



For information contact:

Kyra Kazantzis

Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo

408-535-4828, 408-605-6586 (cell)

Kyra.kazantzis@sanjoseca.gov

Janice Rombeck

Supervisor Dave Cortese, District 3

408-299-5030, 408-803-2095 (cell)

Janice.rombeck@bos.sccgov.org

Over 1,200 Homeless Veterans Housed Since Veterans Day 2015

City, County, Housing Authority Join Together on All the Way Home Campaign

Nov 11, 2018 – Today, San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo and Santa Clara County Supervisor Dave Cortese announced significant progress on All The Way Home, the community-wide campaign to end veteran homelessness led by the City of San Jose, County of Santa Clara, Santa Clara County Housing Authority and Destination: Home.

Since the launch of our campaign in 2015, **1,237 homeless veterans** have been permanently housed, including 636 veterans through federally-supported Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers. Veterans have also been housed through County-funded programs and Supportive Services to Veterans and their Families (SSVF) in partnership with local nonprofit veteran programs at Goodwill Silicon Valley, HomeFirst, Sunnyvale Community Services and Veteran's Resource Center.

While the number of veterans housed in the past three years exceeds the estimated 703 veterans when the campaign was first launched, Santa Clara County has seen a significant and steady inflow of newly homeless veterans over the past three years.

However, **since June 2018, Santa Clara County veterans were housed at a higher rate than the rate of veterans entering into homelessness.** Because of this success, the partners in the All The Way Home campaign agreed to extend the campaign for two more years.

Said Supervisor Cortese, "Santa Clara County is committed to ending this crisis. Local government and local landlords like Nelly Amas, who has housed over 40 veterans, have stepped up to help our homeless veterans. No man or woman who has served our country should be homeless in our streets."

"By collaborating, we've been able to make gains and want to continue the momentum," said Mayor Liccardo. "We must fulfill the moral obligation we have to ensure every veteran has a roof over their head."

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) VASH program allows VA case managers to partner with local homeless veteran programs, and has served as a critical tool in support of the All The Way Home campaign. This year, HUD allocated an additional 140 vouchers for veterans in Santa Clara County, in part due to the campaign being able to fully utilize the vouchers.

“Because we’ve been able to be fully subscribed on our allotted VASH vouchers,” said Katherine Harasz, Executive Director of the Santa Clara County Housing Authority, “we were able to request the federal government for more VASH vouchers for Santa Clara County.”

The All The Way Home campaign actively recruits landlords, apartment owners, corporations and faith-based groups to assist with housing opportunities. Landlords who rent to veterans can qualify for a variety of financial incentives.

For example, the San Jose City Council set aside \$4 million to launch a rehabilitation program that helps landlords improve their properties in exchange for committing to provide new housing for veterans. In addition, the County Board of Supervisors expanded its commitment to landlord incentives, including \$1.16 million over the course of the campaign. These funds have been used to provide gratitude payments and security deposits to house 533 veterans and their families. The County has made the Landlord Incentives Program a permanent resource to help our most vulnerable homeless populations and increased ongoing funding for supportive housing programs for homeless veterans by \$1.8 million annually. Additionally, the City of San Jose is proposing to fund \$1 million for a veteran subsidy program in partnership with the County, which will come before the City Council in December.

This year, the Vermont House in San Jose opened and will host a celebration from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30p.m. on Tuesday, November 13th. Sixteen formerly homeless veterans have moved into the property thanks to a \$3 million grant from the City of San Jose to rehabilitate the homes, and with the help of the VA Palo Alto Health Care system, The Santa Clara County Housing Authority and Abode Services, which manages the property and provides on-site services.

“We’re showing that we can make an impact when we set collective goals,” said Jennifer Loving, Executive Director of Destination: Home. “And while the unfortunate reality is that we will continue to have veterans entering into

homelessness, we will achieve our goal of ensuring that veteran homelessness is rare, brief and non-recurring.”

View the full press kit and 2018 results at

<http://destinationhomesc.org/allthewayhome/>

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 County of Santa Clara

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 is a public-private partnership that uses collective impact strategies to end homelessness in Santa Clara County.