When the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness in King County was first adopted, a lot of people said, “I want to believe that this can be done, but you need to show me.”

As we approach our third year, we can show how our community, working together, is making progress and changing lives.

In 2007, we:

- prevented nearly 5,000 people from losing their housing;
- helped 3,680 households leave homelessness;
- added 486 units of housing for formerly homeless individuals and families;
- linked that housing to the services these new residents need to stay housed and maximize their self-sufficiency;
- enhanced the public’s awareness of homelessness and increased the public’s will for change at the local and state levels; and
- secured substantial new investments — public and private, local and state.

While we are well on our way, it is a sad truth that thousands in our community still don’t have a stable roof over their heads and are living in cars, on the streets, in emergency shelters or in transitional housing.

Our resolve and commitment must remain true. Continued and consistent effort and additional investments will be required over the next seven years. At the same time, we must be as efficient as possible — and help as many people as possible — with the resources that we already have.

In this report, you will learn about our successes, read some interesting data, and meet a few of the people whose lives have been transformed by our community’s effort.

We have much to be proud of and many partners to thank across the region for their hard work and dedication. Everyone has a role to play. We hope you will share this report with your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and faith community, and join us in this extraordinary effort to end homelessness in King County.

Dan Brettler, Car Toys CEO (left)

Ron Sims, King County Executive (right)
Co-chairs, Governing Board, Committee to End Homelessness in King County

The Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness in King County guides a community wide campaign to provide housing and support services to thousands of individuals and families who are living without a permanent roof over their heads or are at risk of losing their homes. Launched in 2005 by partners across the community, the plan will create lasting solutions to homelessness in our region.
Preventing homelessness is the first step to ending it. We continue to focus significant attention on rent assistance and other programs that help people avoid homelessness. We are also working more effectively with our partners to make sure that individuals being released from jails, mental health programs and foster care are being discharged with a place to live.

Vicki helps individuals at Union Gospel Mission learn job and computer skills for future employment.

2007 progress

- Local prevention programs helped about 1,600 households — nearly 5,000 people — with emergency financial assistance. More than 80 percent of these households were still housed six months after receiving this assistance. The average amount provided was $830, a fraction of the $8,400 it takes to fund a year of transitional housing to a homeless family.

- King County quadrupled funding for eviction prevention and mortgage assistance. This included nearly $1.5 million in new annual funding from the Veterans and Human Services Levy, which will allow more than 500 additional King County households to avoid eviction and foreclosure each year.

- Community partners launched the SHIFTS Project (Supportive Housing Intervention for Transition to Stability), which provides housing and services for 230 of the most vulnerable and disabled people exiting jails and mental health institutions.

- The City of Seattle, with coordination and staffing from Washington Appleseed, launched the Seattle-King County Asset Building Collaborative (ABC), a consortium of about 50 public, private and nonprofit agencies. The collaborative helps low-income, working residents reach economic stability and self-sufficiency by providing them with access to a continuum of services. Services include increased participation in public benefits, access to banking products and services, homeownership opportunities and foreclosure intervention, access to Individual Development Accounts and matched savings plans, financial literacy education, credit repair, education and job training.

Cover Photo: The Plymouth on Stewart apartments in downtown Seattle, owned by Plymouth Housing Group, offer 87 apartments for formerly homeless individuals with very low incomes.
Latrice is a goal-driven, good-humored single mother of two. In February 2003, after 10 years of employment as an administrator at a local corporation, she lost her job. “Too blessed to be stressed,” as she put it, she used her severance and unemployment income to finish her associate’s degree in science at Seattle Central Community College.

In April of the following year, just two weeks away from graduation, Latrice was falling asleep during her work-study job at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. She was diagnosed with systemic lupus, a rheumatic disease.

Bedridden and heavily medicated for a month, Latrice lost 20 pounds and all of her hair. She doesn’t remember much about that time except for being thankful that her mother and the father of her children were there for her daughters.

