

# Ending Homelessness in Downtown San Diego Campaign Progress Update

Issue #9

July 2011



From left to right, Regional Coordinator for the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) Ed Cabrera, Assemblymember Toni Atkins (76th District), and USICH Deputy Director Anthony Love, at the California Assembly's Select Committee on Homelessness' hearing held in San Diego on July 20, 2011. More information regarding the hearing can be found in the Staying Informed section below.

Dear Campaign Supporters and Partners:

As you'll see below, July has been an incredibly busy - but also encouraging - month at the national, state, and local levels!

- At the national level, the National Alliance to End Homelessness held its National Conference on Ending Homelessness, the 100,000 Homes Campaign launched a moving new video (that includes some local faces!), and new federal resources for homeless veterans were awarded!
- At the state level, the Assembly's Select Committee on Homelessness continued its series of hearings, The Road Home, including a well-attended hearing regarding homelessness among veterans and chronic homelessness here in San Diego!
- At the local level, the San Diego community rallied to meet the needs of homeless veterans through Veterans Village of San Diego's annual Stand Down event, and the Centre City Development

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## 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



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

Corporation Board of Directors recommended approval of a new *Five-Year Work Plan Toward Goal of Ending Homelessness in Downtown San Diego*.



All that and the Campaign to End Homelessness in Downtown San Diego continues to make progress in moving people from the streets and into permanent supportive housing! We hope this newsletter provides you with a chance to catch up on everything that's been happening - and also motivates you to stay involved!

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Robin Madaffer in blue ink.

Robin Madaffer, Co-Chair  
Ending Homelessness  
Campaign Leadership Team

Handwritten signature of Jennifer LeSar in blue ink.

Jennifer LeSar  
Ending Homelessness  
Campaign Coordinator

## Tracking Our Progress

**Moving Forward and Moving People "Home":** Sometimes a few pictures can communicate much, much more than words and numbers. We think you'll find that's the case with the powerful [100,000 Homes Campaign One-Year Anniversary Video](#), which features three of our San Diego neighbors, all veterans who are now permanently housed!

As of mid-July, communities participating in the 100,000 Homes Campaign have moved 10,244 vulnerable people out of homelessness and into permanent housing! We're proud to be a part of this national Campaign and to be able to report progress in downtown San Diego, also as of mid-July:



Click on picture to launch new video from 100,000 Homes Campaign - and watch for 3 San Diego veterans featured!

- 94 people - 75% of the initial goal of 125 people - were off the streets and working with staff from the VA, Community Research Foundation, or Mental Health Systems to end their homelessness forever.
- 55 people - including 40 veterans - were all the way "home" - living in permanent supportive housing and continuing to work with their services providers to address their challenges, achieve stability, and make progress on their goals.

For an overview of the Campaign, and more information regarding the progress to date, please see our [Overview and Progress Report](#).

**CCDC Board Approves Five-Year Work Plan Toward Goal of Ending Homelessness in Downtown San Diego:** Demonstrating its continued commitment to helping create solutions to homelessness, on July 13, the Centre City Development Corporation (CCDC) Board of Directors recommended that the City Council and Redevelopment Agency approve

CCDC's *Five-Year Work Plan Toward Goal of Ending Homelessness in Downtown San Diego*. The Plan provides a comprehensive range of strategies for CCDC and its partners to implement and, as outlined in the Plan, CCDC staff will provide annual updates of accomplishments and future 12-month goals within its annual budgeting process. To read more, see the [staff report from the CCDC Board Meeting](#), which includes a copy of the *Five-Year Work Plan*.

## Staying Informed

### **Select Committee on Homelessness Holds Hearing in San Diego:**

Many local experts, advocates, and persons affected by homelessness had a significant opportunity to help shape California's efforts to address and end homelessness when the California Assembly's Select Committee on Homelessness held a public hearing in San Diego on July 20, 2011. The hearing, the second in a series around the state dubbed "The Road Home", focused on strategies for ending homelessness among veterans and other people experiencing chronic homelessness. Recognized at the hearing were both Veterans Village of San Diego and Father Joe Carroll of Father Joe's Villages, who were presented with State Assembly Resolutions for their significant contributions to addressing the needs of and improving the quality of life of homeless individuals and families. The hearing also featured the participation of state officials and two representatives from the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (<http://www.usich.gov/>), Deputy Director Anthony Love and Regional Coordinator Ed Cabrera. The Select Committee is chaired by Assemblymember Toni Atkins (76th District) and also includes Assemblymember Nathan Fletcher (75th District). The third hearing will be held in Los Angeles this Wednesday, July 27, from 1pm to 4pm at the Ronald Reagan State Building, 300 South Spring Street, and will have a focus on homelessness among youth, women, and families.

For more information about the Select Committee, please contact Lindsey Masukawa in Assemblymember Atkins' office at [Lindsey.Masukawa@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Lindsey.Masukawa@asm.ca.gov) or review the materials from the first and second hearings at [The Road Home](#).

### **Record Numbers of Veterans at VVSD's Annual Stand Down Event:**

Veterans Village of San Diego (VVSD) held its 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Stand Down event from July 15 to 17 at the athletic fields of San Diego High School. The event experienced record turn-out, with more than 1,003 participants seeking the wide variety of services offered. Stand Down is a three-day program designed to help homeless veterans "combat life on the streets" by providing access to a range of services, including meals, clothing, showers, medical and dental services, counseling, 12-step meetings, employment counseling, homeless court, and recovery services. First designed and organized by VVSD in 1988, Stand Down has become a national model and similar events have been held in more than 200 cities nationwide. To learn more about 2011's Stand Down, read the San Diego Union Tribune article, [Homeless Veterans Seek Fresh Start](#). To find out more about VVSD's other programs and services, see <http://www.vvsd.net/>.

### **More Housing and Services Resources for Homeless Veterans in San Diego:**

In the months ahead, more homeless veterans in the San Diego region will be provided the housing and services they need to end their homelessness. On July 14, 2011, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki announced this month that the federal government will allocate \$46.2 million in funding nationally through the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program (HUD-VASH) in order to provide permanent supportive housing to veterans through rental

assistance vouchers, case management, and clinical services. Nationally, this funding will provide housing and services to 6,790 homeless veterans; in San Diego, a total of 75 HUD-VASH vouchers were awarded to the San Diego Housing Commission, and 50 were awarded to the County of San Diego's Housing and Community Development department.

For additional information, read HUD's press release, [HUD, VA to Provide Permanent Housing and Support to Thousands of Homeless Vets.](#)

**National Conference on Ending Homelessness:** Every July, the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) organizes an annual conference that both inspires and educates people committed to ending homelessness in the United States. This year's event was attended by more than 1,000 people and offered workshops that explored innovative programs and strategies for serving chronically homeless persons, veterans, youth, seniors, and families with children. The conference also highlighted NAEH's recent [Progress Report on the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness](#), which assesses the progress that federal agencies have made toward implementing [Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness](#). Couldn't make it to the conference? Now you can attend "virtually" via NAEH's website, including reading [NAEH's President and CEO Nan Roman's Keynote Remarks](#) or reviewing the [Conference Workshop Presentations and Materials](#).

## Staying Connected and Getting Involved

**Help Support Homelessness Efforts in San Diego:** Check out Volunteer San Diego at [www.volunteersandiego.org](http://www.volunteersandiego.org) and search with keyword "homelessness" to find additional volunteer opportunities to support efforts to end homelessness in San Diego.

*If you have any 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](mailto:matthew@lesardevelopment.com) or 619.236.0612 x 102.*