STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS

TEN-YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS IN KING COUNTY

COMMITTEE TO END HOMELESSNESS KING COUNTY

2012 ANNUAL REPORT
LETTER FROM THE GOVERNING BOARD CO-CHAIRS

“Nothing felt so good as the first time I walked into my new apartment and locked the door behind me. I didn’t know what a relief that would be.”

Those words graced the back cover of our Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness. The security of “home,” so often taken for granted, is a luxury out of reach for many in our community.

We have been working to change that. In 2005 we set the ambitious goal of creating 9,500 new units of stable housing. We vowed to bring together partners from across our region to align our investments, connect housing to supportive services, and forge the political will to put “A Roof Over Every Bed in King County.”

As of December 2012, we had reached 57 percent of our goal, funding 5,424 new units of housing. We’ve helped more than 34,000 people exit homelessness, and offered a range of homeless prevention services to another 23,000 people.

Thousands of hands working together have made a difference in tens of thousands of lives. Yet even as we make progress, much work remains – More housing for single adults. More housing for low-income families who are homeless or on the brink of homelessness. More low-barrier housing to give homeless youth a chance to exit homelessness before they become entrenched in systems and services.

Our work has earned notice from others. Delegations from across the nation have come to learn from us. In 2012, we attracted new partners and new funding. Looking ahead, we must continue to build and strengthen our coalitions, our partnerships and our resources.

We remain unwavering in our commitment to creating the long-term solutions that will bring an end to homelessness in King County. Our community is strong, and so must be our resolve. Thank you for being a part of that effort.

Dan Brettler, Car Toys CEO (left)
Dow Constantine, King County Executive (right)

Cover photo by Gretchen Bruce
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Design by Dan Gerl
A Roof Over Every Bed in King County. Many organizations, agencies, governments, and individuals are working to make this goal a reality. All share in the progress to date, and in the work still ahead.

Housing development

378 Number of homeless housing units opened in 2012

5,424 Total number of homeless housing units funded through 2012 (57% of goal)

Preventing homelessness and moving people rapidly into housing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People served in 2012 by program</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(from Safe Harbors)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homelessness Prevention &amp; Rapid Re-Housing</td>
<td>7,881</td>
<td>11,008</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Shelter</td>
<td>11,999</td>
<td>12,501</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transitional Housing *</td>
<td>6,507</td>
<td>5,576</td>
<td>-14%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permanent Housing/Permanent Supportive Housing</td>
<td>5,275</td>
<td>6,254</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service Only Programs</td>
<td>6,113</td>
<td>6,911</td>
<td>13%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Movement to Permanent Housing</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From emergency shelter or transitional housing</td>
<td>3,072</td>
<td>3,004</td>
<td>-2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>From service only programs</td>
<td>930</td>
<td>1,348</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Some transitional housing units were reprogrammed into permanent housing.

Increasing the efficiency of existing systems

- Launched Family Housing Connection, creating a single access point to 80 shelter and housing programs for families facing homelessness.

- Collaborated on a Combined Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), allocating $43 million from seven public and private funders to create and support housing projects across King County.

- Through coordinated entry – prioritizing housing for people with the highest utilization of emergency and criminal justice systems –achieved cost offsets from over $1,400 to as much as $33,125 per person in reduced acute care and incarceration in just the first year in a supported housing program.

- Served the 1,000th household in the Landlord Liaison Project, far surpassing our original goal! By year end, we had placed 1,202 households in market housing, working with 173 landlords representing 342 properties across King County.

- Completed a special task force to explore the unique needs of homeless youth and young adults, in preparation for a plan to end youth/young adult homelessness by 2020, and engaging new planning and funding partners in this effort.

- Brought together countywide stakeholders to identify the needs of single adults in shelter and the barriers they face to achieving stable housing.
Creativity, innovation and the ability to create system change are cornerstones of our Ten Year Plan. By year end 2012, our regional collaboration had funded a total of 5,424 new units, open or in the pipeline - 57 percent of our Ten Year Plan goal.

- 2,259 units for chronically homeless individuals (90% of goal)
- 1,697 units for families (89% of goal)
- 265 units for youth and young adults (88% of our goal)
- 1,203 for non-disabled single adults needing subsidized housing (25% of goal).

It was a year for reflection - assessing previous housing goals for the various populations against the mix of current and pending housing inventory. Comparing local homeless housing inventory with similar sized areas, Seattle/King County is third only to New York and Los Angeles in total homeless housing stock, including shelter, transitional housing and supportive housing.

In 2012, we looked to re-balance investment strategies across all the CEH Investment Priorities. Recognizing that we lag in housing for homeless single adults, we are exploring models to bring units online faster with less cost. For homeless families, we are looking to transform our system towards rapid placement into permanent housing, rather than cycling families through emergency and transitional housing.

