

# HOMELESSNESS IN NEW ORLEANS



## AN UPDATE

March 24, 2011



**UNITY**

OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS

# **UNITY of Greater New Orleans**

**A Collaborative of 63 Agencies Providing Housing and Services to the Homeless**

- ⚙ **Founded in 1992 with assistance from the city, UNITY of Greater New Orleans is a nonprofit organization coordinating community-wide partnerships to reduce homelessness in New Orleans and Jefferson Parish.**
- ⚙ **UNITY raises funds for 48 of its member organizations to provide an array of housing and services for the homeless. It is the HUD-designated lead agency for the homeless Continuum of Care for New Orleans and Jefferson Parish.**
- ⚙ **UNITY collects data on homelessness, assists its organizations to implement nationally proven strategies to reduce homelessness, trains service providers, performs programmatic monitoring and evaluation of its agencies' programs.**
- ⚙ **The UNITY network provides a database of affordable apartments, conducts street and abandoned building outreach, maintains a registry of the community's most vulnerable disabled homeless persons in need of Permanent Supportive Housing, develops supportive housing buildings, and advocates for the homeless.**

# The UNITY Collaborative

- ⊗ **AIDS Law of Louisiana**
- ⊗ **Alternatives Living**
- ⊗ **Armstrong Family Services**
- ⊗ **Baptist Friendship House**
- ⊗ **Belle Reve**
- ⊗ **Bridge House/Grace House**
- ⊗ **Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans**
- ⊗ **City of New Orleans Office of Community Development**
- ⊗ **Collaborative Solutions**
- ⊗ **Community Service Center**
- ⊗ **Covenant House**
- ⊗ **Daughters of Charity**
- ⊗ **Excelth**
- ⊗ **Episcopal Community Services**
- ⊗ **Family Services of Greater New Orleans**
- ⊗ **First Evangelist CDC**
- ⊗ **First Pilgrim Baptist Church**
- ⊗ **Gateway Recovery Systems**
- ⊗ **Goodwill Industries, SELA**
- ⊗ **Gulf Coast Teaching Family Services**
- ⊗ **Harry Thompson Center**
- ⊗ **Healthcare for the Homeless**
- ⊗ **Home Again**
- ⊗ **Hope House**
- ⊗ **House of Esther Ministry**
- ⊗ **House of Ruth**
- ⊗ **Jefferson Parish Community Development**
- ⊗ **Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority**
- ⊗ **Last Hope**
- ⊗ **Liberty House**
- ⊗ **Lindy's Place**
- ⊗ **Living Witness**
- ⊗ **Lovetouch Ministries**
- ⊗ **Loyola Law Clinic**
- ⊗ **McCaleb Educational Fund**
- ⊗ **Metropolitan Battered Women's Program**
- ⊗ **Metropolitan Human Services District**
- ⊗ **National Alliance for the Mentally Ill**
- ⊗ **Ninth Ward Neighborhood Empowerment Network Association**
- ⊗ **New Orleans Council on Aging**
- ⊗ **New Orleans Mission**
- ⊗ **New Orleans Regional AIDS Planning Council**
- ⊗ **New Orleans Public Schools – Homeless Education**
- ⊗ **New Orleans Women's Shelter**
- ⊗ **NO/AIDS Taskforce**
- ⊗ **Odyssey House**
- ⊗ **Ozanam Inn**
- ⊗ **Pillow House for Humanity**
- ⊗ **Pro-Bono Project**
- ⊗ **Project Lazarus**
- ⊗ **Resources for Human Development**
- ⊗ **Responsibility House**
- ⊗ **Salvation Army**
- ⊗ **Southeast Louisiana Legal Services**
- ⊗ **Seven Wonders of God, Inc**
- ⊗ **Shared Housing of New Orleans**
- ⊗ **St. Vincent de Paul**
- ⊗ **Total Community Action**
- ⊗ **Traveler's Aid**
- ⊗ **Tulane Drop In Center**
- ⊗ **Via Link**
- ⊗ **Volunteers of America**
- ⊗ **Waymaker Ministries**

# Homelessness By the Numbers

**51,000**

Rental units in Orleans Parish damaged as a result of Hurricane Katrina and the federal levee failures.

**11,500**

Number of persons meeting the HUD definition of homeless on a given night in 2009 in New Orleans and Jefferson Parish – nearly double the pre-Katrina number of 6,300 (Computations for 2011 are in progress).

**21,585**

Number of homeless persons in New Orleans and Jefferson Parish to whom UNITY and its 63 member organizations provided housing and/or services in 2010. This figure included **3,118** children.

**\$674**

SSI monthly check for a disabled person in Louisiana. There is no state supplement to SSI in Louisiana.

**\$850**

2011 Fair Market Rent (FMR) for 1 bedroom apartment in New Orleans. Pre – Katrina, FMR for a 1 bedroom apartment was \$578.

**47%**

Percentage that rents have increased since Hurricane Katrina.

# Homeless Clients Served in 2010

## by the UNITY Network

<b>3,118</b>	Homeless children
<b>4,285</b>	Young adults (18 – 24 years old)
<b>1,263</b>	People over age 60
<b>5,474</b>	Persons living in abandoned buildings, on the streets, and in cars
<b>6,749</b>	Disabled adults
<b>4,064</b>	Chronically homeless persons

# Homeless Housing Resources in New Orleans and Jefferson Parish

As of January 2010

	# Family Units	# Family Beds	# Single Beds	Total Beds
Emergency Shelter Beds	51	171	432	603
Transitional Housing	201	573	373	946
Safe Haven (For women only)			15	15
Permanent Supportive Housing	157	509	1220	1729
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>3,293</b>

# Housing Performance of UNITY – funded Agencies

<b>Permanent Housing</b>	<b>Percentage of Participants who remained in Permanent Housing for more than six months</b>	<b>HUD Benchmark</b>
	<b>79%</b>	<b>77%</b>

<b>Transitional Housing</b>	<b>Percentage of Participants who moved from Transitional Housing to Permanent Housing</b>	<b>HUD Benchmark</b>
	<b>83%</b>	<b>65%</b>

<b>Employment</b>	<b>Percentage of Participants exited with Employment Income</b>	<b>HUD Benchmark</b>
	<b>40%</b>	<b>20%</b>

# **Solutions to Homelessness: Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)**

- ⊗ Permanent Supportive Housing – affordable rental apartments linked to on-site case management services – ends homelessness for people with disabilities living on the street or in emergency shelters.
- ⊗ In numerous studies, PSH has been proven as cost-effective as compared to the high cost of maintaining people's homelessness (emergency room usage, hospitalization, and criminal justice costs for minor homeless-related offenses).



# Solutions to Homelessness

- ⊗ Rapid Rehousing and Homelessness Prevention – short-term rent assistance and short-term case management services ends and prevents homelessness for families and individuals who do not have serious disabilities. Over 3,200 households have received this type of assistance since December 2007, in partnership with the city, state and federal governments.
- ⊗ Safe Haven – a small (20 person) shelter with semi-private accommodations and intensive services designed for mentally ill persons with co-occurring disorders who are resistant to traditional shelter.
- ⊗ Link emergency shelter and transitional housing to permanent housing outcomes. Emergency shelter and transitional housing are an essential part of the safety net with permanent housing as the measurable outcome.

# Contact Information

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