When she started feeling better, Latrice realized that her public assistance check didn’t even cover her rent. She then jumped into action and went to the YWCA’s prevention program “Project Self-Sufficiency.” She found a Salvation Army program that paid her rent for three months while she attended workshops at the Y and met regularly with her caseworker.

In July 2004, Latrice was re-hired by her former corporate employer, and in November 2005 her Y caseworker encouraged her to join the Committee to End Homelessness Consumer Advisory Committee.

“I realized that I had almost been there, on the streets, and that this was my purpose — to help other people — to advocate for them and speak on their behalf.” — Latrice

“At first I was a bit uncomfortable because I hadn’t been homeless, but then I realized that I had almost been there, on the streets, and that this was my purpose — to help other people — to advocate for them and speak on their behalf,” Latrice said. “I was so honored.”

In July 2006 Latrice bought a two-bedroom, two-bath house in Kent through ACORN Housing Group. The stop for her Seattle bus is right down the street.

While attending the Committee to End Homelessness legislative breakfast in the fall of 2007, Latrice was invited by a state Department of Social and Health Services administrator to apply for a DSHS job. Soon thereafter, she was working at DSHS’ Belltown office and planning to earn a college degree in social services, with tuition support from her employer.

“I’m helping people directly at work, and indirectly through the Committee to End Homelessness,” said Latrice, now 35 and still perennially focused and cheerful. “I’m making a difference.”
Thanks to the combined efforts of dozens of Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness partners and funding sources, 1,449 new units dedicated to housing formerly homeless families and individuals were opened in King County by the end of 2007. Another 1,411 units were in the pipeline. These numbers — and our momentum — will increase as our regional collaboration continues and as new state and local fund sources move from the planning to the implementation stages.

Attaining housing in Seattle and King County, where real estate is exceptionally expensive and vacancy rates are low, is a particularly challenging goal. Yet, we are creating nearly 500 units of housing for homeless people each year — more than double the production rate of the 190 units per year created before the 2005 adoption of the Ten-Year Plan. In fact, we have already produced more housing units for homeless people here in our region than most cities and counties around the country anticipate creating in ten years.

Moving people into new units is just a part of our community’s efforts to end homelessness. Our partner agencies are also providing existing affordable housing units and subsidies that are linked to case management and other services. The combined new and existing resources are helping homeless individuals and families across the region achieve stability and, in many cases, self-sufficiency.

Altogether in 2007, we helped 3,680 homeless households find housing in affordable and subsidized units countywide. About one fourth of these families or individuals moved into units owned and operated by nonprofit providers, while others secured public housing, other types of subsidized housing, or nonsubsidized market rental housing. In addition, hundreds of households were helped with first and last month’s rent and a security deposit.

The Lauren Heights Apartments in Issaquah provide affordable housing for homeless and low-income families in East King County.
PROVIDING ESSENTIAL SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

Housing linked to supportive services is a critical key to ending homelessness. We have integrated housing and services across the county to help people live stable lives and reduce their use of emergency services. Here are just a few examples.

- The Downtown Emergency Service Center’s 1811 Eastlake project helped 75 chronically homeless people move off the streets. In the first 12 months, these individuals showed remarkable progress, with
  - medical expenses reduced by 41 percent;
  - sobering center usage down 87 percent; and
  - county jail bookings decreased by 45 percent.
  The total reduction in emergency services costs in one year was more than $2.5 million.

- Plymouth Housing Group’s Begin at Home project is another innovative program. Its first-year results, released in 2007, showed that for its 20 participants
  - sobering center usage dropped from 349 days to 11 days;
  - emergency rooms visits dropped from 191 visits to 50 visits; and
  - inpatient treatment use dropped from 57 days to 13 days.
  The total reduction in emergency services costs in one year was more than $1.5 million.

