NOTE FROM NEW CEH DIRECTOR MARK PUTNAM

My neighbors are both homeless and housed. When my daughter and I walk to the park, we say hello to our neighbors in beautifully landscaped homes as well as to those who live on the street and in vans. Their circumstances are so vastly different, it’s striking. Yet, there are people in communities across King County working compassionately and creatively to provide opportunity for all our neighbors. It’s what inspired me to join the Committee to End Homelessness (CEH) in King County late last year.

Our community has created more housing for the homeless than any Continuum of Care other than New York and Los Angeles. Since 2005, 36,000 people have been moved from homelessness to permanent housing. And yet there are still more than 3,000 people who go to sleep every night without a stable roof over their head.

We can change that. This report demonstrates that we now know so much more about what works to end homelessness, and we’re using that knowledge to move more people from crisis to opportunity than ever before.

Working collectively, CEH is committed to making homelessness in King County rare, of brief duration, and a one-time occurrence.

Everyone has a part to play to make this vision a reality. Please join us.
WHO WE ARE

Formed in 2005, CEH is a growing, strong, and compassionate coalition of stakeholders committed to making homelessness rare, brief, and one time in King County. CEH believes that collectively government, philanthropic organizations, faith-based groups, non-profits, and individual community advocates can make an immediate and lasting impact.
WHO’S HOMELESS IN KING COUNTY?

Families, youth, seniors, immigrants, single adults, veterans... homelessness can affect anyone in our community. Disparities exist, especially for people of color, and we strive to reduce those disparities by tailoring services to meet the needs of each of our homeless neighbors.

Racial distribution
Race and ethnicity treated as separate categories, per HUD regulations

- 54% White
- 32% African American
- 5% Multi-racial
- 5% U.S. Indian/Alaska Native
- 2% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- 3% Asian
- 1% U.S. Indian/Alaska Native
- 1% African American
- 1% Multi-racial

People who identify as Hispanic or Latino

- 11% Hispanic or Latino
- 89% Non-Hispanic or Latino

Gender

- 58% Male
- 42% Female

Veterans

- 15% Veterans
- 85% Non-Veterans

Age distribution*  

- Under 18: 11%
- 18-21: 9%
- 22-25: 12%
- 26-34: 16%
- 35-59: 53%
- 60-74: 10%
- 75-84: <1%
- Over 85: <1%

* Based on head of household age at time of entry

Homelessness disproportionately impacts people of color

- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders: 3 times more likely
- African Americans: 6 times more likely
- Native Americans/Alaska Natives: 7 times more likely

“As one who has been at the table of the Plan to End Homelessness, this is not a dream but an obligation. It’s about giving every man, woman and child the opportunity to have a roof over their head. It’s about building a better community for all.”

– Dan Brettler, CEO Car Toys, Inc, co-chair CEH Governing Board
WHERE ARE OUR HOMELESS NEIGHBORS FROM?

From Federal Way to Shoreline, Maple Valley to Ballard, King County’s homeless population comes from every corner of the County. The people being served in our homelessness system truly are our neighbors – 97 percent come from within Washington State, and 87 percent from King County.

To end homelessness, a regional approach is essential.

These maps show the last known zip code of individuals experiencing homelessness before they entered our homelessness system.
HOW HAS OUR COMMUNITY RESPONDED TO THIS CRISIS?

Through collective action since 2005, CEH dramatically increased the available resources for those experiencing homelessness in King County. We now have the third highest homeless housing stock in the country. This includes 5,686 units of permanent housing with supports funded since 2004, for a total of 7,709 units of permanent housing with supports countywide.

King County’s Continuum of Care (CoC) housing stock ranks third in the nation. Our system includes emergency shelter, transitional housing, Rapid Re-Housing, and permanent housing with supports.

1. New York CoC
2. Los Angeles CoC
3. **King County CoC**
4. District of Columbia CoC
5. Chicago CoC
6. Boston CoC
7. Philadelphia CoC
8. Phoenix / Mesa / Maricopa County CoC
9. San Francisco CoC
10. Miami / Dade County CoC

Through an innovative, nationally recognized approach, CEH prioritizes and aligns federal, state, local, and philanthropic resources. In 2013, approximately $42 million was invested in crisis response strategies to stabilize people currently experiencing homelessness in King County. Another $95.5 million went to sustain formerly homeless individuals in permanent housing, assuring they don’t return to the streets after exiting homelessness.

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OUR STRATEGIC APPROACH AND RESULTS

RARE, BRIEF, ONE-TIME

Under the new leadership of Director Mark Putnam, a strong staff team, and a growing number of organizations and individuals committed to our vision, we will not quit until the experience of homelessness is a rare event in King County, and for anyone who does become homeless, it is a brief and one-time occurrence.

We’ve learned a great deal about what ends homelessness for youth, families, veterans, and chronically homeless adults in King County. We know how to get there, and our determination is strong. Success will take our heads, and our hearts.

“Those who are homeless want to get back on their feet and contribute to society, but that’s difficult to do without safe, reliable housing. To help them make that transition, we will work together as a region – government, business, faith-based organizations and advocates – to develop long-term solutions for men, women and children who are caught in a cycle of homelessness.”

