STREET to HOME

A June 5, 2024 Progress Report On Ending Homelessness

By The Community Task Force To Reduce Street Homelessness, *Bill Hines and Calvin Johnson, Co-Chairs*

For the past 7 years, 60-year-old Johnny Banks lived on the streets of Central City. He said it was terrible.

"I was tired of living like I was living. I knew there had to be better things."

And better things have come for Mr. Banks. He is now living in a brand-new apartment thanks to the hard work of so many people!

UNITY Outreach Social Worker Jeremy Finnegan found Mr. Banks on the street, unkempt and so depressed he had almost stopped talking. Easterseals Louisiana Case Manager Gwen Foster did an awesome job of placing him in a beautiful new apartment complex run by nonprofit Belle Reve and is visiting him regularly to provide him with ongoing supportive services to keep him stably housed and improve his health.

"I've always felt that it's my purpose to help people in general," Gwen said. "To know that I'm a part of changing people's lives just makes me want to continue to do my job even more." Gwen helped Mr. Banks get furniture from the UNITY warehouse, and she got him a cell phone through Ms. Kay at Mission Rebirth. Gwen says Mr. Banks is now much more at peace having a home.

Above: Mr. Banks in his new kitchen.

At right: Easterseals Louisiana Case Manager, Gwen Foster

"I'm 100% now," he said. "I'm much happier, feeling better and looking much better. I love having a roof over my head and enjoy cooking in my kitchen. Really, I just love being able to say 'I'm going home,' because I do actually have a home to go to."

Thank you to all who are part of or have supported UNITY's Unsheltered Homelessness Initiative and have helped make this happen for Mr. Banks.

AN AMBITIOUS GOAL

The UNITY of Greater New Orleans collaborative of agencies plans to end the homelessness of 1140 people in New Orleans and Jefferson Parish between September 2023 and December 2024. We are doing this through the evidence-based practice of finding people apartments and providing rent assistance and home-based services designed to help each person achieve stability.

While we are giving special focus to housing people living on the street, we are also housing families and youth experiencing homelessness, and adults living in homeless shelters or fleeing domestic violence. We will work in partnership with many nonprofits, the Council of People with Lived Experience, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the State of Louisiana, the City of New Orleans, Jefferson Parish Government, the City of Kenner, the VA, Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority, Metropolitan Human Services District, local housing authorities, health care providers, philanthropies, landlords, faith and service groups, business leaders, and many compassionate members of the community.

To keep all our partners informed of our progress, this newsletter will be sent twice a month. If you have questions or would like to get more involved, please contact **frances@unitygno.org**.

OUR PROGRESS TO DATE

Number of People Permanently Housed from the Street
(from September 2023-May 31, 2024)

Number of People Permanently Housed from All Homeless Situations*
(from September 2023-May 31, 2024)

** (street, homeless shelter & fleeing violence)*

743 People Experiencing Homelessness Were Newly Permanently Housed From September 2023-May 31, 2024

312 people moved off the street

- 157 of the 312 people were living in encampments
- 155 of the 312 people were living in other street locations

68 veterans moved off the streets or out of homeless shelters

132 survivors of violence moved off the streets or out of homeless shelters

113 people moved out of homeless shelters

17 youth moved off the streets or out of homeless shelters

101 people in families moved off the streets or out of homeless shelters

UNITY OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS