



# Ending Homelessness in Downtown San Diego Progress Update

Issue #4

February 1, 2011



Veteran Registry Week surveyors and friends after completing the Point-in-Time Count on Friday, January 28, 2011. Approximately 550 volunteers participated in this year's countywide Point-in-Time Count, which is led by the Regional Task Force on the Homeless. Data from the PITC leads to millions of dollars in federal funding annually. For more information about this year's count, visit [www.rtfhsd.org](http://www.rtfhsd.org) or click on the article links below.

[San Diego Union-Tribune article: "County's homeless population tallied"](#)

[KPBS article: "Volunteers Search Out SD Homeless"](#)

Dear Downtown San Diego Registry Week Participants, Partners and Supporters in Ending Homelessness in San Diego:

We would first like to acknowledge two Ending Homelessness Campaign Leadership Team members who have recently been honored:

Assemblymember Toni Atkins, who was appointed by Speaker John A. Pérez to chair the Select Committee on Homelessness; and Plan to End Chronic Homelessness Commissioner Brian Maienschein, who was chosen by San Diego Magazine as one of 2011's 50 People to Watch. See the related articles below for details.

The first month of 2011 has brought multiple news items and updates related to homelessness locally, statewide and nationally. On January 5,

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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

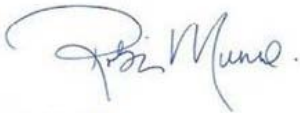


the annual day-long Project Homeless Connect event joined together 160 volunteers from more than 55 agencies and organizations to provide basic needs and services to San Diego's homeless residents and help make it easier for them to get the answers they need, moving them closer to getting off the streets. This year approximately 660 homeless people came to the event, up from 400 last year, and, among multiple services provided at the event, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs was able to house 14 homeless people that day.

See [Staying Informed](#) below for further highlights. Also check out [Tracking Our Progress](#) for the most recent Vulnerability Index client outreach and housing data.

Happy New Year to all!

Sincerely,



Robin Munro, Co-Chair  
Ending Homelessness  
Campaign Leadership Team



Jennifer LeSar,  
Ending Homelessness  
Campaign Coordinator

## Assemblymember Toni Atkins Named Chair of the Select Committee on Homelessness

Assembly Speaker John A. Pérez announced January 26 that Assemblymember Toni Atkins, D-San Diego, will head the Select Committee on Homelessness.

"Reducing homelessness requires a delicate interplay of programs and services for those without permanent shelter and those at risk of becoming homeless," said Atkins, who is Vice Chair of the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee. "This committee will work to eliminate silos and bring down barriers between agencies and branches of government. Ultimately, our committee will guide the state in more effectively and efficiently coordinating service delivery."



Speaker Pérez recognized Assemblymember Atkins's previous commitment to this serious state-wide epidemic. "We can't expect people to work and contribute to economic recovery if they don't first have a home," he said. "I'm thrilled to utilize Ms. Atkins local expertise to streamline the state's approach."

- Press release

## PTECH Commissioner Brian Maienschein One of San Diego's '50 People to Watch' in 2011

San Diego Magazine this month recognized Brian Maienschein, the Commissioner of the Plan to End Chronic Homelessness, as one of San Diego's 50 People to Watch in 2011 for his work with chronically homeless people in our region.



San Diego Magazine said Maienschein "has a plan we think is worth watching" in 2011. "Since the Plan to End Chronic Homelessness began, nearly 200 people have moved in off the streets and thousands more have been able to access healthcare, according to the magazine.

"To continue to do nothing about the problem," Maienschein says, "actually costs more. This project is changing the way we resolve homelessness."

Check out the full San Diego Magazine article in the [January 2011](#) issue.

## Tracking Our Progress

As we've described in previous newsletters, staff from the VA San Diego Healthcare System have been taking action to assist at least 75 homeless military veterans, and staff from Community Research Foundation have been working to assist 25 persons with serious mental illnesses to access the supportive services and housing they critically need, supported by funding from the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency. We're pleased to report that staff members from Mental Health Systems, Inc., have now also been able to start their efforts to help 25 persons with serious mental illness, also funded by the County of San Diego. All of these agencies are also working in close coordination with a broad network of homeless services providers to identify the most vulnerable people and link them to vital housing and services resources.

These efforts are really paying off:

- To date, more than 34 people surveyed during Registry Week are newly engaged in services, are off the streets, and are now being linked to permanent housing!
- In addition, at least 6 people have already moved into their new, permanent homes - and many others are getting very close to achieving this goal!

We're expecting some media coverage of some of these success stories in the weeks ahead - including both local news stories and National Public Radio stories. We look forward to sharing these stories with you as soon as they are available - so keep an eye on our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/100kHomesDowntownSD>.

## Staying Informed

HUD Awards \$1.4 Billion to Nearly 7,000 Local Homelessness Programs: On January 19, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded \$1.41 billion in funding to keep nearly 7,000 local homeless assistance programs operating in the coming year. The grants are a significant part of the Obama Administration's Opening Doors strategy, a plan to end veterans and chronic homelessness by 2015 and to end homelessness among children, family and youth by 2020.

Last September, HUD announced that it would renew funding through HUD's Continuum of Care programs to existing local programs as quickly as possible to prevent any interruption in federal assistance. HUD will award funds to new projects later in the year. To view a local summary of

HUD grants, [click here](#).

HUD's Continuum of Care grants provide permanent and transitional housing to homeless persons as well as services including job training, health care, mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment and child care. Continuum of Care grants are awarded competitively to local programs to meet the needs of their homeless clients. These grants fund a wide variety of programs from street outreach and assessment programs to transitional and permanent housing for homeless persons and families.

[Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness](#)

'Ending homelessness, one life at a time': The President of St. Vincent de Paul Village, Monsignor Carroll (or Father Joe, the name most everyone knows him by), published an editorial in the U-T on January 8 titled "[Ending homelessness, one life at a time](#)," in which he profiles local efforts to end homelessness. St. Vincent de Paul's Father Joe's Villages was recently chosen as the lead agency in attempting to house San Diego County's 25 most chronic homeless by [Project 25](#), which seeks to identify these "high users" of medical and emergency services, get them into housing first and then provide them with support services so they can learn to live independently. We will keep you updated on Project 25's progress.

Another recent Union-Tribune story, "[Former gang members keeping shelter orderly](#)," tells the great story about the 20 Winter Shelter employees who work security detail, are all former gang members and how their presence has had a positive impact at the Winter Shelter, which is operated by Alpha Project.

## Staying Connected and Getting Involved

Help Support the Winter Shelter and the Veterans Winter Shelter: The Winter Shelter and the Veterans Winter Shelter are sheltering as many homeless individuals as space allows during these winter months and both programs need donations of basic supplies such as toiletries and monetary donations. Volunteer opportunities are also available.

For more information about how to get involved and support the Winter Shelter through donations or by volunteering, visit [www.alphaproject.org](http://www.alphaproject.org) or contact Janice Izor, Director of Marketing and Resource Development, at [janice@alphaproject.org](mailto:janice@alphaproject.org). For more information about donating to and/or volunteering for the Veterans Winter Shelter, visit [www.vvsvd.net/shelter.htm](http://www.vvsvd.net/shelter.htm).