wins rights to shelter, 24-hour shelter intake, voting for homeless persons, and secure public showers (Grove, 15)

Begin building a national network of new chapters (Grove, 15)

October – Beginning of National Organizing Drive, Chris Sprowal tours 6 cities (Kip, 9)

City of Philadelphia provides space for “Dignity Shelter,” a shelter run by homeless people (Kip, 8)

1986

January – Leadership and Organizing Training Institute for Homeless Activists (later Annie Smart) developed, six-week intensive (Grove, 15)

* Willie Baptist hired to staff Institute and provide leadership trainings (Kip, 9)

October – National Union of the Homeless (NUH) holds its first strategy meeting with eight representative affiliates, elect officers and develop first national strategy policy (Grove, 15) (Kip, 9)

Winter Offensive Strategy – call for simultaneous actions among affiliates under slogan “Homes and Jobs: Not Death in the Streets” (Grove, 15)

Locals/affiliate unions established in Los Angeles, Chicago, New Orleans, Philadelphia, and New York (Grove, 15)

Boston, Baltimore, Washington struggle to secure adequate spaces (Grove, 15)

Greater Boston Union of the Homeless established (Grove, 15)

1987

Affiliate unions established in Oakland, Tucson, Albuquerque, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Detroit (Grove, 16)

Stewart McKinney Homeless Assistance Act – secures funding for emergency shelters as Reagan administration drastically cuts HUD budget (Grove, 31)

October – National Tribunal on the Plight of the Homeless in New York City (Grove, 16) (Kip, 11)

Founding Convention of the New York Homeless Union – 1,200 delegates assemble at Riverside Church (*Pedagogy of the Poor*, 146)

Chris Sprowal named in *USA Today* one of the top-10 leaders to watch that year (*PoP*, 147)

1988

January – Takeover of Henry Horner Public Housing Project by Chicago/Gary Area Union of the Homeless (Grove, 16)

Dignity Housing incorporated by Sprowal, Leona Smith, and Executive Director Alicia Christian (Grove, 16)

May – new Executive Board Members of NUH draft mission statement

July – “Take Off The Board” Campaign

August 6th – Beginning of struggle in Tompkins Square Park, NYC

1989

Savina Martin founds Women’s Institute for New Growth and Support (WINGS), plays leading role in Treatment on Demand in Massachusetts (Grove, 18, 37)

July – NUH leaders (including Willie Baptist and Leona Smith) visit Tompkins Square Park “Tent City” and meet with Ron Casanova (Grove, 19)

Summer – Survival Summit convened in Philadelphia, chapters of NUH, National Welfare Rights Union, and National Anti-Hunger Coalition attend, “Up and Out of Poverty Now” slogan adopted (Grove 19-20)

Exodus March – Ron Casanova and Tompkins Square Park Union of the Homeless lead almost 300 members of NUH and allied groups to Washington, D.C. (Grove, 20)

October 6th – NUH meets with Jack Kemp, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Kemp promises 10% of HUD housing would go to homeless beginning in 1990 to be rehabilitated and managed by the homeless (Grove, 20)

October 7th – Housing Now! Rally in Washington, D.C. attended by 100,000 people, NUH demands the right to speak at the rally (Grove, 20-21)

Chris Sprowal publically admits his drug addiction during a nationwide tour in a *City Limits* profile, Dignity Housing and NUH remove Sprowal from leadership (Grove, 34-35)

Leona Smith elected President of NUH (Grove, 35)

1990

May 1st – NUH coordinates takeovers of empty federally-owned houses, citing Jack Kemp’s promise, in New York, Minneapolis, Detroit, Los Angeles, Tucson, Oakland, Chicago and Philadelphia (Grove, 22)

1992

Dignity Housing hosts Dignity Tenants’ (later Annie Smart) Leadership Development Institute (Grove, 18)

1993

WINGS secures a building in Roxbury, MA (Grove, 37)