In South King County, Sound Mental Health helped 25 people with mental illness who had been chronically homeless achieve stable housing, and many also found jobs.

Even as we create supportive housing, other services continue to be an integral part of our community safety net. Examples include

- Emergency shelters, often the first stop for people who are homeless.
- The Community Information Line (2-1-1), which provided housing referrals to 15,297 callers in 2007. Another 9,456 called seeking financial assistance to prevent loss of housing.
- The Urban Rest Stop, which provided showers, restrooms and laundry services to 4,733 patrons.
- Public Health-Seattle & King County’s Health Care for the Homeless Network, which recorded 99,970 visits by 21,791 people at 76 services sites in shelters, day centers and health clinics.
- Child Care Resources, which provided referrals to high-quality child care and subsidies to more than 500 homeless families with more than 1,000 children.
Matthew graduated high school at the top of his class. By age 22, he had a master’s degree in business and by his mid-30s, he owned his own house, lived off his investments and traveled the world.

The fifth of seven kids, Matt was the golden child of the family, said his sister, Diane: “He was the most polite, the kindest, the most beautiful. He showed me the world, took me to Germany, Eastern Europe and India.”

At age 37, Matt was living on the streets.

He had started getting withdrawn and paranoid, says Diane. He thought that he was on the news, and that people were following him with cameras. He left a message threatening Diane and asking for money. That recording, combined with her testimony in mental health court, was finally enough to admit him to a psychiatric hospital.

For the next seven years Matt was in and out of hospitals and jail or on the streets. Neither his family nor the system could help him.

“I’d ask him why he wouldn’t use the shelters,” Diane said. “He’d say ‘I’m not a bum.’ But I couldn’t invite him to my house. I have two small children. So I’d give him warm clothes and food instead.”

Last December, the Program for Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) team helped Matt move into Evans House, which opened in 2007 and provides housing and intensive services to 75 formerly homeless men and women. Both PACT and Evans House are run by the Downtown Emergency Service Center.

“This is the first time that my family and I have had hope that he’ll be okay,” said Diane. “He does well at Evans House because he’s treated with respect. He’s got a key to his own place. Equally important, he has the services he needs to stay stable. Last Thanksgiving, we took him back to the Midwest to see our parents for the first time in five years.

“My brother was one person of many out on the street,” Diane continued. “When I worry about him, I worry about all of them. These are all our brothers and sisters. If we’re not taking care of them, then what are we doing?”

This article was written by Rebecca Shapiro, fund development coordinator for the Downtown Emergency Service Center.
Ending homelessness in King County will require the continued efforts of our entire community.

Strong public awareness and understanding of homelessness — and increasing the public’s desire to be part of the solution — are critical to our goal.

In 2007 we obtained new Ten-Year Plan endorsements from Tukwila, Renton and Enumclaw, bringing the total number of endorsing municipalities in King County to 18, encompassing more than 85 percent of the county’s population. Dozens of community and faith organizations are also among our supporters and endorsers.

Thanks to the hard work of a 2007 Leadership Tomorrow project team, we developed a Speakers Bureau to educate the community about homelessness and boost community involvement. In 2007 the team trained speakers and scheduled 48 presentations before community groups, chambers of commerce, Rotary clubs, other service organizations, schools and churches.

Hundreds of community members attend Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Day in Olympia.

*Photo: Washington Low Income Housing Alliance*

We also created a five-minute video to explain the strategies behind — and the importance of — the Ten-Year Plan. Our speakers use it to inspire their audiences. (To view the video, visit www.cehkc.org.)

Led by United Way of King County, the Ten-Year Plan partners held two Community Resource Exchange events in 2007. More than 1,000 homeless individuals received direct services onsite — hair cuts and shaves, foot baths and massages, hot food, clothing and blankets, free long distance phone calls, toiletries and other basic supplies — as well as referrals to community services.

