



SAN DIEGO
HOUSING
COMMISSION

News Release

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CITY OF SAN DIEGO'S EMERGENCY WINTER SHELTER OPENS TODAY FOR MORE THAN 200 MEN AND WOMEN

*San Diego Housing Commission administers program, operated by
the Alpha Project at 16th Street and Newton Avenue*

San Diego, CA—More than 200 homeless men and women will be out of the cold, having found a warm place to sleep at the City of San Diego's Downtown Emergency Winter Shelter for homeless adults. The shelter opens today at 16th and Newton Avenue located on a cul-de-sac.

In addition to the 220 beds, the shelter also offers health care, mental health and substance abuse counseling. Last year, more than 730 men and women were served from the shelter's opening November 21, 2011, through April 2, 2012.

The San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) is administering the temporary shelter for the third consecutive year under a 2010 agreement with the city, while Alpha Project handles the shelter's day-to-day operations.

"We appreciate the City of San Diego taking action to open the emergency winter shelter this year while the year-round housing and services facility Connections Housing Downtown begins to set up operations in January," said Richard C. Gentry, SDHC President & CEO. "We are also grateful to Alpha Project and our other partners who are coming together to operate the shelter and provide resources for homeless men and women, and to UnitedHealthcare for their recent generous donation of \$250,000, which will go toward the costs of the emergency winter shelter."

On July 23, 2012, the San Diego City Council approved SDHC's proposal to administer the downtown emergency winter shelter for 2012-13 winter season as a transition to the opening of Connections Housing Downtown when it became clear this summer the permanent one-stop homeless service center would not be ready in time to open this year.

"I would like to give special thanks to our San Diego City Council and the San Diego Housing Commission for their forward thinking in making the emergency winter shelter possible, as we all prepare to move into Connections Housing Downtown next year," said Bob McElroy the President and CEO of Alpha Project.

Budget for the City's Emergency Winter Shelter for Adults 2012-13:

- Operations: \$402,000
- Shelter construction: \$95,152
- Contingency: \$40,000

On Monday, UnitedHealthcare presented a [\\$250,000 donation](#) to SDHC to support this year's emergency winter shelter program.

UnitedHealthcare already is connected to addressing homeless issues in San Diego. They have provided \$15.1 million in federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit Equity to help build Connections Housing Downtown. The facility is under construction at 1250 Sixth Avenue.

Affirmed Housing Group, an affordable housing developer and co-developer of Connections Housing Downtown, reached out to UnitedHealthcare to request the grant. UnitedHealthcare also worked with Affirmed Housing Group's investment partner, Enterprise Community Investment, Inc., to provide the donation.

The City of San Diego has implemented an emergency winter shelter program for adults every winter since 1987 to assist the homeless during the year's coldest and wettest months.

SDHC also administers the City of San Diego's Homeless Veteran's Emergency Winter Shelter, located in the Midway district at the U.S. Navy SPAWAR facility on 2801½ Sports Arena Blvd. The 150-bed shelter, operated by Veterans Village of San Diego, will open in December.

SDHC Housing Innovations Department oversees the homeless initiatives for the agency. For more information, visit www.sdhc.org.

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