February 13, 2018

Message from the President & CEO



President & CEO

With tax season underway, the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) announced a collaborative initiative to help low-income families prepare and file their taxes for free and potentially add up to thousands of dollars to their refund through tax credits.

partnership efforts to address homelessness, including an annual one-day resource fair for homeless San Diegans and the groundbreaking for new permanent housing with supportive services for homeless Veterans.

In addition, I am pleased to share with you recent SDHC

I invite you to read more about these initiatives, as well as additional SDHC activities.

The Free Tax Prep San Diego initiative aims to raise awareness and utilization of Volunteer

SDHC Collaboration - Free Tax Prep San Diego

Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites and Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC) for eligible workers in the San Diego region. SDHC Chairman of the Board Frank Urtasun was joined by U.S. Representative Scott Peters,

California State Senator Toni Atkins, San Diego County Supervisor Greg Cox, San Diego City

Council President Pro Tem Barbara Bry, Bob Annibale, Global Director of Citi Community Development and Inclusive Finance, and me for a news conference to announce Free Tax Prep San Diego.



Force, the San Diego EITC Coalition, and the founding corporate partner Citi Community

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The 12th Project Homeless Connect - Downtown San Diego

Many of the 845 homeless individuals who attended The 12th Project Homeless Connect

Development.

Downtown San Diego made obtaining housing assistance a priority.



Read the News Release

housing programs.

count are anticipated to be released this spring.



Participants were able to access service providers at 90 booths and receive assistance from more than 400 volunteers.

Staff from the programs of SDHC's **HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO** homelessness action plan, as well as the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher rental assistance program, were on-

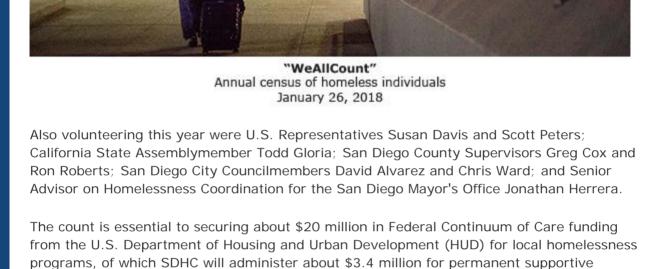
site to offer assistance. Representatives from the Regional Task Force on the Homeless also helped attendees

complete an assessment that is an essential step in identifying housing opportunities.

This is the eighth consecutive time that SDHC was the lead organizer of Project Homeless Connect. Our major organizing partners are the City of San Diego, Father Joe's Villages, Family Health Centers of San Diego, and Interfaith Shelter Network.

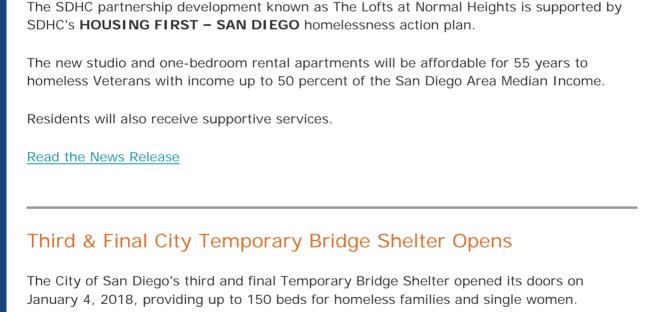
"WeAllCount" - Annual Point-in-Time Count

I was among the hundreds of volunteers who participated in this year's annual Point-in-Time Count of homeless individuals, which took place in the early morning hours of January 26.



Groundbreaking – Apartments to Serve Homeless Veterans The transformation of a vacant lot into 52 new permanent supportive housing units for homeless Veterans is now underway.

The Regional Task Force on the Homeless organizes the annual count. Results from the



The Lofts at Normal Heights Groundbreaking 52 permanent supportive housing units for homeless Veterans January 11, 2018

Temporary Bridge Shelter Opening Up to 150 beds for homeless families and single women January 4, 2018

San Diego Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer, City Councilmember Chris Ward, Father Joe's Villages President & CEO Deacon Jim Vargas and I spoke at a news conference about the opening.

It is one of three Temporary Bridge Shelters that together provide up to 700 beds for

• 16th Street and Newton Avenue: Up to 350 beds for single adults. Operated by Alpha Project. • 2801 ½ Sports Arena Boulevard: Up to 200 beds for Veterans. Operated by Veterans Village of San Diego.

homeless San Diegans. The other two shelters opened in December:

while they await permanent housing placement.

help ensure that the shelters opened as quickly as possible.

I invite your comments.

These shelters align with SDHC's HOUSING FIRST - SAN DIEGO homelessness action plan by providing a safe place to stay - or a "bridge" - for individuals or families who are enrolled in a permanent housing program, but have not yet moved into a permanent unit

SDHC is providing more than \$6.5 million in funding for operations of the three shelters through June 30, 2018. We also invested an additional \$1.1 million toward start-up costs to

- Richard II
- **You Tube**

President & Chief Executive Officer San Diego Housing Commission

Read the News Release

Sincerely,

Richard C. Gentry



SAN DIEGO





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Established in 1979, the San Diego Housing Commission provides a