



Ending Homelessness in Downtown San Diego Campaign Progress Update

Issue #14

Holiday Edition - December 2011



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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

Dear Campaign Supporters and Partners:

As 2011 comes to a close, we remain mindful that the holidays and the New Year present great opportunities to continue to help those in our communities who are in need of housing and other basic services. If you're shopping for the holidays in the downtown area, keep your eye out for the Downtown San Diego Partnership's new Campaign [donation stations](#) - these stations, which resemble parking meters, accept spare change and credit card contributions to raise money for "Move-in Kits" to help support homeless individuals' successful transitions into permanent housing.

When making your New Year's resolutions, please consider the important opportunities in January to volunteer in support of efforts to address homelessness, such as "We All Count", the annual Point-in-Time Count, and Project Homeless Connect. Details can be found in the [Staying Connected and Getting Involved](#) section below.

On behalf of the Ending Homelessness in Downtown San Diego Campaign, we're resolved to sustaining and expanding our efforts, and to building on the successes of 2011. (See the [Tracking Our Progress](#) section below for an update!)

In this edition, you will also find stories regarding news coverage of the Campaign, the Downtown San Diego Partnership's Alonzo Award winners recognized for their efforts to end homelessness, San Diego's Winter Shelter and Veterans Winter Shelter, the plans for We All Count (San Diego's 2012 point-in-time count), and more.

Happy holidays to all of our readers!

Sincerely,

Robin Madaffer, Co-Chair
Ending Homelessness Campaign Leadership
Team

Jennifer LeSar
Ending Homelessness
Campaign Coordinator



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Tracking Our Progress

Moving Forward and Moving People Home: We're excited to report how close our partners are to achieving the Campaign's initial goal of ending homelessness for 125 people! As of this week, 119 people are off the streets and working with services providers toward lasting solutions to their homelessness - 95% of the initial goal! 83 of those people are now in permanent housing and continuing to work with services providers to address their challenges and achieve stability.

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

Staying Informed



San Diego's Homelessness Efforts in the News: Last month, San Diego's sustained efforts to address - and end - homelessness received significant coverage in the local media. The November 23 cover story of San Diego City Beat, [The Evolution of San Diego's Approach to Homelessness](#), profiled efforts in the last year that have resulted in nearly 150 people being helped off the streets and into housing, including the United Way of San Diego's Project 25 initiative and the Ending Homelessness in Downtown San Diego Campaign. The story also highlights new strategies being implemented by the Downtown San Diego Partnership as well as the Centre City Development Corporation's [Five-Year Work Plan Toward Goal of Ending Homelessness in Downtown San Diego](#), adopted by the San Diego City Council in September.

Additionally, the San Diego Union-Tribune's Editorial Board ran [A Thanksgiving Story of Progress](#), which highlighted Project 25 and the future [Connections Housing](#) project as significant signs of progress, and concluded, "...San Diego is demonstrating a commitment to reduce homelessness - one of the most intractable problems in any big city - that surpasses anything in the past."



Opening of 15th & Commercial Building Provides 140 Transitional, Supportive, and Affordable Housing Units Downtown: On December 8, [Father Joe's Villages](#) opened the doors of 15th & Commercial, a "three buildings in one" complex that "incorporates permanent affordable and supportive housing, transitional housing and a development center for homeless children - all on one site." Community members and elected officials gathered to celebrate the opening - participants of the ribbon-cutting included Father Joe's Villages President Sister Patricia Cruise, Board Chair Steve Francis, Assemblymember Toni Atkins, Supervisor Ron Roberts, Councilmember Kevin Faulconer, Councilmember Todd Gloria, Bishop Robert H. Brom, and Office of Congressman Brian Bilbray representative Steve Dannon. The new building will provide comprehensive, wrap-around, supportive services to its residents, with 75 transitional housing units, 49 supportive units, and 15 additional affordable units. The building was funded through an extensive partnership of more than 14 funders and funding programs, including St. Vincent de Paul Villages, the County of San Diego Mental Health Services Act Housing Program, the Centre City Development Corporation, and the San Diego Housing Commission. For more information, visit Father Joe's Villages' [Facebook page](#).



DSDP's Alonzo Awards Recognize Efforts to End Homelessness: The [Downtown San Diego Partnership's 49th Annual Alonzo Awards](#), presented in recognition of efforts that have contributed to the enhancement and enrichment of Downtown San Diego, featured several winners who were acknowledged for their efforts to address homelessness. County of San Diego Supervisors Ron Roberts and Greg Cox

received the Vic Kops Humanitarian Award in recognition of their support of the 2010 Downtown Registry Week and the commitment of County resources and efforts to partner with other local, state, and federal resources to help end homelessness in downtown San Diego. In addition, Fred Maas, who served as the interim CEO of the Centre City Development Corporation, received the Founder's Award in recognition of his many efforts to ensure that the agency "did more for affordable housing and homelessness than at any other time in CCDC's history."

National 2011 Point-in-Time Count Results Show Decline in Homelessness: On December 13, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released the results of the national 2011 Point-in-Time Count, based upon counts of homeless persons performed in communities across the country earlier this year. The report documents a count of a total of 636,017 homeless individuals in the United States, a 2.1% decline in homelessness nationally since 2010. The report also documents a 12% reduction in the number of veterans experiencing homelessness, but still finds there were 67,495 homeless veterans. These reductions are attributed in part "to the impact of HUD's \$1.5 billion [Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program \(HPRP\)](#), a program designed to assist individuals and families confronted by a sudden economic crisis...by offering them short-term rental assistance, security and utility deposits, and moving expenses." Check out the [Staying Connected and Getting Involved](#) section below for details on volunteering for We All Count, San Diego's 2012 point-in-time count coming up on January 27.

Staying Connected and Getting Involved

Emergency Winter Shelter and Veterans Winter Shelter Now Open: The Veterans Winter Shelter, operated by the Veterans Village of San Diego (VVSD) for the past 15 years, opened on December 8 on Sports Arena Boulevard to a long line of homeless veterans, and will stay open until April. Serving homeless single adults, the City of San Diego's Emergency Shelter, located at 16th and Newton Avenue and operated by Alpha Project, opened a few weeks ago on November 21. Both San Diego's Veterans Winter Shelter and Emergency Winter Shelter are funded through the San Diego Housing Commission and 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. Watch [VVSD's video](#) of the Veterans shelter opening and learn more about donating and/or volunteering at <http://www.vvsd.net/shelter.htm>. Details about the Emergency Winter Shelter can be found at <http://alphaproject.org/programs/winter-shelter-program/>.

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.

Volunteer For



We All Count 2012: The Regional Task Force on the Homeless (RTFH) has announced that We All Count 2012 will take place on Friday, January 27 from 4 am to 8 am, and needs volunteers! We All Count is a one-day count of all the homeless persons in the County - known in past years as the annual



Point-in-Time Count (PITC) - that 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 the 2010 count.

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