– King County Executive Dow Constantine, co-chair CEH Governing Board
MAKING HOMELESSNESS **RARE IN KING COUNTY**

By any measure, homelessness is much too common in our community. Annually, 9,652 households experience homelessness in King County and were served by our shelters and transitional housing programs. Of these, half were homeless for the first time.

On a single night, in January, more than 3,123 individuals were living outside and another 6,171 individuals were in shelters or transitional housing, per the One Night Count conducted by the Seattle/King County Coalition for the Homeless.

### On a given night (January 24, 2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
<th>Sheltered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3,123</td>
<td>6,171</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**KEY**

- 200 people

### Approach: Divert people from entering shelters

Offering short-term assistance such as conflict resolution with landlords, shared housing options, and financial assistance can divert entry into shelters. Diversion provides options that keep people in their communities—rather than in shelters or on the streets—and reduces long waitlists for housing.

**With Diversion**

- **1 in 3** families will be able to avoid a shelter stay entirely each year through Family Housing Connection

### In a given year (2013)

- **50%** first time experiencing homelessness
- **50%**

### Approach: Prevent youth and young adults from becoming homeless

Youth and young adults often return home to parents or relatives quickly. New and ongoing programs are providing in-home support to families and youths to prevent homelessness. Reuniting homeless youth and young adults with caring adults—and supporting safe, stable relationships—strengthens our communities.

**Re-unification**

- **4 in 10** homeless youth/young adults reported having stayed with their parents or other relatives at some point during the previous 3 months

2014 Count Us In data
MAKING HOMELESSNESS BRIEF IN KING COUNTY

Shortening the length of time families and individuals are homeless reduces trauma and also creates capacity in our crisis response system for others in need. In 2013, households spent an average of 141 days in our crisis response system, far above CEH’s goal of 20 days. For this reason, we are adapting our services to prioritize connecting people with housing as rapidly as possible.

### 2013 Average Length of Stay

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Days</th>
<th>In Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 days</td>
<td>CEH Goal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>141</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Approach: Rapidly Re-House those who become homeless**

Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) moves people from homelessness to housing quickly by providing housing search, move-in costs, employment training, and short term rental assistance.

In King County, we are aggressively expanding this approach:

- **Rapid Re-Housing for families pilot** began in December 2013 and is already showing significant gains.
- **Average length of stays for families**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Days</th>
<th>Emergency Shelter</th>
<th>Rapid Re-Housing Pilot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>139 Days</td>
<td></td>
<td>38 Days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Approach: Move Long-Term Shelter Stayers into permanent housing**

Another strategy prioritizes those that had been “stuck” in shelter the longest for permanent housing placement. Mostly men with a median age of 56, “Long-Term Shelter Stayers” used a majority of our emergency system’s capacity while only making up about a quarter of the total shelter population. This strategy opens up capacity in our shelters for others. In 2013, 85 people who were staying 180 days or more in shelter the year before moved to permanent housing. This freed up at least 15,300 “bed nights” for new shelter users.

**Long-Term Shelter Stayers make up but consume**

- 26% of local shelter users
- 74% of all shelter bed nights
In 2013, 50% of people who became homeless were homeless for the first time. Our goal is to ensure that homelessness is a one-time occurrence, and those we support to move to permanent housing do not become homeless again and return to our crisis response system. Currently 85 percent do not return within 2 years, while 15 percent return to homelessness. This is above CEH’s goal of 5 percent returns to homelessness.

### Approach: Employment training

Through employment programs, people who are or have been homeless can access career counselling and job-training programs that increase their individual skill set and enhance their ability to find gainful employment.

The Aerospace Manufacturing Project (AMP) was developed in 2012 as a pilot project to train veterans for jobs in King County’s aerospace and manufacturing industries.

### Approach: Landlord Liaison Project

The Landlord Liaison Project (LLP) is a partnership among landlords, property managers, participating human services agencies, and homeless people with barriers to accessing permanent housing. Participating landlords agree to apply alternative screening criteria to applicants in exchange for access to a 24-hour call-in line and risk reduction funds. Tenants receive case management for one year to ensure stability.

#### Returns to Homelessness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percent of People</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CEH Goal: 5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Aerospace Manufacturing Project (AMP)

- 85% of those who were homeless became employed
- $21k/year increase in median annual income of the homeless participants

#### LLP

- LLP has partnerships with 201 landlords across King County
- To date, of the 1,768 households that have been housed with LLP’s assistance, 94% have been able to maintain their housing for at least one year

Committee to End Homelessness – King County 2013 Annual Report
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CEH Annual Report

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Committee to End Homelessness – King County 2013 Annual Report
Our progress is only possible with the commitment and compassion of the whole community. Local governments, philanthropic organizations, congregations, businesses, and nonprofits have stepped up to build housing, seed innovative approaches, sustain shelter capacity, host encampments and car campers, and so much more.

It takes an entire community to make homelessness rare, brief, and one-time.

Join us in making homelessness rare, brief and one-time in King County.

Learn more by visiting www.cehkc.org