



SAN DIEGO  
HOUSING  
COMMISSION

# News Release

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## **SAN DIEGO HOUSING COMMISSION ASKS FAMILIES TO MAKE A THANKSGIVING DAY PLEDGE TO VOLUNTEER FOR “PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT”**

*URGENT PLEA FOR VOLUNTEERS, SERVICES AND DONATIONS FROM  
INDIVIDUALS, BUSINESSES & NON-PROFIT GROUPS BY  
PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT PARTNERS*

**San Diego, CA**—As you gather with your family this Thanksgiving Day, make a commitment to assist those without a home by volunteering for Project Homeless Connect, a one-day event in January that provides services and donations to homeless individuals and families in San Diego.

You may sign up at any time to volunteer, including Thanksgiving Day, by accessing the San Diego Housing Commission’s website at [www.sdhc.org](http://www.sdhc.org). and watch today’s news conference video.

“The holiday season is always a time to reflect on the blessings of family and friendship,” said Housing Commission President and CEO Richard Gentry. “It also provides an opportunity to consider how we might help those less fortunate,” he added.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Project Homeless Connect will be held on Wednesday, January 5, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Community Concourse-Golden Hall in downtown San Diego.

Partnering with the Housing Commission on Project Homeless Connect are St. Vincent de Paul Village, the Interfaith Shelter Network, and Family Health Centers of San Diego.

“More than twenty agencies will participate in Project Homeless Connect this year,” remarked Father Joe Carroll, President of Father Joe’s Villages. “I would like to see all San Diegans pitch in and help out on January 5<sup>th</sup>,” he added.

Businesses and organizations are urged to get involved to provide the following critical support services to help the homeless:

<b>Services Needed</b>	
• <b>Housing</b>	• <b>Legal Aid</b>
• <b>Medical</b>	• <b>Substance Abuse Recovery</b>
• <b>Dental</b>	• <b>Food Service/Meals</b>
• <b>Mental Health</b>	• <b>Child Care</b>
• <b>Pastoral Care</b>	• <b>Haircuts</b>
• <b>Veterinary</b>	• <b>IT Services</b>

(MORE)

Also vital to the success of Project Homeless Connect are donations of the following items:

<b>Donations Needed</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mini shampoos, soaps, toothpaste, other toiletries</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Shoes</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Blankets/Sleeping bags</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Toothbrushes</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Socks</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Luggage (roller bags)</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Clothing</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Eyeglasses</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Non-Perishable Foods</b></li> </ul>

Donations can be dropped off at Golden Hall THE DAY BEFORE THE EVENT, TUESDAY, JANUARY 4<sup>TH</sup>, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

“Family Health Centers will provide all on-site medical services the day of the event,” said Tom Stubberud, spokesperson for Family Health Centers of San Diego. “Included are general medical evaluations, flu shots, dental screening, and any necessary triage,” he added.

To make a donation to Project Homeless Connect, please visit the San Diego Housing Commission website at [www.sdhc.org](http://www.sdhc.org).

### **Homelessness in San Diego**

According to the most recent homeless profile compiled by the Regional Task Force on the Homeless, there were an estimated 4,597 homeless persons living in the City of San Diego last winter.

A comprehensive survey during Registry Week two months ago of 737 homeless individuals living on the streets of downtown San Diego, showed 22% (163) were female, 25% (182) are military veterans, 34% (248) were over age 55, and 38% (279) had health conditions associated with a high mortality risk for homeless persons.

*The San Diego Housing Commission is a public agency working to expand affordable housing opportunities in the City of San Diego. Each year, the agency helps 76,000 low-income individuals with affordable housing through award-winning programs that benefit the city's economy and revitalize neighborhoods.*

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