April 15, 2015

On January 28, 2015, the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) and our partners welcomed 1,145 homeless San Diegans to Golden Hall at the San Diego Concourse for the 9th Project Homeless Connect, a one-day resource fair to provide services, information and support for housing needs.

Mayor Kevin Faulconer served as the Honorary Chair and attended the event, which also included: City Council President Sherri Lightner; City Councilmembers Todd Gloria, Mark Kersey, and Chris Cate; and San Diego Fire Chief Javier Mainar.

This report provides a profile about the men and women who attended the event and what we learned from them about the challenges they face.

Project Homeless Connect provides an important opportunity for homeless individuals to begin the process of ending their homelessness and to rebuild their lives. This year, for the first time, a special effort was made to register homeless participants onto a database to obtain permanent supportive housing or receive rapid rehousing financial services.

The majority of participants were single (79 percent), men (59.8 percent), 51 or older (57.7 percent) and unemployed (90.4 percent). Nearly half (45.6 percent) had no cash income of any kind.

At Project Homeless Connect, 456 volunteers and 86 service providers came together to offer free clothing, food, and a variety of services, such as flu shots, dental exams, haircuts, housing assistance information, and identification cards from the State Department of Motor Vehicles.

For the fifth consecutive time, SDHC was the lead organizer for Project Homeless Connect. Major partners were the City of San Diego, Interfaith Shelter Network, Family Health Centers of San Diego and St. Vincent de Paul Village.

The generosity of San Diegans and the participation of our elected officials, local businesses, and the community made a difference in the effort to end homelessness.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Gentry
President & Chief Executive Officer
San Diego Housing Commission
Participant Information

Like many homeless San Diegans at Project Homeless Connect, Janelle – a single mother of a 5-month-old girl and a 2½-year-old boy – was seeking information on affordable housing. Janelle’s income as a grocery store clerk wasn’t enough for both day care and a rent increase at her Single-Room Occupancy rental unit, and she wound up on welfare in transitional housing, without a job.

“I guess there’s no place like home,” said Janelle, her baby in her arms, after she added her name to a database shared by homeless housing providers in San Diego. Homeless for nearly a year, she longs for “a foundation,” a place where “my son would be able to run around, play when he wants.”

Information from Janelle and others seeking housing will be entered into the Coordinated Assessment and Housing Placement (CAHP) System, which was launched in June 2014 under the 25 Cities Initiative to help communities end chronic and Veterans homelessness.

This system allows homeless housing providers to share this information with each other. They use this information to screen homeless individuals for the most appropriate housing options based on who is most in need:

• Homeless San Diegans who have been on the street the longest; and
• The most vulnerable homeless San Diegans, based on their physical or mental health needs.

Faith, a San Diego State University graduate and licensed vocational nurse who had been homeless for nine months, was one of the first in line for Project Homeless Connect, looking to replace a stolen identification card, obtain housing information and get a haircut “so I can present myself in a better way.”

Ruby came from an overnight shelter with her husband Gary and their four children, 6 to 14 years old, seeking help finding an apartment “so we can get on our feet” and return to the labor force.

And James, a Web developer who had been living in a canyon, said he dropped by hoping for leads on a low-income apartment and because, “I just feel like I’m probably missing out on some services that I need to take advantage of,” he said.
These homeless San Diegans were among the 1,145 participants at the 9th Project Homeless Connect who received clothing, haircuts, flu shots, dental screenings, housing and employment counseling, and additional services.

Homeless participants provided information about themselves and their current life circumstances as they registered for the event. Their responses are contained in this report.

Among the 1,145 participants, 40.7 percent said they were living on the streets or some other place not meant for habitation, such as their vehicle or an abandoned building. Another 19.8 percent said they were residing in an emergency shelter; and 11.8 percent were living with family or friends.

Additional characteristics of Project Homeless Connect participants:

- 79 percent were single;
- 14.2 percent were one- or two-parent families with children;
- 56.8 percent were between the ages of 41 to 60;
- 49.4 percent were white; 25.1 percent were black or African-American and 24.4 percent were Hispanic;
- 16.4 percent were military Veterans;
- 60.2 percent had a long-lasting medical condition or disability;
- 49.5 percent said they had a mental health issue, but only two out of three in this group were receiving any mental health treatment;
- 42.3 percent had a physical disability; and
- 27.1 percent lacked a government-issued photo ID card, which gives homeless individuals access to important documents needed to obtain housing and employment.

