



Ending Homelessness in Downtown San Diego Progress Update

Issue #2

Thanksgiving Edition -- November 23,
2010



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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 Downtown San Diego Registry Week Participants, Partners and Supporters:

We are extremely pleased to share with you that the first people identified through Downtown San Diego Registry Week and placed on the Vulnerability Index have moved into their permanent homes - with many more to follow! See [Tracking Our Progress](#) below for more information.

We have included for you a link (above) to the final Downtown San Diego Registry Week video. We hope you enjoy it and share this video with friends, family, colleagues and anyone else who might find it inspiring.

Several of our Downtown San Diego Ending Homelessness Campaign partners have important volunteer opportunities coming up related to the annual Point-in-Time Count and the Winter Shelter. See [Staying Connected and Getting Involved](#) below for more information.

A very happy Thanksgiving to each of you!

Sincerely,

Robin Munro
Chair, Ending Homelessness
Campaign Leadership Team

Jennifer LeSar
LeSar Development Consultants
Ending Homelessness
Campaign Coordinator

Tracking Our Progress

People Finding Homes! The last several weeks have yielded significant progress for many Registry Week survey participants. Staff from the VA San Diego Healthcare System and staff from Community Research Foundation



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(supported by funding from the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency) have already been in contact with more than 30 of the most vulnerable people identified during Registry Week, and many of these persons are now off the street and getting linked to permanent housing - including two people who moved into their new, permanent homes just last week!

One of these two is a 52-year-old veteran who received the keys to his new apartment on last Friday, November 19th. The veteran, who has been homeless for 15 years, has been living in parks and on the streets, and also participated in this year's [San Diego Stand Down](#) for veterans. With assistance from VA outreach workers and San Diego Housing Commission staff, this veteran received his HUD-VASH voucher, his VA case worker helped him locate housing and access assistance for his security deposit, and he moved in to his first permanent home in 15 years! This veteran was identified during Registry Week by Survey Team #7, lead by Mona Oge of the VA and Maureen Bell of Community Research Foundation, and other team members included Calvin Bair, Camille Hughes, and Juan Del Rio.

Staying Informed

Congressman Bob Filner Attends Ending Homelessness Campaign Leadership Team Meeting: Congressman Bob Filner attended the October 28 meeting of the Downtown San Diego Ending Homelessness Campaign Leadership Team, where he provided an update on efforts to end homelessness at the federal level. The Congressman, who is Chair of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, said the Committee has a zero-tolerance for veteran homelessness and is working toward the goal of getting all veterans off the streets in five years. The Committee has allocated \$500 million for community groups around the nation to help in this effort and Congressman Filner said he is actively seeking supportive housing site opportunities to house homeless veterans around the country, including one in Point Loma.

Winter Shelter Opening, Will Shelter Survey Participants: On November 3, the San Diego City Council approved a site for the Winter Shelter to be operated by Alpha Project in a vacant building on Newton Avenue in the Barrio Logan neighborhood. The Winter Shelter will be opening before the end of November and will remain open until the end of March 2011. Although the primary focus of the Winter Shelter Program is to shelter participants from the elements during the coldest and wettest period of the year, the program also offers a comprehensive blend of services to assist participants to establish their own self-sufficiency. More than 20 different partner organizations, including private agencies, government departments, civic organizations and religious groups works closely with Alpha Project staff to deliver basic services, such as meals and personal hygiene supplies, and long-range assistance including employment and housing assistance.

This year, the Winter Shelter will serve as a vital resource for vulnerable persons surveyed during Registry Week, a critical chance for them to come in off the streets and get connected to other programs and services. Alpha Project will be working in close coordination with the Department of Veterans Affairs and County-funded mental health agencies to link many of the most vulnerable persons to the services and housing they need to end their homelessness. "Alpha Project was proud to participate in the outreach and surveying during Registry Week," said Bob McElroy, President/CEO of the agency, "and we're even more proud to be able to work with these partners to ensure that the Winter Shelter helps many of the most vulnerable persons find permanent homes and leave homelessness forever." To read more about Alpha Project, visit www.alphaproject.org.

2010 Regional Homeless Profile Released: The Regional Homeless Profile (RHP) is a broad-based analysis of homelessness in the San Diego region that is compiled by the San Diego Regional Task Force on the Homeless. The RHP also includes statistical summaries of data for each of the 18 incorporated

cities in San Diego County and for Congressional, City Council and County Supervisor districts. Finally, this year's RHP includes a summary of the information gathered via the surveying during Registry Week.

[Read the full 2010 San Diego Regional Homeless Profile](#)

Staying Connected and Getting Involved

Seeking Volunteers for the Annual Point-in-Time Count January 28, 2011:

Each year the Regional Task Force on the Homeless is responsible for the Point-in-Time Count. The Point-in-Time Count is a county-wide event to conduct a comprehensive homeless count and to survey individuals to understand the needs and demographics of homeless persons throughout San Diego County. The data from the Point-in-Time Count leads to millions of dollars in federal funding that is distributed and utilized by local service providers. These organizations provide services for the estimated 10,000-plus individuals and families who experience homelessness annually in our region. The Task Force needs approximately 600 volunteers to help with the Point-in-Time Count.

[Register here for the 2011 Point-in-Time Count](#)

Help Support the Winter Shelter: As described above, Alpha Project will be opening the Winter Shelter before the end of November. For more information about how to get involved and support the Winter Shelter through donations or by volunteering, visit www.alphaproject.org or contact Janice Izor, Director of Marketing and Resource Development, at janice@alphaproject.org.

Spread the Word About the Housing Matters Campaign! The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency has launched [It's Up to Us](#), a campaign to empower San Diegans to talk openly about mental illness, recognize symptoms, utilize local resources and seek help. One component of this campaign is [Housing Matters](#), which is dedicated to educating the public about mental illness, homelessness, and the benefits of affordable housing. The website also provides supportive housing listings and countywide resources.

San Diego Housing Commission Seeks Support for Project Homeless Connect: The 5th Annual Project Homeless Connect, a one-day event that provides services and donations to homeless individuals and families, will be held on Wednesday, January 5, 2011 at the Community Concourse-Golden Hall in downtown San Diego. Partnering with the Housing Commission on this event are St. Vincent de Paul Villages, the Interfaith Shelter Network, and Family Health Centers of San Diego - and more than 20 agencies will participate in the event. To find out how you can get involved, please see the Housing Commission's website at www.sdhc.org.