



Ending Homelessness in Downtown San Diego Campaign Progress Update

Issue #15

January 2012

100%!

Dear Campaign Supporters and Partners:

We are delighted to be able to start the new year with some exciting news: this month, the Campaign reached 100% of its initial goal of helping 125 people off the streets, into services, and on paths to permanently end their homelessness! This progress includes 85 people currently in permanent housing and still receiving services; and 40 people currently in "interim" housing, moving toward permanent solutions. The remarkable success of the Ending Homelessness in Downtown San Diego Campaign has shown us that change really is possible - through the hard work of the staff working directly with clients, through models of housing and services that end homelessness, and through the collaboration and support of diverse and passionate local stakeholders and community volunteers.

While celebrating this remarkable success, however, we must still acknowledge the challenges created by a variety of local, State, and Federal budget uncertainties, but the Campaign's Leadership Team remains committed to moving forward and setting new goals despite these challenges.

We would also like to thank and congratulate Campaign Leadership Team Member Rene Santiago, who has been so important to the Campaign's success to date, but who will be leaving San Diego County's Health and Human Services Agency to take on a new position as Deputy County Executive for Santa Clara County - see the Staying Informed section details on his new role! In this edition, you will also find stories about Federal funding awarded for local homeless programs, the most recent hearing of the California Assembly's Select Committee on Homelessness, a kickoff event for the Connections Housing development, the success of the 6th Annual Project Homeless Connect earlier this month, and other stories.

Thank you for your support of the Ending Homelessness in Downtown San Diego Campaign!

Sincerely,

Follow Our Progress on Facebook!



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

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!



Tracking Our Progress

Moving Forward and Moving People Home: Through the remarkable dedication of the Campaign partners throughout the past year - and, most importantly, through the unceasing efforts of the expert staff at Community Research Foundation, Mental Health Systems, Inc., and the VA San Diego Healthcare System - earlier this month, the Campaign reached a very significant milestone:



- 125 people off the streets, receiving services, and on paths to permanently end their homelessness!

This represents 100% of the Campaign's initial goal and includes 85 people in permanent housing and still receiving services and 40 people currently in "interim" housing, moving toward permanent solutions.

We're proud of the accomplishments of our partners - and we're glad that they all remain dedicated to the hard work ahead to continue to build upon this progress. We're truly proud of the 125 people who are transforming their lives - and we remain committed to helping to create such opportunities for many more people.

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

Staying Informed



HUD Awards \$14 Million to Local Homeless Programs in San Diego: In late December, one week after releasing its annual national homeless census data (as reported in our previous edition), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced the 2010 Continuum of Care renewal grants, awarding a total of \$14,030,426 to the San Diego Regional Continuum of Care (RCCC) to support 52 local homeless programs. The RCCC reports that all continuing projects that were submitted to HUD were fully funded - 23 in the City and 29 in the County - allowing them to continue to operate and meet the needs of their clients. In total, HUD awarded \$1.47 billion nationally in renewed

Continuum of Care funding for more than 7,100 local homeless programs operating across the country. "The grants we're awarding today will literally keep the doors of our shelters open and will help those on the front lines of ending homelessness do what they do best," said HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan. "It's incredible that as we work to recover from the greatest economic decline since the Great Depression, the total number of homeless Americans is declining, in large part because of these funds." At \$62 million more than last year, this was the most homeless assistance ever awarded nationally by HUD.

Select Committee on Homelessness Holds First Hearing of 2012 in Sacramento: The California Assembly's Select Committee on Homelessness held its 4th in a series of hearings around California in Sacramento on January 11, 2012. California State Assembly Speaker John A. Pérez formed the Select Committee on Homelessness in 2011 to "help our state address the daunting challenges of ending homelessness in our communities." In 2011, the Select Committee embarked on a series of hearings ("The Road Home") across the state to ensure that they heard diverse



perspectives regarding local strategies, best practices, and recommendations for State policies and programs. The Select Committee visited three cities for its 2011 hearings - Sacramento, San Diego, and Los Angeles - and also received information and input from stakeholders in San Jose and San Bernardino County. The January 10 hearing included testimony from staff from the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, Housing California, the Corporation for Supportive Housing, and the California Department of Veterans Affairs. The hearing also featured a review of a new summary report, [The Select Committee's Road in 2011; Moving Forward in 2012](#), which is intended to serve "as both an overview of the lessons, insights, and progress from 2011, and as a guide to help shape policy and legislative priorities for the year ahead." The Select Committee is chaired by San Diego Assemblymember Toni Atkins (76th District); San Diego is also represented on the Committee by Assemblymember Nathan Fletcher (75th District).