Meanwhile, two well-attended community symposia on “What Faith Communities and Service Organizations Can do to End Homelessness” explored longer-term strategies for helping people to exit homelessness.
Here are some highlights of our 2007 progress implementing our five key strategies.

1. **Prevent Homelessness**
   Our prevention and emergency assistance programs helped nearly 5,000 people avoid homelessness.

2. **Move people rapidly from homelessness to housing**
   We helped more than 3,600 households leave homelessness and added nearly 500 units to our system. By December 31, 2007, we had opened 1,449 units with another 1,411 in the pipeline. While this is only 30 percent of our goal of 9,500 units, it exceeds the entire ten-year plan goals of most major cities.

3. **Increase the efficiency of existing systems**
   Our Homeless Housing Funders Group, which coordinates funding from local governments, housing authorities and philanthropies, is nationally recognized for its effectiveness.
   More than 150 long-term residents of supportive housing programs graduated to more independent housing, freeing up beds for new residents needing intensive services.
   Housing and service providers are coordinating efforts like never before, so they operate more efficiently.

4. **Build public and political will**
   Our Speakers Bureau and video, both new in 2007, educated governments and community organizations across the county.
   Eighteen local cities and hundreds of community organizations have endorsed the plan.
   We received major new investments from the state ($76 million in the 2007 legislative session), King County ($50 million per year from the Mental Health and Chemical Dependency sales tax), and United Way of King County ($25 million campaign to end chronic homelessness launched in 2007), plus substantial new investments from the City of Seattle and several suburban cities.

5. **Measure and Report Progress**
   The first report of our homelessness management information system, Safe Harbors, tracks the progress of homeless individuals and families.
   Our data from innovative projects confirmed that ending homelessness is fiscally prudent ($2.5 million cost reduction from 1811 Eastlake alone.)
   The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation’s Sound Families program issued a report showing that:
   - 1,487 homeless families (4,455 individuals) gained housing;
   - 89 percent of those families found long-term housing; and
   - program participants enjoyed full-time employment rates three times higher than nonparticipants.
A little more than two years ago, we began an ambitious undertaking: The implementation of a comprehensive plan to end homelessness in King County in 10 years.

Many thought that goal impossible. But we are beginning to show that with the right services and supports, we as a community can end homelessness. This report highlights many of those successful efforts.

We are grateful to the state Legislature for making ending homelessness a top priority during the last two sessions. Significant new funding for housing and supportive services is coming in, with additions to the state Housing Trust Fund, short-term assistance funds and the Washington Families Fund.

LOOKING AHEAD

Despite this impressive progress, we face significant challenges. The credit market crisis has dramatically lowered the value of federal tax credit financing — revenue that traditionally provided 50 percent of our project financing. The federal deficit severely limits the prospects of increased federal housing subsidies. An economic downturn has local governments looking at budget cuts. For low-income households, the continuing increases in housing costs, food and fuel put more and more people at risk.

The One Night Count of homeless people in King County shows that more than 8,500 people are living every night without a permanent roof over their heads, and more than 2,600 of those are sleeping on the streets.

We know that, as long as we anticipate these challenges and address them directly, we will continue to create lasting solutions to homelessness, and we will continue to change lives. We celebrate and thank our many partners countywide who, in 2007, helped thousands of people find safe and affordable housing, the services they need, and hope for the future.

Bill Block, Project Director

We are also grateful to United Way of King County for the services and supports its member agencies provide every day, and for its $25 million fundraising campaign dedicated to ending chronic homelessness.

Emergency financial assistance to prevent homelessness will quadruple to nearly $2.5 million through funding from the Veterans and Human Services Levy and the City of Seattle’s Housing Levy. We eagerly await the 2008 implementation of King County’s new, sales tax-funded Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Action Plan so we can improve access to mental health and substance abuse treatment for very vulnerable people.