Programs that work:

**Mobile Medical Van**

People who are homeless face every-day survival needs, like food and shelter that make linking to medical services challenging. By coming to them, the King County Mobile Medical Program aids in that survival.

Clinics are set up at programs in South King County where homeless people meet, providing outreach, free medical and dental care, and linkages to community services like housing or shelter, mental health and substance abuse treatment, and appointments for follow up care.

In 2012, Mobile Medical served 669 unduplicated homeless individuals (a 37% increase over 2011). They offered 48 dental clinics (a 40% increase over 2012) and helped 20 people obtain dentures. Veterans and Human Services Levy funding paid for a new van to replace the old one.
Housing combined with onsite supportive services has proven to be effective in stabilizing lives and reducing criminal justice and emergency medical contacts and costs, particularly for those homeless persons who have historically made the highest use of those services. These results have been found again and again in “housing first” evaluations conducted by King County and other researchers, locally and nationally.

Thanks to funding from the voter-approved Veterans and Human Services Levy and from United Way, King County and its partners have taken supportive housing one step further: implementing a client care coordination system that prioritizes supportive housing for the highest utilizers and most vulnerable in an effort to create safe housing for them and to reduce use of expensive public services.

In 2012, 456 community referrals were screened for placement into client care designated housing units and of these, 227 met the requirements. By year end, a total of 112 individuals, 15 of whom were veterans, moved into permanent housing, joining the 522 individuals who have been placed in client care designated units since 2009.

A study conducted in 2012 looked at the utilization of public services for the 12 months pre and post housing for the 180 individuals placed in supportive housing in 2011. Of these, 79 percent retained their housing for more than 365 days, greatly reducing the need for shelter. Jail days and hospitalization dropped dramatically.

Reductions in public services were dramatic.

- Sobering admissions declined 88.8 percent from 2,812 to 314 episodes.
- Emergency department admissions declined 66.1 percent from 1,383 to 469 episodes.
- Jail admissions declined 54.1 percent from 220 to 101 episodes.
- Community psychiatric hospital admissions declined 61.5 percent from 52 to 20 episodes.

An estimated $2.8 million in cost offsets was achieved through reduced use of jails, emergency departments, community psychiatric hospitals, sobering, and shelters by individuals housed through Client Care Coordination during the first twelve months post supportive housing entry.
REACHING OUT TO YOUTH
AND YOUNG ADULTS

A new effort with new partners and new resources, 2012 saw the launch of the Homeless Youth and Young Adult Initiative, bringing together more than 100 stakeholders. Private philanthropy, including the Raikes Foundation, Giddens Foundation, Medina Foundation, and United Way of King County together pledged over $3 million to support the initiative over the first three years.

**Primary goals:**
1. Focus on prevention and early intervention.
2. Coordinated engagement and entry to match youth to housing and services based on their individual needs.
3. Coordinated data collection and reporting to measure progress and refine strategies.

King County participated in the Count Us In point-in-time census of homeless youth on May 25, 2012 when volunteers counted 685 unstably housed youth and young adults, ages 13 to 25.

- 408 were counted in shelter or transitional housing programs
- 277 were surveyed at program sites and homeless youth meeting places
  - 81 were homeless (generally consistent with the January 2012 One Night Count)
  - 70 were at imminent loss of housing
  - 126 were uncertain where they would be living in the next 30 days.

Learning more about homeless youth and their needs is a core aim of the initiative. Conflict at home is the primary cause of youth leaving the family home. National studies suggest that most, 80 percent, return home relatively quickly. But being on the streets for any amount of time can be dangerous. A Seattle Police Department study found that 76 percent of unaccompanied minors were approached by either a known gang member or pimp in less than 45 minutes.

**Programs that Work: Project Safe Place**
Launched in 2011 and expanded in 2012, Project Safe Place is a proven prevention and early intervention strategy that seeks to help youth in crisis by establishing local access points designated as “safe places.” Each site offers a place where a runaway can get help from caring people in an environment safe from predators. The program is run by YouthCare, Auburn Youth Resources and Friends of Youth, in partnership with a network of 1,650 partners who have volunteered to be “Safe Place” participants, including King County Metro Transit, the King County Library System, the YMCA of Greater Seattle, United Way, and Compass Housing Alliance. A young person need only ask for help at any participating location or ask any Metro bus driver and within 45 minutes, a Safe Place Coordinator will arrive to provide assistance.
In many ways, Jaclyn Mellon is the face of the Committee to End Homelessness. An active member of the Consumer Advisory Council and the Governing Board, she works at Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets (PSKS), a Seattle day center for homeless youth. Jaclyn is proof positive that supportive programs and systems connections can end youth homelessness.

