

# HOUSING HOUSTON'S HEROES

Housing Houston's Heroes is a collaborative workgroup comprised of more than 25 partner organizations. The workgroup began in May 2012 with the goal of housing 100 veterans in 100 days. This group has since worked effectively and compassionately to house more than 3,600 homeless veterans.

**Our community would not be where it is today without their hard work and dedication.**

## PUBLIC PARTNERS

### **City of Houston, Housing & Community Development**

"In the past three years, the City has invested \$102.4 million, much of it from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development toward ending chronic homelessness. Of that total, \$11.4 million was invested for bricks and sticks to add nearly 500 units to our Housing Houston's Heroes initiative. It is extremely gratifying to announce that Houston now has a home for every homeless veteran."

Neal Rackleff, Director

### **Houston Police Department Homeless Outreach Team**

"The Houston Police Department's Homeless Outreach Team is glad to be a part of the city's efforts to reduce the number of veterans living on the street. Homelessness is a complex problem, which requires various strategies and cannot be accomplished by a single organization. All stakeholders must collectively work toward the common goal of the reduction and eventual elimination of veteran homelessness."

Sergeant Steve Wick

### **US Department of Veterans Affairs**

"The Michael E. DeBakey Medical Center (MEDVAMC) is fully committed to working with our community partners to ensure that Veteran homelessness in Houston is rare, short, and non-repeating. MEDVAMC's Healthcare for Homeless Veterans program provides medical and mental care to veterans that help resolve their homelessness. We are proud to provide top quality care to our nation's heroes."

Adam Walmus,  
MEDVAMC Director

### **National League of Cities**

"I am thrilled that Houston has become the next major city to effectively end veteran homelessness in their community. From Salt Lake City to New Orleans, cities across the nation are leading the call to ensure that all veterans have a safe place to call home. The National League of Cities has been the leading national organization supporting the First Lady's Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness. With help from our federal partners, we've proven that veteran homelessness is not an intractable issue."

Ralph Becker, Mayor of Salt Lake City, President of the National League of Cities

### **Houston Housing Authority**

"The data is clear. Together we have changed the path for homeless veterans in Houston and Harris County. Our veterans deserve a good home and the support to keep them in it. I am tremendously proud of the Houston Housing Authority's efforts to honor our commitment to Houston's heroes."

Tory Gunsolley, President & CEO

# NONPROFIT PARTNERS

## **The BEACON**

“The BEACON is honored to be a part of the process that has brought an end to veteran homelessness in Houston. We look forward to building on this success and continuing in this process to identify ways to alleviate all homelessness.”

Charly Weldon,  
Executive Director

## **Career and Recovery Resources, Inc.**

“We are extremely proud to have been a part of this remarkable journey - this comprehensive road to ending veteran homelessness. We thank the Housing Houston’s Heroes team for their untiring efforts to locate homeless veterans and for fighting to ensure our heroes have a place called home.”

Vern Swisher, CEO

## **Catholic Charities**

“Our community has worked diligently to achieve the goal to end veteran homelessness. Catholic Charities is a proud member of the Housing Houston’s Heroes initiative and supports the collaborative work between all of the agencies involved. Through our efforts, the men and women who served in our military will no longer face the barrier of homelessness.”

Cynthia Colbert, President/CEO

## **Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County**

“As the backbone organization for The Way Home, the Coalition for the Homeless is dedicated to advancing the collaboration of 60+ service providers and partners to transform Houston from a community that manages homelessness to one that can end it. Today we are proud to say that every homeless veteran has a housing option available to them.”

Marilyn L. Brown,  
President & CEO

## **CSH**

“More so than in any community in this country, the people of Houston came together to end veteran homelessness. This milestone reflects the countless hours and hard work of those on the ground, who broke down barriers, built new relationships, innovated, and are now ensuring a future where no veteran will ever be shut out from housing or services again.”

Deborah DeSantis,  
CEO and President

## **Horizon Outreach**

“As a United Air Force veteran I am elated that Houston has achieved this great milestone. We have contributed to ending veteran homelessness through outreach and job readiness skills to increase self-sufficiency. In total, we have served more than 800 veterans and their families.”

Katrina Johnson  
Founder/CEO

## **Houston Food Bank**

“The Houston Food Bank is grateful for the opportunity to partner with the Coalition in meeting the nutritional needs of homeless individuals. This is great news about the end of veteran homelessness - everyone deserves a safe place to call ‘home’ and access to services to improve their lives.”

Brian Greene, President/CEO

## **Lone Star Veterans**

“Being a part of the City of Houston/Harris County team to end homelessness for our veterans is one of our most important and proudest partnerships of Lone Star Veterans to date. The work now will be to maintain this success.”

Chuck Bagnato,  
Executive Director

## **SEARCH Homeless Services**

“Houston’s success in effectively ending veteran homelessness is a testament to our community’s will to break through barriers and achieve collective goals. SEARCH is thrilled to be a leader among leaders that’s changing minds and making revolutionary impacts. We CAN have a city without homelessness. Of course we can!”

Thao Costis, President/CEO