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"Given the amount of injustice in the world, we are committed social activists. Our legacy will carry our values forward by supporting organizations focused on civil rights, the First Amendment, the environment, animal rights and fighting injustice and tyranny."

— John and Sheila Suarez
Centennial Legacy Campaign Members

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Winter 2016

CCFNEWS

HELP US TACKLE L.A.'S HOMELESSNESS EPIDEMIC



"Compassion is a verb."

— Thích Nhất Hạnh

We all want our region to be a place that provides opportunities for each and every one of us to succeed. But a spiraling homeless epidemic threatens that dream for tens of thousands of our neighbors.

As the foundation for Los Angeles County, the California Community Foundation is dedicated to ensuring that all Angelenos have access to the opportunities and services they need to thrive. But we can't do it alone. Foundations, housing developers, businesses, nonprofits, city and county agencies, elected officials and each one of us must work together if we are to find a solution to this crisis.

Study after study shows that combining permanent housing with mental health services and other support is the most effective way to end chronic homelessness. Last year, the City of Los Angeles produced just 300 such homes, and our partners have held back from buying land, seeking approvals and financing the early stages of such developments because of funding uncertainties with local government.

That's why we've granted more than \$1.1 million over three years to expand housing for the most vulnerable, and today we are working with local and national foundation colleagues to secure \$22 million in grants and loans to triple the production of permanent supportive housing in Los Angeles.

The vibrancy, energy and well-being of Los Angeles County rests on the ability of residents to access, pursue and achieve opportunities, allowing them to better contribute to the greater community. And a brighter future for our region depends on people believing they have a stake in that future.

Prosperity is the sense of hope and fulfillment that people contribute to and build together — a community where people connect and share a pursuit of the common good.

Everyone has a role in creating a better Los Angeles County. And together, we can do so.

Sincerely,

Antonia Hernández
PRESIDENT & CEO

Housing works

Last January, more than 5,500 volunteers spread out across the county as part of the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count to tally and survey L.A. residents struggling with homelessness. What they discovered was sobering: from 2013 to 2015, the county’s homeless population jumped more than 12 percent.

The number of homeless men, women and children in Los Angeles is large enough to fill Dodger Stadium. Their stories and backgrounds are as diverse as L.A. itself: former foster youth, senior citizens, veterans and families fleeing domestic violence, just to name a few. This year alone, Los Angeles County will spend \$1 billion caring for our homeless neighbors, with more than half of that going to physical and mental healthcare.

The health effects of homelessness are staggering. A lack of insurance often forces the homeless to forego preventive care and delay seeking help. Marc Trotz, director the L.A. County Department of Health Services’ Housing for Health program, says lack of housing can exacerbate even the most easily treatable conditions.

“If you’re homeless and you’ve been discharged from the hospital, you often don’t have anyone to treat your wounds, change the dressings or help you manage with a broken leg,” Trotz told USC’s *Intersections* blog. “You can’t deal with these conditions properly if you are living on the streets.”

With the City of Los Angeles facing a state of emergency on homelessness, now is the time to act on solutions that work.

The California Community Foundation is dedicated to ensuring that all L.A. residents can live in safety and dignity with the services and opportunities they need to thrive. We believe this not only helps individuals and families succeed, but also



Skid Row Housing Trust’s Robert Navarro (right), leads a monthly class for residents of the Abbey Apartments, a Permanent Supportive Housing development, on making quick, affordable and nutritious meals. The program is funded by CCF.

strengthens our region as a whole. In accordance with our mission to lead positive systemic change in Los Angeles, CCF is focusing attention on increasing the supply of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) units.

Data has proven that PSH is the most effective way to end chronic

homelessness and we believe it should be how the City of Los Angeles invests to effectively combat this crisis. PSH is a cost-effective measure that combines affordable housing with services that help people facing complex challenges to live with stability, autonomy and dignity.

CCF has joined a coalition of foundations, housing developers and lenders to propose a plan to triple the number of PSH units every year in the City of Los Angeles. The proposal – which will be publicly presented in April – calls upon the City of Los Angeles to adopt policies that would accelerate building and dramatically reduce development timelines. CCF is also pooling resources from other foundations to kick-start this production of more PSH units in Los Angeles.

To support these ongoing efforts at combating the homelessness epidemic in our community, please consider donating to CCF’s Home L.A. Fund at calfund.org/homela.

Spotlight on: Robert & Barbara Klein

For donors Robert and Barbara Klein, helping others has always been a priority. “We started in our local schools and with kids’ groups and spread out from there,” Barbara said. “We used a mimeograph machine to reach out on local problems. Today, who even knows what that is?”

Over the years, they were involved in many different causes and organizations, but what drew them all together was a belief that everyone has a right to live in dignity and a responsibility to help those in need. “In this richest of all societies, we cannot tolerate that some of us live without a home, running and potable water and access to food,” Robert said.

It was when Barbara retired, though, that she discovered she could help vulnerable Angelenos in the heart of Skid Row. “I met with Mollie Lowery at Lamp and asked if she needed someone like me,” Barbara said. “Fortunately for me, she said yes.”

Now a merger between Lamp Community and Ocean Park Community Center (OPCC), the organization is dedicated to providing homeless individuals with both housing and services designed to help them become self-sufficient and rejoin the community.

Over her years as a volunteer and board member, Barbara was blown away by the kindness and care displayed by the residents, even as they fought to overcome great struggles.



Perhaps the greatest gift has been seeing their children and grandchildren discover the joy of service. “We set up a fund at CCF, and every year, all of us vote on charities to support,” Robert said. “It’s wonderful to see their different interests and how they’ve learned to give.”

Most important of all, they’ve learned they have a power to make a difference in the lives of those around them. “It’s up to us to volunteer, to vote, to insist on responsiveness and attention to people in need,” Barbara said. “And, of course, tax-deductible donations don’t hurt.”

Robert and Barbara Klein are members of the Centennial Legacy Campaign, which helps donors create a permanent impact on the issues they care about most in Los Angeles County. To learn how you can create your own legacy, visit mylegacy.org.

Unsung Heroes spotlight

“I’ve been doing this kind of work for 45 years now, and I still believe human nature is good. Every day, I learn it’s the truth. I learn from folks who are told they’re nothing. Yet they say, ‘I want a chance, I want to live and I’m grateful.’

As a founder of Lamp Community on Skid Row, I wanted it to be a place with a real sense of community; a place people wanted to come to. Mental health and substance abuse treatment have to become accessible to everyone. Permanent supportive housing is one solution to ending homelessness. It isn’t the only one. But it’s their gateway to a home and getting needed treatment.

I know we’re supposed to think big and mainstream. On the occasions I’ve tried to do that, I’ve realized I’m just about one-on-one, one person, one life, one relationship at a time to make it a better world.”

— Mollie Lowery, Advocate for the Homeless

Mollie Lowery (pictured, left) is one of our 30 Unsung Heroes of Los Angeles County. Read more at calfund.org/laheroes.



Photo by Noé Montes

Did you know?

\$63,808
annual per person
cost to support people
on the street, versus

\$16,913
when in Permanent
Supportive Housing (PSH)

Source: Economic Roundtable