SDHC’s Homeless Housing Innovations Department compiled the data for this report.

For more information, visit www.sdhc.org.
The 9th Project Homeless Connect Report

1,145 Participants Served
685 Males
447 Females
6 Transgender
7 Did Not Respond

Services Rendered
128 New ID Cards Issued by DMV
80 Flu Shots
600+ Haircuts
19 Dental Exams/Cleanings

456 Registered Volunteers
86 Service Providers
Housing Situation (Where did you sleep last night?)

- **Emergency shelter (including Hotel/Motel paid for with emergency shelter voucher)** - 19.8% (227)
- **Hospital or other residential non-psychiatric medical facility** - .5% (6)
- **Hotel/Motel paid for without emergency shelter voucher** - 2.2% (25)
- **Jail, Prison or juvenile detention facility** - .2% (2)
- **Owned by client, no ongoing subsidy** - 1.0% (11)
- **Owned by client, with ongoing housing subsidy** - .2% (2)
- **Permanent housing for formerly homeless persons** - .9% (10)
- **Place not meant for habitation (including vehicle, abandoned building, bus/train/subway station, airport or anywhere outside)** - 40.7% (466)
- **Rental by client, no ongoing housing subsidy** - 2.6% (30)
- **Rental by client, with federal Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) subsidy** - .2% (2)
- **Rental by client, with federal Grant and Per Diem and Transition in Place programs subsidy** - .3% (3)
- **Rental by client, with other ongoing housing subsidy** - 1.0% (12)
- **Residential project or halfway house with no homeless criteria** - .1% (1)
- **Safe Haven** - 1.0% (11)
- **Staying or living in a family member's room, apartment or house** - 3.8% (44)
- **Staying or living in a friend’s room, apartment or house** - 8% (92)
- **Substance abuse treatment facility or detox center** - .3% (4)
- **Transitional housing for homeless persons (including homeless youth)** - 10.7% (123)
- **Other** - 5.9% (68)
- **No Response** - .5% (6)

*Percentages do not total 100 because of rounding to the nearest tenth.
Last ZIP Code

- City of San Diego (ZIP Code 921xx) - 68.6% (786)
- CA State (Outside City of San Diego) - 18.8% (215)
- Out of State - 8.6% (99)
- No Response - 3.9% (45)

Veterans

- Yes - 16.4% (188)
- No - 82.5% (945)
- No Response - 1.0% (12)

Branch Served
(Out of 188 Veterans)

- Air Force - 1.6% (18)
- Army - 5.6% (64)
- Coast Guard - .1% (1)
- Marines - 3.8% (43)
- National Guard - .3% (3)
- Navy - 4.5% (51)
- No Response - .7% (8)
Gender

- Male - 59.8% (685)
- Female - 39.0% (447)
- Transgendered - .5% (6)
- No Response - .6% (7)

Pregnancy (Out of 447 Females)

- Yes - 1.4% (16)
- No - 37.0% (424)
- No Response - .6% (7)

Age

- 20 & Younger - 0.1% (1)
- 21-30 - 7.7% (88)
- 31-40 - 12.8% (147)
- 41-50 - 19.1% (219)
- 51-60 - 37.7% (432)
- Over 60 - 20.0% (229)
- No Response - 2.5% (29)

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Race

- American Indian/Alaska Native: 2.9% (33)
- Asian: 1.3% (15)
- Black/African-American: 25.1% (287)
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 1.9% (22)
- White: 49.4% (566)
- Other: 15.5% (178)
- No Response: 3.8% (44)

Data reflects U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development guidelines for collecting and reporting demographic information.

Hispanic

- Yes: 24.4% (279)
- No: 69.4% (795)
- No Response: 6.2% (71)

Data reflects U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development guidelines for collecting and reporting demographic information.

