



Ending Homelessness in Downtown San Diego Campaign Progress Update

Issue #13

Thanksgiving Edition - November 2011

Follow Our Progress on
Facebook!



Giving Thanks!



About Us

The Downtown San Diego Ending Homelessness Leadership Team is comprised of:

- Downtown Business Leaders

- Elected Government Representatives

- The County of San Diego

- City of San Diego

- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

- The San Diego Police Department

- 10-Year Plan Leaders

- Hospitals and Health Clinics

- Medical Services Providers

- Affordable Housing and Supportive Services Experts

- Homelessness Experts

- Veterans Advocates

Dear Campaign Supporters and Partners:

In this season of giving thanks, we remain deeply thankful for all of the hard work and strong partnerships that have resulted in more than 100 people who were homeless and unsheltered now being off the streets and working with services providers to end their homelessness forever. This progress would not have been possible without the continued support of so many for the Ending Homelessness in Downtown San Diego Campaign!

There are many other efforts this holiday season that need support as well - as we count down the days until Thanksgiving, please keep in mind the opportunities to give thanks and give back that can be found in the [Staying Connected and Getting Involved](#) section below. In this edition, you will also find stories regarding national data on homelessness among veterans, the [Keys to Housing Initiative's new Toolbox to End Family Homelessness](#), the Regional Task Force on the Homeless' San Diego Regional Homeless Assessment Report, and the opening of the City of San Diego's Emergency Winter Shelter and Veterans Winter Shelter.

A very happy Thanksgiving to all of our readers!

Sincerely,



Robin Madaffer, Co-Chair
Ending Homelessness Campaign Leadership Team



Jennifer LeSar
Ending Homelessness
Campaign Coordinator



Join our Mailing List to receive LDC's 1st of the Month Affordable Housing Technical Review!



LESAR DEVELOPMENT
CONSULTANTS

Tracking Our Progress

Moving Forward and Moving People Home: As we approach this holiday season, we are thankful to report that, as of mid-October:

- 123 people are currently working with staff from the VA San Diego Healthcare System, Community Research Foundation, and Mental Health Systems to permanently end their homelessness (98% toward our initial goal of 125 people);
- 101 people who were homeless and unsheltered are currently off streets, working with services providers toward permanent solutions (82% toward initial goal); and
- 68 people are "home", living in permanent housing and continuing to work with services providers to address their challenges, achieve stability, and make progress toward their goals.

For more information, please see our [Campaign Overview and Progress Report](#).

Staying Informed

Reports Provide Data on Homeless Veterans: While Veterans Day reminds us to be thankful for the past and current service of members of the military, the day should also challenge us to assure that no veteran experiences homelessness. Approximately 25% of the people surveyed during Downtown San Diego Registry Week reported being veterans - read our [Fact Sheet Regarding Unsheltered Homeless Veterans in Downtown San Diego](#) for more information regarding the challenges these veterans face.

The National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) recently released a one-page brief [Data Point: Veteran Homelessness in the United States](#) that provides key data on homelessness among veterans from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Veterans Affairs (VA) report [Veteran Homelessness: A Supplemental Report to the 2010 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress](#). The brief notes that 35 out of every 10,000 veterans are homeless, that there are 76,000 homeless veterans on a given night - including more than 19,000 homeless veterans in California - and that 145,000 veterans use homeless housing programs every year. The brief also projects the progress benchmarks that would need to be achieved in order to end veteran homelessness in five years.

In related news, the national 100,000 Homes Campaign recently released a special report highlighting national data on homeless veterans within 100,000 Homes Campaign communities, finding that homeless veterans reported an average of nearly six years homeless, compared to four years among non-veterans. Read the [National Survey of Homeless Veterans in 100,000 Homes Campaign Communities](#).

RTFH Publishes 2011 Regional Homeless Assessment Report for San Diego County: The Regional Task Force on the Homeless recently published its [San Diego Regional Homeless Assessment Report](#) which provides summary data from the regional data submitted for the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress and from the annual Point-in-Time Count (PITC). The information gathered and analyzed for this report is key to better understand the issues that contribute to homelessness in San Diego County for creating effective strategies and solutions to help end homelessness. The report notes that a total of 10,082 people spent at least one night in a local emergency shelter or transitional housing program during the reporting year and that an estimated 9,436 people were homeless in the region at a single point in time in January 2011.

Keys to Housing Launches **Toolbox to End Family Homelessness:**

Keys to Housing - Ending Family Homelessness is an initiative of the San Diego Grantmakers Homelessness Working Group focused on ending family homelessness by 2020 and is "a broad regional coalition committed to ending the solvable crisis of family homelessness in San Diego County. With over 100 members from the social services, government, and healthcare sectors, the **Keys** coalition has been working since 2010 to create an achievable vision for supportive, sustainable housing and increase opportunities for our most valuable families." On November 3, **Keys to Housing** publicly launched its new website and its **Toolbox to End Family Homelessness** that includes best practices, resources and tools for action to combat family homelessness. Listen to [KPBS's news coverage](#) and visit <http://keystohousing.org> to open the Toolbox and learn more!