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2007 COMMITTEE TO END HOMELESSNESS IN KING COUNTY

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Shahla Aly — General Manager/Solutions Delivery, Microsoft Corporation
Scott Barnhart, MD — Medical Director, Harborview Medical Center
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Katie Hong — Interim Director/Pacific Northwest Initiatives, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
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Keith McGlashan — Councilmember, City of Shoreline
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Phil Noble — Councilmember, City of Bellevue
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Sue L. Rahr — Sheriff, King County
Tom Rasmussen — Councilmember, City of Seattle
Norman B. Rice — Former Mayor, City of Seattle
Sheila Sebron — Consumer Advocate
Father Stephen V. Sundborg, S.J. — President, Seattle University
Rev. Robert V. Taylor — Community Leader
John Wise — Mayor, City of Enumclaw

Interagency Council

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Humberto Alvarez — Steering Committee Member, Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness
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Michael Brown — Director/Community Projects, Seattle Foundation
Rev. Sandy Brown — Executive Director, Church Council of Greater Seattle
Tom Carr — City Attorney, City of Seattle
Doreen Cato — Executive Director, First Place
Mark Dalton — Administrator, Washington State Social & Human Services, Belltown CSO
Lynn Davison — Executive Director, Common Ground
Dini Duclos — CEO, Multi-Service Center
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Bill Hallerman — Vice President, Archdiocesan Housing Authority
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Bill Hobson — Executive Director, Downtown Emergency Service Center
Reed Holtgeerts — Director, King County Adult and Juvenile Detention
Katherin Johnson — Manager, Housing and Human Services, City of Kent
Kate Joncas — President, Downtown Seattle Association
Clark Kimerer — Deputy Chief, Seattle Police Department
Paul Lambros — Executive Director, Plymouth Housing Group
Barbara Langdon — Executive Director, Eastside Domestic Violence Program

Emily Leslie — Manager/Human Services, City of Bellevue
Jackie MacLean — Director, King County Community and Human Services
Marilyn Mason-Plunkett — Executive Director, Hopelink
David Okimoto — Vice President/Community Services, United Way of King County
Mario Paredes — Chief Executive Director, Consejo
Randi P. — Representative, Consumer Advisory Council
Adrienne Quinn — Director, Office of Housing, City of Seattle
David Ramsay — City Manager, City of Kirkland
Faith Richie — CEO, Valley Cities Counseling & Consulting
Sue Sherbrooke — CEO, YWCA of Seattle-King County-Snohomish County
Kathleen Southwick — Executive Director, Crisis Clinic
Kris Stadelman — Executive Director, Workforce Development Council of Seattle - King County
Jim Theofelis — Executive Director, Mockingbird Society
Tom Tierney — Executive Director, Seattle Housing Authority
Christine V. — Representative, Consumer Advisory Council

Consumer Advisory Council

Dara C
Nina C
Michael G. Garcia
Jaclyn M
Linda P
Randy P
Bill Perryman
Nancy S
Sheila Sebron
Christine V
Michael VanMieghem
Latrice Leo

For confidentiality reasons, some members have elected to use just their first name or have chosen not to be listed.
TEN-YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS IN KING COUNTY

Municipal Endorsers

- City of Bellevue
- City of Burien
- City of Covington
- City of Enumclaw
- City of Federal Way
- City of Issaquah
- City of Kenmore
- City of Kirkland
- City of Pacific
- City of Redmond
- City of Renton
- City of Sammamish
- City of SeaTac
- City of Seattle
- City of SeaTac
- City of Shoreline
- City of Tukwila
- City of Woodinville
- King County
- Suburban Cities Association

