I hope you will find these updates informative, and I thank you for your continued support.

Project Homeless Connect

In observance of Housing America Month, we recognize that there are more than 60,000 people living on the streets of the City of San Diego who need our help.

This week, we held a news conference to begin recruiting our volunteer team for the first ever Sustain Homelessness 2011 project Homeless Connect, held on January 5, 2011. The findings are based on 547 surveys.

For the second year, the San Diego Housing Commission is an innovative Sponsor-based voucher program to provide housing for the most vulnerable individuals in the City of San Diego.

Connections Housing Downtown

To further address homelessness, we have combined our expertise, including our experience in project Homeless Connect, to create a one-stop shop with coordinated outreach.

This innovative program will provide 150 interim units of transitional housing for the most vulnerable individuals in San Diego. Connections Housing Downtown will provide job counseling, mental health screening and drug and alcohol treatment— all under one roof.

Home Again Partner

A recent study showed that, over a year-and-a-half, one chronically homeless individual saved our city $5,088 on average in public service costs. The United Way’s Home Again project identified 25 chronically homeless individuals who were frequent users of public resources. The San Diego Housing Commission stepped in to provide Sponsor-based housing vouchers to move these 25 people into more stable living arrangements.

Helping Homeless Veterans

One of the greatest tragedies of homelessness is how our veterans become homeless. If we can help one veteran, we can help 65 percent of San Diego’s homeless veterans.

The San Diego Housing Commission is an placement partner in Veterans Village of San Diego’s largest providers of housing, health and social services for homeless veterans.

In coming months, I will be sharing more news about innovative partnerships and programs at the San Diego Housing Commission. We’re about people.