**2012 NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
Ending Family and Youth Homelessness**
February 9-10, 2012
Millennium Biltmore Hotel Los Angeles
Los Angeles, CA

National Conference on Ending Family and Youth Homelessness:

For those of our readers especially interested in family homelessness, visit www.endhomelessness.org to register for the National Alliance to End Homelessness' 2012

National Conference on Ending Family and Youth Homelessness. The conference will take place at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles from February 9 - 10, 2012.

10th Annual Interfaith Candlelight Memorial Vigil: On Sunday, November 6, the San Diego Rescue Mission held its 10th Annual Candlelight Vigil "which honors the men and women who die, homeless and alone, on the streets each year," powerfully demonstrating why it is so important that we sustain our efforts to end homelessness for the most vulnerable members of our communities. A procession departed from the San Diego Rescue Mission and walked approximately a mile, stopping for prayers at 3 churches and ministry sites, ending at the County Administration Building for a candlelight vigil program. Sixty-one persons in the procession carried a pair of shoes which represented the 54 men and 7 women who died homeless on the streets of San Diego County in the last year.

Visit <http://www.sdrescue.org/2011/10/candlelight-vigil/> to watch media coverage of this year's event.

Staying Connected and Getting Involved

Help Provide Thanksgiving Meals: The San Diego Rescue Mission is collecting donations to help provide Thanksgiving meals to San Diego's hungry, homeless and poor. This year, the Rescue Mission is expecting to provide more than 39,250 meals. Visit <http://www.sdrescue.org/thanksgiving-meals-for-hungry-neighbors-2/> for more information on how you can help.

SDHC Opens Emergency Winter Shelter; Veterans Winter Shelter Opening Soon: The San Diego Housing Commission announced the opening of the City of San Diego's Emergency Shelter for Homeless Single Adults on November 21, ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday. The Winter Shelter, located at 16th and Newton Avenue, has been operated by Alpha Project since 1996. "Alpha Project and the San Diego Housing Commission share the same mission, serving those who have no place to call home," said Richard C. Gentry, President & CEO of the Housing Commission. "They have assembled a devoted team of non-profit providers that will offer medical care, mental health screenings, drug and alcohol referrals and job counseling for shelter residents." Read [SDHC's press release](#) or for more information about how to help support the Winter Shelter, visit www.alphaproject.org.

The Veterans Winter Shelter, operated by the Veterans Village of San Diego (VVSD) for the past 15 years, will be open this year from December 8, 2011 to April 7, 2012. Both San Diego's Emergency Winter Shelter and Veterans Winter Shelter serve hundreds of San Diegans during the coldest and wettest months of the year. Last season, the shelters provided services to a combined total of more than 1,000 clients. For more information about donating and/or volunteering for the Veterans Winter Shelter, visit www.vvsd.net/shelter.htm.

Volunteer for 6th Annual Project Homeless Connect: On January 11, 2012, San Diego's 6th Annual Project Homeless Connect will be held at Golden Hall on the San Diego Concourse. The San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) is the lead organizer for Project Homeless Connect, an annual one-day resource fair that provides health screenings, flu shots, dental exams, haircuts, drug counseling, legal aid, housing counseling and other services for San Diego's homeless families, veterans, seniors, and disabled persons. SDHC's major partners for the event include the Interfaith Shelter Network, Family Health Centers of San Diego, and St. Vincent de Paul Village. During last year's event, 54 organizations and 240 volunteers came together to help 660 homeless people. Organizations are being recruited to help provide critical support services and businesses and individuals can volunteer for the day and/or donate items such as toiletries and clothes.

Visit the [SDHC website](#) for details on how to get involved, and read SDHC's [Project Homeless Connect Report and Data Analysis](#) for details from last year's event.

2012 Point-in-Time Count: The Regional Task force on the Homeless (RTFH) has announced that the 2012 annual Point-in-Time Count (PITC) will take place on Friday, January 27 from 4 am to 8 am. The PITC is a one-day count of all the homeless persons in the County and provides agencies with important information to help end homelessness and to leverage millions of dollars in federal funding. A detailed survey/interview (based on the survey used during Registry Week) of at least 10% of all homeless persons will occur in the week following the January 27 count. Peter Callstrom, RTFH's Executive Director, reports that the 2011 count was the most comprehensive since the inception of the PITC in 2005, and the final results documented a total of 9,020 sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons in the County, an increase of 5.9% since last year's count.



Volunteers are needed throughout the County to help count, conduct survey interviews, enter data, and more. Visit <http://www.rtfhsd.org/volunteers/pitc-registration/> to register and to learn more.

If you have questions regarding any of the information in this Campaign Progress Update, please contact Matthew Doherty, Principal, Housing Policy and Planning, LeSar Development Consultants, at matthew@lesardevelopment.com or 619.236.0612 x 102.