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Family Type

- Single - 79.0% (904)
- One-Parent Family w/ Children - 11.3% (129)
- Two-Parent Family w/ Children - 2.9% (33)
- Couple without Children - 4.6% (53)
- Other - 1.4% (16)
- No Response - .9% (10)

Have Minor Children

- Yes - 9.5% (109)
- No - 68.7% (787)
- No Response - 21.7% (249)

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Marital Status

- **Single** - 63.1% (723)
- **Married** - 7.6% (87)
- **Divorced** - 18.9% (216)
- **Separated** - 3.8% (44)
- **Widowed** - 5.2% (60)
- **Co-Habitating** - .7% (8)
- **No Response** - .1% (1)

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Domestic Violence History

- **Yes** - 30.4% (348)
- **No** - 68.4% (783)
- **No Response** - 1.2% (14)

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Cash Income

- Alimony - .3% (4)
- Child Support - .3% (4)
- Employed - 3.0% (34)
- General Assistance - 6.6% (75)
- Pension or Retirement - .8% (9)
- Retirement Income from Social Security - 3.3% (38)
- Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) - 9.6% (110)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) - 20.2% (231)
- CalWORKs - 1.7% (19)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) - 2.4% (27)
- Unemployment Insurance - .3% (4)
- Veterans Affairs (VA) Non-Service Connected Disability Pension - .8% (9)
- VA Service Connected Disability Pension - 1.8% (21)
- Worker’s Compensation - .1% (1)
- Other - 3.2% (37)
- No Cash Income Reported - 45.6% (522)

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Employment Status

- Unemployed - 90.4% (1035)
- Part-Time - 4.2% (48)
- Full-Time - .8% (9)
- Seasonal - .3% (4)
- Student - .1% (1)
- Retired - 2.4% (28)
- Self-Employed - .9% (10)
- No Response - .9% (10)

Non-Cash Benefits

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP – Food Stamps) - 43.8% (501)
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) - .4% (5)
- TANF or CalWORKs Child Care Services - .6% (7)
- Other TANF or CalWORKs Funded Services - .3% (4)
- Federal Housing Choice Voucher - Section 8, Public Housing, or Other Ongoing Rental Assistance - .3% (3)
- Other - 1.1% (13)
- No Non-Cash Benefits Income Reported - 53.4% (612)

Possess Government Photo ID

- Yes - 72.5% (830)
- No - 27.1% (310)
- No Response - .4% (5)

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Physical Healthcare
- Clinic: 52% (595)
- Do Not Go For Care: 13.2% (151)
- Emergency Room: 11.9% (136)
- Hospital: 8.6% (99)
- VA: 7.9% (91)
- Urgent Care: 4.2% (48)
- Other: 2.0% (23)
- No Response: 0.2% (2)

Long-Lasting Medical Conditions
- Yes: 60.2% (689)
- No: 33.6% (385)
- No Response: 6.2% (71)

Mental Health Issues
- Yes: 49.5% (567)
- No: 48.8% (559)
- No Response: 1.7% (19)

Mental Health Treatment
- Yes: 33.3% (381)
- No: 16.2% (185)
- No Response: 0.1% (1)

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Alcohol/Substance Abuse

- Yes - 28.3% (324)
- No - 70.5% (807)
- No Response - 1.2% (14)

Developmental Disability

- Yes - 17.4% (199)
- No - 80.5% (922)
- No Response - 2.1% (24)

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HIV/AIDS Treatment (Out of 39 Respondents)
- Yes - 3.4% (39)
- No - 94.7% (1,084)
- No Response - 1.9% (22)

Physical Disability Treatment (Out of 484 Respondents)
- Yes - 29.0% (332)
- No - 13.2% (151)
- No Response - .1% (1)

Yes - 42.3% (484)
No - 56.4% (646)
No Response - 1.3% (15)

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The San Diego Housing Commission is the lead organizer for Project Homeless Connect.
Our main organizing partners are the City of San Diego, Interfaith Shelter Network, Family Health Centers of San Diego and St. Vincent de Paul Village.

Community Partners & Service Providers - Thank You!

