



SAN DIEGO
HOUSING
COMMISSION

News Release

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DONATION STATIONS GIVE SAN DIEGANS AN EASY WAY ‘SHOW YOUR LOVE’ IN THE PARTNERSHIP CAMPAIGN TO END HOMELESSNESS

*Federal housing vouchers from the San Diego Housing Commission
make housing possible; Downtown San Diego Partnership donation stations
support turning a house into a home*

SAN DIEGO, CA—In the spirit of Valentine’s Day, organizations working together to end homelessness in San Diego urged local residents Thursday to “show your love” to the homeless by contributing money at one of the donation stations downtown.

Donations made at the stations that belong to the Downtown San Diego Partnership will help fund “move-in” home kits that once chronically homeless individuals can use to settle into housing made possible by the San Diego Housing Commission.

Red and with the appearance of a parking meter set back from the curb, the donation stations allow passers-by to contribute with coins or credit cards. Eight meters are already operational in downtown San Diego, and a total of 25 will be accepting donations by the end of the year.

A partner in the Downtown San Diego Partnership’s “Campaign to End Homelessness,” SDHC provides the crucial first piece of the process—housing. SDHC has allocated 125 federal housing vouchers that are used to provide housing for the homeless.

“These donation stations are a wonderful complement to the San Diego Housing Commission’s efforts to help the homeless,” SDHC President and CEO Richard C. Gentry said. “The San Diego Housing Commission was one of the first housing agencies in the nation to use federal housing vouchers to provide housing for homeless individuals. One of the first partners we teamed up with was the Downtown San Diego Partnership in its ‘Campaign to End Homelessness.’”

Money received through the new donation stations helps pay for items like furniture, bathroom and kitchen supplies, and other household necessities, said Kris Michell, president and CEO of the Downtown San Diego Partnership.

City Council President Todd Gloria, who has set a goal of eliminating homelessness downtown in the next four years, said collaboration among people and organizations such as the San Diego Housing Commission and the Downtown San Diego Partnership is making “great strides” toward achieving that goal.

“Our success means that people are moving from the streets into housing,” Gloria said. “This is great news, but it’s not always the easiest transition. Funds from these donation stations, which are a project spearheaded by the Downtown San Diego Partnership, are used to purchase supplies to help folks get stabilized in their new home.”

Robin Madaffer, co-chair of the Campaign to End Homelessness, said the donation stations will raise money that will be used “to make houses we find for these folks homes.”

“They need to be homes so that people can get back into society and stay in them and get the services they need,” Madaffer said.

For more information about partnership programs of the San Diego Housing Commission, visit www.sdhc.org.

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