

LOS ANGELES BUSINESS LEADERS TASK FORCE

HOME FOR GOOD

United Way of Greater Los Angeles & L.A Area Chamber of Commerce

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FURTHER INFORMATION: DAVID HAMLIN, HOME FOR GOOD COMMUNICATIONS (323) 730-0233 OR (323)533-0659 OR DAVID@WHPR.COM / CHRISTINE MARGE, UNITED WAY, (213) 808-6527 OR CMARGE@UNITEDWAYLA.ORG / DARCY COBB, DOTTED LINE COMMUNICATIONS, (310) 472-8600 OR DARCY@DOTTEDLINECOMM.COM

HOMELESS TASK FORCE REPORTS "GRATIFYING SUCCESS" IN YEAR ONE ANNUAL REPORT PRESENTED AT SUMMIT CITES DRAMATIC STRIDES FORWARD, SHORTFALLS IN HOME FOR GOOD PLAN TO END CHRONIC & VETERAN HOMELESSNESS IN FIVE YEARS

LOS ANGELES, CA – In its first year, The Los Angeles Business Leaders Task Force on Homelessness has reported 3,137 chronic and veteran homeless individuals moved to permanent housing with supportive services in the implementation of Home For Good, the Task Force's blueprint to end chronic and veteran homelessness in greater L.A. in five years. The Task Force's 2012 Report also cites a doubling of participation in the homeless management information system and several welcome steps leading to a more cohesive and cooperative approach among the numerous government and social service agencies which work to end chronic and veteran homelessness. It reports an unprecedented and growing commitment from community leaders, government officials, law enforcement agencies and nonprofit and faith based organizations to align their respective efforts with Home For Good.

"Our community has taken enormous strides in the first year of implementing Home For Good," says Renee White Fraser, a Co-Chair of the 21 member Task Force. "From the Federal government to municipal agencies, from housing funders to housing providers, from foundations to the social service agencies which are doing the critical day-to-day work the partners participating in Home For Good have enjoyed gratifying success. We've much more work to do, but we are off to a very impressive running start."

The 2012 Report, released 13 months after Home For Good was launched, measures progress in the first year of the five year plan against the specific timelines and benchmarks which lie at the center of the Task Force's blueprint. Among the key successes:

- ◆2,273 chronically homeless people were moved from the streets to permanent supportive housing, a figure which exceeds the Home For Good year one goals by 573;
- ◆864 homeless veterans moved to permanent housing, exceeding the Home For Good goal by 24;
- ◆The elimination of administrative barriers to housing chronically homeless individuals by the Housing Authority of the City Of Los Angeles (HACLA);

◆The creation of the Home For Good Funders Collaborative, the first of its kind in the region, which pools and aligns public and private funds for developing permanent supportive housing into a “one-stop” application and which will issue its first Request For Proposals within the next month;

◆The Los Angeles Housing Services Administration (LAHSA) and a wide array of community agencies which work with the homeless have together more than doubled participation in the Homeless Management Information System;

◆With the Veterans Administration, L.A County, Los Angeles City and Long Beach Housing Authorities, the Task Force and Community Solutions created a “boot camp” which reduced the time it takes for homeless veterans to move from streets to homes from 168 days to 100 days, with an ultimate target of 30 days;

◆Local government and nonprofit agencies, in a conference convened by the Task Force, worked with Federal government agency leaders to identify nearly a dozen administrative and bureaucratic barriers and suggest solutions to them – in a matter of weeks, Federal and local leaders reported progress on every barrier identified;

◆The L.A. County Board of Supervisors has, for the first time in its history, directed the County’s C.E.O. to recommend initiatives which will enable the County to develop permanent supportive housing (a first) as it continues to provide equally essential healthcare and rehabilitation services;

◆A total of 104 community leaders, including the entire L.A. County Board of Supervisors, a majority of several city councils, philanthropists, nonprofit leaders and law enforcement officials have endorsed and pledged to work to implement Home For Good; and

◆14,000 community volunteers have participated in everything from homeless census efforts to advocating in their respective communities for greater access to permanent supportive housing, while more than 10,000 individuals (a record) joined United Way’s HomeWalk, proceeds from which were designated for the Home For Good Funders Collaborative.

“We are honored that so many in our community have joined the Task Force to change the way we think about and respond to homelessness,” said Jerry Neuman, Task Force Co-Chair. “These first successful steps are a tribute to the countless individuals and agencies, both public and private, who have dedicated themselves to that change. We are keenly aware that the Home For Good goals in the coming years are more demanding, but we’ve clearly identified the areas which demand attention and we’re confident that those who have carried us this far will move with us to even more success.”

The 2012 Home For Good Report cites several goals either not met or in jeopardy. Notably:

The counts of permanent supportive housing units that came online through development (211 against a goal of 500) or available through turn-over (266 against 650) are significantly short of goals;

The goal to fully count homeless populations in all 88 Los Angeles County municipalities fell four cities short and 18 communities have built comprehensive registries of their most vulnerable homeless, two short of the Year One goal; and

81 municipalities and 15 housing authorities have yet to sign on or align with Home For Good.

"It is our job to expand the growing Home For Good campaign to include everyone in our region, creating a regional effort which is more effective and cost-efficient. Eventually, we must align the entire region to a single purpose supported by carefully researched and defined goals and objectives" said Mr. Neuman.

"Our primary focus in the coming year is to foster a much greater effort to move from 'housing ready' to 'housing first,'" said Ms. Fraser. "We must shift to a system which generates more new housing, takes full advantage of existing homeless housing stock and does everything it can to ensure that those most vulnerable are those housed most rapidly. That process is not only driven by compassion and care, it is a fiscal imperative – we spend too much on a system which doesn't generate the results it can. Home For Good will repair that problem."

The Home For Good 2012 Report was presented to a February 23rd Task Force summit of local, regional and Federal leaders in homeless policy and implementation. The complete report, which includes specific steps which one and all can take to support the Task Force campaign, is available at the Home For Good website, www.homeforgoodla.org. The Business Leaders Task Force is a project of the United Way of Greater Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, both of which have provided extensive resources and support to the Home For Good campaign.

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