



Ending Homelessness in Downtown San Diego Progress Update

Issue #1

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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:

Thank you for reading this First Edition of the ***Ending Homelessness in Downtown San Diego*** newsletter - and many thanks to the more than 240 volunteer community members and civic leaders who contributed approximately 3,000 hours of their time during the Downtown San Diego Registry Week (September 19-24)!

We'll be using this newsletter to spread the word about San Diego's participation in the national 100,000 Homes Campaign, to provide updates about our collaborative efforts to end homelessness downtown since Registry Week, and to celebrate the housing and services success stories of some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

We're pleased to be able to report that since Registry Week, at least 8 of the survey participants have already been helped to leave the downtown streets and are now being linked to the services and housing necessary to end their homelessness forever - see the *Tracking Our Progress* section below for more details!

We're also pleased to share the October 22 San Diego Union Tribune editorial "Good and bad news on the homeless front," which endorsed Registry Week and our follow-up efforts as a "good news" highlight within San Diego's efforts to end homelessness - see the *Staying Informed* section below for where to read more about recent City Council actions to address homelessness.

Sincerely,



Robin Munro
Chair, Ending Homelessness
Campaign Leadership Team

Jennifer LeSar
LeSar Development Consultants
Ending Homelessness
Campaign Coordinator

Moving Forward from Registry Week to Solutions

During Registry Week, teams of volunteer surveyors systematically canvassed the streets of downtown San Diego, making contact with more than 1,040 homeless persons, 737 of whom participated in a survey that has resulted in a by-name list of individuals at a higher risk than others for dying if they remain on the streets. For more details regarding Registry Week activities and the information gathered through the surveys, please see [The Results Are In: San Diego Registry Week an Overwhelming Success](#) and our [Fact Sheet](#).

Building upon the successful work of Registry Week, the many partners involved have been sustaining their momentum and moving forward quickly toward providing housing and services solutions for at least 125 of the most vulnerable persons surveyed.

Tracking Our Progress

Since the end of Registry Week, staff people from many different public and private agencies have been coordinating their activities to end homelessness for many of the most vulnerable persons identified through the surveying:

- Staff from the VA San Diego Healthcare System have been taking action on behalf of more than 75 of the most vulnerable homeless military veterans identified. VA staff have already been back in contact with 17 of these veterans, including 1 veteran who was immediately linked to VA hospital care due to very serious medical issues.
- Staff from Community Research Foundation (supported by funding from the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency) have initiated their efforts to assist 25 persons with serious mental illnesses to access the supportive services and housing they critically need. CRF has already enrolled 5 of these persons within their services and those clients are now off the streets and will be linked to permanent housing solutions.

Finally, during Registry Week, a variety of organizational and individual donors pledged \$56,000 to help support the costs of "move-in kits," which include furniture and household wares to help people set themselves up in their new homes - to date, \$10,220 of these pledges have already been received. If you would like to make a donation toward such move-in kits, please contact Rachel Ralston at rachel@lesardevelopment.com to find out more.

Staying Informed

We hope that many readers of this newsletter have been following recent City Council activities regarding the proposed Connections Housing project at the World Trade Center building, the winter shelter for veterans, and the winter shelter for civilians. A variety of articles on these topics are available at the [San Diego Union Tribune's](#) website and search under "homelessness" or "winter shelter" to read more.

Staying Connected

We'll keep you posted on our progress through future editions of this newsletter. We hope you'll stay connected to these efforts - and to each other - through our [Facebook](#) page.