For more information about the Select Committee, please contact Lindsey Masukawa in Assemblymember Atkins' office at Lindsey.Masukawa@asm.ca.gov or visit [The Road Home](#).

San Diego's Homelessness Efforts in the News: This month, local efforts to help and house homeless people in San Diego received significant coverage from the U-T San Diego.

On January 3, the U-T San Diego's local section ran an article entitled [Combating Homelessness](#), which profiled the important work of our Campaign partners at the VA San Diego Healthcare System, and highlighted the importance of the HUD-VASH veteran housing voucher program. Unfortunately, the article never made it up onto the U-T website, but we didn't want readers to miss it, so please see this [scanned version](#).

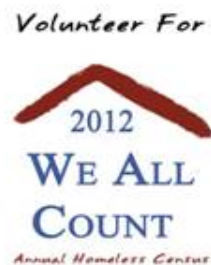
Additionally, the U-T San Diego ran [Storage Bins for Homeless Saved](#) on Monday, highlighting the Water Man Check-In Center, a downtown storage facility for homeless individuals operated by the Isaiah Project, which - through a generous donation from City Councilmen Kevin Faulconer and Todd Gloria - can now continue to operate through July.



Rene Santiago Named Santa Clara's New Deputy County Executive: We would like to acknowledge Rene Santiago for his dedication and commitment to ending homelessness in San Diego and congratulate him on his new position as the Deputy County Executive for Santa Clara County! Through his current role at the County of San Diego's Health and Human Services Agency, Rene has been a valued member of the Ending Homelessness in Downtown San Diego Campaign Leadership Team. As Santa Clara's new Deputy County Executive, Rene will oversee and provide direction to the Santa Clara Valley Health and Hospital System. We wish him well in his new position!

Staying Connected and Getting Involved

We All Count 2012: We hope that many of you have already volunteered to help with [We All Count 2012](#), which will take place on Friday, January 27 from 5 am to 8 am - to date, more than 600 people have signed up to volunteer! Coordinated by the Regional Task Force on the Homeless (RTFH), We All Count is a one-day count of all the homeless persons in the County that was known in past years as the annual Point-in-Time Count (PITC). The initiative 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. Last year, the count documented a total of 9,020 sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons in the County, an increase of 5.9% since the 2010 count. We'll be sure to report the findings from this year's count in an upcoming issue of this newsletter.



Connections Housing Construction Kickoff Event This Thursday: Affirmed Housing Group, Family Health Centers of San Diego, People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) and PATH Ventures will host the a Construction Kickoff Event for Connections Housing this Thursday, January 26 at 10 am. Located at the former World Trade Center site downtown, Connections Housing will serve as a One-Stop Shop for people experiencing homelessness, and will include 73 units of permanent

supportive housing, 150 transitional housing beds, a comprehensive primary healthcare clinic, and an array of services designed to address the root causes of homelessness. Connections Housing is scheduled to open in late 2012, and for more information, please see sdconnections.org. Special guests at the kick-off event will include Mayor Jerry Sanders, Council President Pro Tem Kevin Faulconer, Councilmember Todd Gloria, Centre City Development Corporation's Kim John Kilkenny, and the San Diego Housing Commission's Rick Gentry. To RSVP for the event, please contact katelyn@affirmedhousing.com.

6th Annual Project Homeless Connect A Great Success!: On January 11, San Diego's [6th Annual Project Homeless Connect](#) helped a record number of homeless San Diegans, providing essential resources to a total of 941 individuals - almost 300 more than last year. Project Homeless Connect is an annual one-day resource fair that provides health screenings, flu shots, dental exams, haircuts, drug counseling, legal aid, housing counseling and other services to homeless in need. This year, more than 300 volunteers and over 65 non-profit service providers, businesses and local government agencies came together to help homeless individuals, families, veterans, seniors and disabled persons. "Today, hundreds of homeless San Diegans in need received invaluable 'life essentials' such as clothing, haircuts, medical/dental screenings, and substance abuse counseling," said San Diego Housing Commission President and CEO Richard C. Gentry. "And it's genuinely heart-warming to realize how many volunteers were willing to help with this worthy cause, including donations from San Diegans and businesses-it was overwhelming." For the second year, the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) was the lead organizer for the event, with major partners including the Interfaith Shelter Network, Family Health Centers of San Diego, and St. Vincent de Paul Village. We hope that many of you had a chance to volunteer for this important event or can become involved next year.

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 x102.