Homelessness began for Jaclyn at age 12, “squatting” with friends in Spokane, Washington. At age 14, a friend who owed her $6 gave her a wallet, later identified as stolen. Hitchhiking to Seattle to avoid a felony warrant, she landed in the University District where just two days later, she was assaulted. Repeatedly picked up as a runaway, her parents never came to get her and she was released to the streets.

Jaclyn migrated to Capitol Hill where she met Elaine Simons, founder of PSKS. Jaclyn loved the PSKS model of empowerment and advocacy. It was the first time, she says, “that someone told me ‘I matter, I have a story to tell’ and stayed with me to help me tell it.” Through PSKS, Jaclyn connected to treatment, case management, housing and employment, and received a stipend to attend CEH planning meetings. Her contributions are found in the call for service linkages, programs responsive to young people’s developmental needs, and youth involvement in service design.

Overwhelmed by people looking to her for a way off the streets, Jaclyn hitchhiked to California where she slipped into old habits. Pregnant at 19, she returned to Seattle and PSKS. They helped her place her child through open adoption, find housing and reconnect to services.

Another period of stability was followed by another relapse. In jail at age 21, a routine pregnancy test came back positive. She committed to getting clean. “I asked to stay in jail until a treatment bed opened up.” This time, she says, “It clicked.”

Many programs supported her journey to stability: Moms Plus, Perinatal Treatment Services, Drug Court, YWCA Transitions, Kent Youth Shelter, Valley Cities Counseling, Section 8 housing, and PSKS. A full-time PSKC program manager, Jaclyn encourages and supports youth to exit homelessness. And she is a great mom to her daughter, Wednesday.

“You can find help in unlikely places,” she says. “The police sort of looked out for me, the courts quashed my old felony record, and Drug Court Judge [Wesley] Saint Clair kept encouraging me every time I appeared before him with a clean UA.”

“Last year, when he joined the Governing Board, it was cool to see him again and let him know what I’ve accomplished.”
Implementing coordinated entry into housing and supportive services for families represents one of the biggest system change initiatives in King County.

**Family Housing Connection**, launched in April 2012, is operated by Catholic Community Services with investments by King County, United Way of King County, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Building Changes. It is already making a difference.

Prior to coordinated entry, families made an average of 45 calls to multiple agencies to seek help and placement on a shelter wait list. Now, families make one call to 2-1-1, a single access point to over 80 shelter and housing programs. A housing specialist gives each family an individual assessment. With staff fluent in nine languages and available at nine locations, Family Housing Connection streamlines the process by which families access resources.

In the first year, 3,788 families were assessed and 757 placements made into shelter and housing. Data on these families provide insight into the numbers and needs:

- 7% were staying in a place not meant for human habitation (cars, streets, abandoned buildings)
- 56% were couch surfing or doubled up
- 14% were in emergency housing with a shelter/hotel voucher
- 10% were in a rental with no subsidy
- 4% were staying in a hotel without a voucher.

**What we have learned about homeless families in King County:**

- Most (69%) report this is their first time homeless
- Most (53%) have recent positive work history
- Most (64%) can obtain a positive landlord reference
- Most (67%) have never been evicted
- Most (72%) have a high school diploma or more
- Most (76%) report having been a renter or homeowner
- Most (86%) report no criminal history
- Interpreters were needed at 539 appointments, with 34 languages represented.

In November 2012, the program began to prioritize families most at risk due to their current living situation (e.g., in cars or on the streets) rather than “first come first served,” recognizing the need to target limited resources towards the most vulnerable. Rapid re-housing, helping families as quickly as possible toward self-sufficiency, will serve more families.
While we have achieved gains in addressing chronic homelessness, the numbers of low-income homeless single adults remains high. A Single Adult Shelter Task Force was formed to strategize solutions.

In 2012, there were over 1,700 shelter beds available nightly for single adults (more in the winter). The majority (91%) are in Seattle. Over 7,000 single adults access shelter annually. Most stay briefly, using shelter as temporary respite.

A study of 2,502 individuals in shelters found that half stayed 60 days or less. A smaller group, 645 individuals, stayed 180 days or longer. These “long-term stayers” were older, often disabled, and consumed 74 percent of the bed nights.

Three key strategies for homeless single adults emerged:

1. Open the front door to shelter by increasing capacity, particularly outside Seattle and using shelter as a point of engagement.
2. Open the back door to housing by targeting resources to long-term stayers, freeing up shelter beds for others.
3. Increase investments in housing for low-income single adults.

By late 2012, CEH was working to implement the recommendations, increasing winter shelter beds and aligning resources to move long-term stayers into housing. Partners are ramping up efforts in 2013 – setting a target of moving 100 people out of shelter and into housing during 2013 (15% of the 645).

