



SAN DIEGO
HOUSING
COMMISSION

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REPORT PROVIDES PROFILE OF SAN DIEGO'S HOMELESS AS 7TH ANNUAL "PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT" KICKS OFF VOLUNTEER AND DONOR RECRUITMENT DRIVE

*Honorary Co-chairs Mayor Bob Filner, Ms. Bronwyn Ingram and
City Council President Todd Gloria will lead effort*

San Diego, CA—With just 23 days to go before the 2013 [Project Homeless Connect \(PHC\)](#), a [report](#) detailing the profile of participants who are expected to attend was released today.

Data from a survey of 941 homeless San Diegans who participated in last year's one-day resource fair at Golden Hall found more than 70 percent were older adults between the ages of 41 and 70. Eighty-five percent of the participants were unemployed.

Honorary Co-Chairs Mayor Bob Filner, Ms. Bronwyn Ingram and City Council President Todd Gloria are leading this year's volunteer and donation efforts. Speaking today at the City Administration Building, Filner and Gloria urged San Diegans to contribute by donating gently used clothing, and appealed to businesses and organizations to provide needed services such as health and dental screenings, haircuts and food.

"As this report shows, the homeless population in San Diego cuts across all ages, ethnicities and family types," said Richard C. Gentry, SDHC President & CEO. "It also shows many of these individuals are grappling with other serious problems, from medical issues to drug abuse."

Last year's PHC was held January 11, 2012. Among those attending were 112 families with children.

SDHC is the lead organizer for PHC for the third straight year, providing financial support and volunteer recruitment through the agency's website. Other major partners include the Interfaith Shelter Network, Family Health Centers of San Diego, and St. Vincent de Paul Village.

"A variety of services that we don't even think of every day are absolutely necessary," said Mayor Filner. "Whether it's legal help, a haircut, dental assistance – stuff that we take for granted is just a luxury, and to put all of these services together is incredible."

The event is being held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on January 30 in Golden Hall, at the San Diego Concourse.

Council President Gloria, who contributed gloves and a pack of tube socks to a donation bin at the news conference, urged San Diegans to clean out their closets. "You probably have a few items like an old winter coat that you no longer need but that could be very useful to someone who is living on the streets, staying at a shelter, barely making ends meet," Gloria said.

Also making contributions of clothing, blankets and other items were Council President Pro Tem Sherri Lightner, Councilmembers David Alvarez, Marti Emerald, Mark Kersey and Lorie Zapf, San Diego Police Department Assistant Chief Boyd Long and Fire Chief Javier Mainar.

Organizations also are urged to conduct their own donation drives.

According to [the PHC 2012 report](#):

- Males accounted for 67 percent of those served, women 33 percent;
- Non-minorities made-up 45 percent of the population group, followed by African-Americans at 25 percent and Hispanics, 19 percent;
- 13 percent were military veterans;
- 85 percent were unemployed;
- More than 50 percent had medical conditions; and
- Close to 50 percent depended on clinics for healthcare, while nearly 30 percent relied on hospitals;
- More than half said they had medical conditions and 36 percent had mobility limitations.

Also from the report: 44 percent of homeless attendees said they were living on the streets, 13 percent were in an emergency shelter and 12 percent were in transitional housing. The remainder said they were living with family or friends, in a hotel or motel or in some other temporary situation.

Gloria stated PHC also is looking for [volunteers](#) and [service providers](#) who want to make a profound difference in the lives of our most vulnerable San Diegans, homeless adults and families. Volunteers are needed to staff the registration table, escort clients to different stations, provide food service and perform other key tasks. Among services needed are flu shots, dental exams, haircuts, drug counseling and legal aid.

[In demand-items](#) that can be donated include:

- Mini shampoos, soaps and other toiletries
- New socks
- New or gently used shoes
- New toothbrushes and toothpaste
- New or gently used clothing
- Luggage (roller bags)
- Eyeglasses
- Non-perishable foods
- New or gently used blankets and sleeping bags

Additional information on how to volunteer at PHC, donate clothing or provide services is at www.sdhc.org.

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