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510 Homeless Veterans Housed Since Last Veterans Day

Year One progress on “All the Way Home” Campaign to End Veteran Homelessness

Nov 11, 2016 - Today, Mayor Sam Liccardo and Supervisor Dave Cortese announced progress on “All the Way Home,” the campaign to end veteran homelessness launched last Veterans Day.

All The Way Home, a collaboration with the City of San Jose, Santa Clara County, the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Clara and Destination: Home has set a goal of housing all of the estimated 700 homeless veterans which make up about 10 percent of the 6,556 homeless people living in Santa Clara County.

The last homeless census conducted in 2015 found 703 veterans currently living on the streets and “All the Way Home,” was launched in response to the crisis.

510 homeless veterans have been permanently housed since last Veterans Day, including 264 veterans through Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers. Veterans have also been housed through *Supportive Services to Veterans and their Families* in partnership with local nonprofit veteran programs at Goodwill Silicon Valley, HomeFirst, Sunnyvale Community Services and Veteran’s Resource Center.

In March, the County Board of Supervisors allocated \$500,000 in landlord incentives, \$410,000 of which has been used to provide gratitude payments and security deposits to house 148 veterans and their families. The County is working to make the Landlord Incentives Program a permanent resource to help our most vulnerable homeless populations. In addition, the County increased ongoing funding for supportive housing programs for homeless veterans by \$1,800,000 annually.

In June, the San Jose City Council set aside \$5M to launch a rehabilitation program to landlords. **[SJC we need the update on this please]**

“Today, we can proudly celebrate the significant progress we have made to house homeless veterans. However, we cannot take our foot off the gas or forget the heroes in our community who still need help,” said Mayor Sam Liccardo. “By working together, we will end veterans homelessness in our county by 2018.”

Said Supervisor Cortese, “Santa Clara County is committed to ending this crisis one landlord at a time. No man or woman who has served our country should be homeless in our streets.”

“Increasing the rent payment standard for veterans with vouchers in Santa Clara County has also made a difference,” said Katherine Harasz, Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Clara. “Our community is ending homelessness in partnership with the federal government.”

“All The Way Home has been successful for two reasons: first, we set a collective goal; and then - everyone committed to bringing their resources to the table.” said Jennifer Loving, Executive Director of Destination: Home.

About City of San Jose

San Jose is the third-largest city by population in California, the tenth-largest by population in the United States, and the seat of Santa Clara County. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates the population to be 1,015,785 as of July 2014. It is also known for being a city rich in cultural history and diversity.

About Santa Clara County

The County of Santa Clara has one of the highest standards of living and median incomes in the country, with a wide diversity of cultures, backgrounds and talents. Over 100 languages and dialects are spoken among the County’s 1.8 million residents.

About The Housing Authority of the County of Santa Clara

The Housing Authority provides federal rental assistance to 16,000 families county-wide. The agency also develops and manages affordable rental housing properties. Their programs and properties are targeted to assist low, very low, and extremely low-income households.

About Destination: Home

Destination: Home, a program of The Health Trust, is a public-private partnership that uses collective impact strategies to end homelessness in Santa Clara County.

