



Milestones at a Glance



196

Total clients SERVED first three quarters



596

New clients CONTACTED



82%

DID NOT become homeless



64

People RECEIVED shelter



100%

Clients REFERRED to resources



23%

Clients CONNECTED to housing



Quarterly Housing Lexicon

"Housing First" (noun, adjective) - An approach that centers on providing homeless people with housing quickly and then providing services as needed. What differentiates a Housing First approach from other strategies is that there is an immediate and primary focus on helping individuals and families quickly access and sustain permanent housing.

Our Mission

The City of Riverside Housing Authority is dedicated to rebuilding lives through resources promoting self-sufficiency and lifelong connections.

Tiny Homes: A Practical Solution to Homelessness

As homelessness continues to escalate in some of the United States largest and most progressive cities, officials have begun to search for practical solutions to resolve this social and economic challenge. A recent City Council Staff Report stated, "Homelessness in Riverside, as in most American cities, is a complex problem that requires a determined, consistent, and multifaceted menu of solutions." Cities are finding that tiny homes are viable alternative approaches to housing chronically homeless people.

In its efforts to address homelessness in Riverside, policymakers, officials and staff develop and nurture partnerships with the business community, residents, faith-based organizations, non-profit service providers, educational institutions, the development community and landlords. Newfield, New York recently became home for 18 ex-offenders as volunteers and government officials built a village of tiny homes. Appropriately called Second Wind Cottages, each 16 x 20 foot house cost about \$10,000 to build, which was a fraction of what it would have cost to move the homeless men into apartments. With land donated by a local philanthropist, the construction of the 18 cottages was even more affordable with support from local businesses who donated material and supplies, and residents and volunteers who provided labor.



According to the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, more than 3.5 million people experience homelessness in the United States each year. Unfortunately, affordable housing for poor people is scarce and almost non-existent in some cities. For every 100 households of renters in the United States that earn "extremely low income" (30 percent of the median or less), there are only 30 affordable apartments available, according to a 2013 report from the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

In addition to social and community ideals surrounding affordable housing are economic gains which are essential to the growth of cities. So, while tiny homes have not made a significant impact in Riverside yet, the miniature structures are revolutionizing the way advocates and municipalities are moving forward with getting people off the streets and into affordable and safe housing.

Calendar of Events

Fill the Hangers Clothing & Accessories Drive

Homeless Access Center • 2880 Hulen Pl.
Donations Accepted:
Tues. - Thurs. each week • 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Golf Tournament to Benefit the Children

Fairmount Park Golf Course • 2681 Dexter
Saturday, December 10, 2016 • 9 a.m.

Sponsored by

Emilio Ramirez, Deputy Director
Community and Economic
Development Dept.

To register contact Lasha West at
Lwest@riversideca.gov or at 951-826-2305

**All proceeds will be used to purchase
holiday gifts and decorations for children living
in the City of Riverside's Supportive Housing.

Please join us in remembrance of those who
have died from homelessness in Riverside

Homeless Memorial Day

Riverside Access Center • 2880 Hulen Place
Thursday, December 15, 2016 • 5 - 6:30 p.m.

Please bring a pair of socks to donate
to someone in need.

Point in Time Count

Tuesday, January 24, 2017 • 5:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Information collected from the count and
survey is required to continue receiving federal
funding for homeless programs.

Volunteers are needed to count in the 28 cities
throughout Riverside County:

RiversideHomelessCounts.com

Donyielle Holley or Elizabeth Hernandez

Riverside County Point-in-Time Coordinators
RivCoPIT@RiversideDPSS.org or (951) 358-3844

For homeless supportive services
please contact or visit the

Riverside Access Center

2880 Hulen Place • Riverside, CA 92507
(951) 826-2200

HomelessHelp@RiversideCA.gov
Endhomeless.info

The Homeless Outreach Team, Building Bridges to Self-sufficiency:

Matt's Success Story

By Adrian Varela, Homeless Services Outreach Worker

The Outreach Team first met Matt in March 2015. He was first placed in the foster care system at the age of seven. Matt was removed from his parent's legal custody due to their ongoing substance abuse issues, repeated felony arrests and direct ties to dealing drugs.

When he turned 18 years old, Matt decided to leave the foster care system. He began living on the streets in a homeless encampment located only two blocks from the Riverside Homeless Access Center. When the Outreach Team first engaged Matt, his clothes were extremely soiled, torn, tattered and appeared to have not been washed for weeks.

His hands and arms were so heavily covered in dirt it appeared as if he was a mechanic working in a shop all day. Still, Matt was always pleasant to speak with, and would often entertain conversations about help for services. However, he was not ready to make the commitment at the time.

In January 2016 the Outreach Team started to notice a rapid decline in Matt's physical appearance, it was apparent he was using drugs. Many of the individuals in which Matt frequently hung out with expressed deep concern for his personal safety. He was involved with gangs, and had owed several gang members money for drugs.

In March 2016 Matt agreed to sit down with Outreach and discuss some of his ongoing issues. However, he was completely distracted and could not maintain a conversation without scratching at his open sores. When the Outreach Case Manager shared with Matt what he knew about his welfare and safety being in jeopardy; he broke down in tears. It was evident he was physically and emotionally drained. The Case Manager recognized the opportunity to use Matt's stress as a motivator, and asked that he would trust him and the Outreach Team. They reassured Matt that they would help him get sober and provide him with a plan, which could possibly help save his life from the situation he found himself in by participating in criminal addictive behaviors. Matt agreed to enter treatment and was immediately placed into a 30-day rehabilitation program, outside of the city where he would be safe from the retaliation of his gang affiliations.

During Matt's stay in the treatment program, Outreach was able to provide him with a connection to the California Conservation Corps. Here, he would be paid for training while he lived at a conservation camp in one of our many State Parks. After learning all the necessary skills in the conservation trade of his choice, Matt will be provided direct job placement. He is currently finishing school to receive his high school diploma; and he is now certified by the State to move forward in a career as a fire fighter. Matt has already been approved by a local fire house near Lake Tahoe where he will be employed full time.