Providing emergency housing...and more

In 2012, the Governing Board directed an expansion of winter shelter, adding 135 more to the nearly 500 annual winter beds. Partners included King County, Salvation Army, Seattle, United Way, Bellevue, Kirkland, Redmond and other eastside cities, Congregations for the Homeless, Sophia Way, North Bend, Snoqualmie Valley Winter Shelter, Kent, Catholic Community Services and Holy Spirit Parish. A letter from the women sheltered to the Parish expressed their thanks.

We thank each of you who took the time to cook a meal, brought towels, soap, blankets...and so many other items. You showed people care. You helped 33 women ages 18 to 76. Thanks to you, 14 women were placed in housing. Women were connected with medical care, mental health services, veterans benefits, jobs and school. You stepped up! You helped women find themselves and their dignity. Thank you!
Looking Ahead

The original Ten Year Plan was a starting point. It brought our community together around shared goals and objectives.

It remains a living document. We have kept the plan alive by reviewing the goals and adjusting our approaches and our priorities to meet new or changing needs.

Exciting efforts are underway to help youth and young adults, families and single adults in shelter. We are grateful for the new partners who stepped up in 2012 to join us, particularly in private philanthropy, faith organizations and our cities.

Our greatest challenge looking ahead is achieving and maintaining the resources needed to build housing and fund the supportive services that help our most vulnerable residents achieve health, stability and self-sufficiency. Since the Great Recession began in 2008, Washington State has cut $11 billion from the state budget, with deep cuts to our social safety net. At the federal level, the Section 8 administrative funding is the lowest in the program’s 38-year history. We must reverse this trend and work with our state and congressional delegations to ensure the necessary funding to get the job done.

One hopeful change on the horizon is health care reform. With the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, as many as 180,000 people living in King County may soon be able to enroll in some form of affordable health care. Some will become eligible for Medicaid, while others will find coverage through the new Health Benefit Exchange. King County will work to educate and enroll residents in October 2013 for coverage that will begin in 2014. Health reform should both ease the burden of medical expenses and increase the availability of preventive care, saving lives and saving money.

Ending homelessness benefits all of society. Our economy and our quality of life are enhanced when children are given the safety of a home to come to after school each day, when at-risk youth are given pathways to healthy and self-sufficient lives, when adults and persons with disabilities have the stability of housing from which to seek and receive health services, and when all people have education and employment opportunities to earn a living wage. As we work to make these ideals reality, we move ever closer to achieving a more fair and just community.
TEN-YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS IN KING COUNTY

Municipal Endorsers
City of Auburn
City of Bellevue
City of Burien
City of Covington
City of Enumclaw
City of Federal Way
City of Issaquah
City of Kenmore
City of Kent
City of Kirkland
City of Lake Forest Park
City of Normandy Park
City of Pacific
City of Redmond
City of Renton
City of Sammamish
City of Seatac
City of Seattle
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
All Saints Episcopal Church
Alliance of Eastside Agencies
American Jewish Committee
Assumption Catholic Church
Bear Creek United Methodist Church
Bethany United Church of Christ
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Blessed Sacrament
Roman Catholic Parish
Bothell United Methodist Church
Building Changes
Calvary Lutheran Church
Capitol Hill Housing
Catholic Community Services
King County
Catholic Housing Services
Central Lutheran Church
Child Care Resources
Christ the King Catholic Church
Church Council of Greater Seattle
Coweb Specialties LLC
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 Presbyterian Church of Bellevue
First United Methodist Church
Friends of Youth
Gethsemane Lutheran Church
Good Shepherd Baptist Church
Habitat for Humanity
Seattle/South King County
Harborview Medical Center
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Holy Spirit Lutheran Church
Hopelink
Housing Development Consortium
Seattle-King County 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
Jamii Muslimin Cham Mosque
King County Housing Authority
Kirkland Interfaith Transitions in Housing
Lake Washington United Methodist Church
Lakeridge Lutheran Church
League of Women Voters
LifeWire
Microsoft Corporation
Millionair Club Charity
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
Path With Art
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 Community Law Center
Seattle First Baptist Church
Seattle First United Methodist Church
Seattle Foundation
Seattle Housing Authority
Seattle Mennonite Church
Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness (SKCCH)
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
Teen Feed
Temple Beth Am
Temple B'nai Torah
Unitarian Housing Group
University of King County
University Baptist Church
University Christian Church
University Congregational United Church of Christ
University District Chamber of Commerce
University Friends Meeting
University Lutheran Church
University Temple
University United Methodist Church
University Unitarian Church
Valley Cities Counseling & Consultation
Vets Edge
Wallington United Methodist Church
Washington Low Income Housing Alliance
Washington State Department of Corrections
Washington State Department of Social and Health Services
Wedgwood Community Church
Wellspring Family Services
Woodinville Unitarian Universalist Church
Woodland Park United Methodist Church
YMCA of Greater Seattle
YouthCare
YWCA of Seattle-King-Snohomish County