- 2-1-1 San Diego
- 25 Cities
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Alvarado Parkway Institute
- American Catholic Church
- The Association for Community Housing Solutions (TACHS)
- Assurance Wireless
- Bellus Academy
- Barbers
- Stylists
- Budget Mobile Lifeline
- California Department of Motor Vehicles
- California Department of Rehabilitation
- Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego
- Rachel's Women's Center
- Cece's Practical Cuts
- Center for Justice & Social Compassion
- City of San Diego
- Community Catalysts Of California
- Community Research Foundation (CRF)
- Areta Crowell BPSR Center
- Consumer Center for Health Education & Advocacy
- County of San Diego - Animal Services
- County of San Diego - Behavioral Health Services
- County of San Diego/Central Region
- County of San Diego - Department of Child Support Services (DCSS)
- County of San Diego - Health and Human Services Agency (HHSAs)
- Homeless Services
- Downtown Fellowship
- E Study Site
- East County Transitional Living Center
- ElderHelp of San Diego
- Episcopalian Community Services
- Friend to Friend
- Head Start
- Every Woman Counts
- Family Health Centers of San Diego
- Girls Think Tank
- Homeless Advocacy Program
- Interfaith Shelter Network
- James Justus Volunteer Group
- Just Call Us Volunteers
- Legal Aid Society of San Diego
- Logan Family Counseling Center
- Marinello Schools of Beauty
- Mayo's Pillow Project
- Melody’s Mobile Dental Hygiene
- Mental Health Systems
- Courage to Call
- Employment Services
- Serial Inebriate Program
- PAWS
- People Assisting the Homeless (PATH)
- Housing
- Veteran Services
- Point Loma Nazarene University
- Foot Washers
- School of Nursing
- Recovery Innovations of CA
- Salvation Army - Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC)
- San Diego Baby Boomers Meetup
- San Diego County Dental Society
- San Diego Humane Society
- San Diego Reiki
- San Diego Rescue Mission
- San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program
- San Diego Youth Services
- SDHC Rental Assistance
- Serving Seniors
- Silverado Hospice
- Society of the Sacred Heart
- South Bay Community Services
- St. Vincent de Paul Village
- Surelink Lifeline Phone Service
- UCSD - OPS
- STAIR Study
- Union of Pan Asian Communities
- Uplift - The Home Team
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- U.S. Social Security Administration
- Volunteers Village of San Diego
- Volunteers of America
- The Way Back Recovery Home For Men
- YWCA of San Diego County

Food & Beverages
- City of Refuge - 2,500 Bottles of Water and 1,200 Desserts and Beverages
- Einstein Brothers Bagels, Lake Murray - 100 Bagels
- Julie Darling - Bread and Salad
- Just Call Us Volunteers - 1,200 Salads and Bread
- San Diego Rescue Mission - 1,200 Desserts
- Souplantation, La Mesa - 100 Muffins
- Starbucks - 200 Cups of Coffee
- St. Vincent de Paul Village - 1,200 Meals

Information Technology
- Trace3 - Wireless Hardware and Installation

Clothing
- The Gold Diggers - $1,100 Worth of Socks
- Hilltop Baptist Church - 24 Boxes of Clothing
- Mxmission - 20 Boxes of Clothing
- San Diego County Regional Airport Authority - 15 Boxes of Uniform Pants
- Stance - 2,000 Pairs of Socks
- Teague Insurance - 25 Boxes of Clothing

Toiletries
- Downtown Fellowship - 1,000 Hygiene Kits
- PATH - 250 Hygiene Kits
- ResMed - 1,000 Bags for Hygiene Items
- Sunstar Dental - 500 Toothbrushes and 200 Packages of Dental Floss

Additional Services & Donations
- 25 Cities - Donation for ID Cards
- Big Frog - $400 Discount on Volunteer T-Shirts
- Centerplate/Holiday Bowl - 50 Re-usable Bags
- County of San Diego - 260 Flu Vaccines
- Gold Field - Transportation - Passenger Van for Shuttling Veterans to and from Event ($500 Discount)
- Maya's Pillow Project - 36 Pillow Pets for Kids and 100 Pillows
- Melody Swaroop, Dental Hygienist - 40 Cleanings
- Maya's Pillow Project - 36 Pillow Pets for Kids and 100 Pillows
- Melody Swaroop, Dental Hygienist - 40 Cleanings
- PAWS - 80 Bags of Dog Food
- Rumberger Foundation - Foundation Award, $1,500 Cash Donation
- Uplift/Alpha Project - 1,000 Re-usable Bags
- Uptown Cleaners - 1,000 Hangers

Established in 1979, the San Diego Housing Commission provides a variety of award-winning affordable housing programs and services that stimulate the local economy, revitalize neighborhoods, and impact the lives of more than 125,000 individuals in the City of San Diego annually.