Other Endorsers and Participants

- 24-Seven Ministry Center
- A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH)
- Abu Bakr Mosque
- Al Rahman Musallah
  (American Mercy Services)
- All Saints Episcopal Church
- Alliance of Eastside Agencies
- American Jewish Committee
- Archdiocesan Housing Authority
- Assumption Catholic Church
- Assumption Catholic Parish
- Bethany United Church of Christ
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Parish
- Bothell United Methodist Church
- Building Changes (formerly AIDS Housing of Washington)
- Calvary Lutheran Church
- Capitol Hill Housing
- Catholic Community Services
  King County
- Central Lutheran Church
- Child Care Resources
- Christ the King Catholic Church
- Church Council of Greater Seattle
- Common Ground
- Community Psychiatric Clinic
- Compass Center
- Congregation Beth Shalom
- Congregation Eitz Or
- Congregations for the Homeless
- Council on American-Islamic Relations /CAIR-Seattle Organization
- Crisis Clinic
- Des Moines United Methodist Church
- Downtown Action to Save Housing (DASH)
- Downtown Emergency Service Center
- Downtown Seattle Association
- Eastside Domestic Violence Program
- Eastside Friends Meeting
- Eastside Human Service Providers
- Episcopal Church of the Resurrection
- Evergreen Treatment Services
- Family & Adult Service Center
- Family Services
- Fauntleroy United Church of Christ
- First African Methodist Episcopal Church
- First Congregational Church of Bellevue
- First Evangelical Lutheran Church
- First Place
- First United Methodist Church
- Friends of Youth
- Gethsemane Lutheran Church
- Good Shepherd Baptist Church
- Harborview Medical Center
- Holy Cross Lutheran Church
- Holy Spirit Lutheran Church
- Hopelink
- Housing Resources Group
- International District Housing Alliance
- IMAN Organization
- Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center
- Interfaith Community Church
- Islamic Center of Eastside
- Islamic Center of Shoreline
- Jamiai Muslimim Cham Mosque
- King County Housing Authority
- Kirkland Interfaith Transitions in Housing
- Lake Washington United Methodist Church
- Lake Ridge Lutheran Church
- League of Women Voters
- Microsoft Corporation
- Minority Executive Directors Coalition
- Mockingbird Society
- Mount Zion Baptist Church
- Multi-Service Center
- Neighborhood House
- Newport Presbyterian Church
- North Urban Human Services Alliance
- Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church
- Northshore United Church of Christ
- Ohana Youth Project
- Operation Nightwatch
- Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church
- Overlake Park Presbyterian Church
- Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Methodist Church
- Plymouth Congregational Church
- Plymouth Housing Group
- Public Health – Seattle & King County
- Rainier Beach United Methodist Church

Renton First United Methodist Church
- Sand Point Community United Methodist Church
- Seattle First Baptist Church
- Seattle First United Methodist Church
- Seattle Foundation
- Seattle Housing Authority
- Seattle Mennonite Church
- Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness (SKCH)
- Seattle’s Union Gospel Mission
- SHARE/WHEEL
- Sisters of Providence
- Sojourner Truth Ministries
- Solid Ground
- South King County Forum on Homelessness
- South King County Human Services Forum
- St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church
- St. Andrew’s Housing Group
- St. Brendan Catholic Church
- St. James Cathedral
- St. John United Lutheran Church
- St. John Vianney Parish
- St. Joseph Parish
- St. Louise Church
- St. Luke’s Lutheran Church
- St. Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral
- St. Mary’s Catholic Church
- St. Patrick’s Catholic Church of Seattle
- St. Therese Parish
- Temple Beth Am
- Temple B’nai Torah
- Unitarian Housing Group
- United Way of King County
- University Baptist Church
- University Congregational United Church of Christ
- University District Chamber of Commerce
- University Friends Meeting
- University Lutheran Church
- University Temple United Methodist Church
- University Unitarian Church
- Valley Cities Counseling & Consultation
- Wallingford United Methodist Church
- Washington Low Income Housing Alliance
- Washington State Department of Corrections
- Washington State Department of Social and Health Services
- Wedgewood Community Church
- Woodinville Unitarian Universalist Church
- Woodland Park United Methodist Church
- YWCA of Seattle • King County • Snohomish County