



SEARCH

2017 IMPACT REPORT

THE JOURNEY HOME

DEAR FRIENDS,

Thank you for being a part of SEARCH's important work to achieve our vision of a Houston without homelessness.

As other major U.S. cities struggle with increases in homelessness, **Houston has overcome monumental odds to lower our number by 60 percent since 2011.** While we've been nationally recognized for this progress, the disturbing concentrations of those residing under downtown overpasses have raised local concerns. What has occurred?

Historic improvements to Houston's downtown and Buffalo Bayou have changed our landscape, leaving those who are homeless with fewer places to hide and amplifying their visibility. While Houston successfully housed more than 11,000 people who were homeless over the past six years, many who remain on the street face major complex barriers to being appropriately housed.

Flawed policies and limited resources keep those who are severely ill, have criminal histories, and are without resources and a support system from overcoming these obstacles. We've demonstrated that **the answer to ending homelessness lies in providing housing first, then following up with wrap-around support.** Complementing our partners' offers of food, health care, and housing, SEARCH's skilled teams canvas our city streets to engage people, navigate their complex journeys into homes, and stay by their sides to build lasting recoveries. Only when everyone is in stable homes will our community be complete, safe, and healthy.

Homelessness is a challenge that affects us all. THANK YOU for committing to SEARCH's mission of providing hope, creating opportunity, transforming lives, and helping those who are homeless **navigate their journey home.**



THAO COSTIS
President and CEO

THE JOURNEY HOME

On any given day, more than 3,400 individuals are homeless in Houston. The inability to afford rent, severe health needs, addiction, and lack of a support system all contribute to people losing their way.

In 2017, 4,394 people were helped by SEARCH through services that:



ENGAGE
and Stabilize



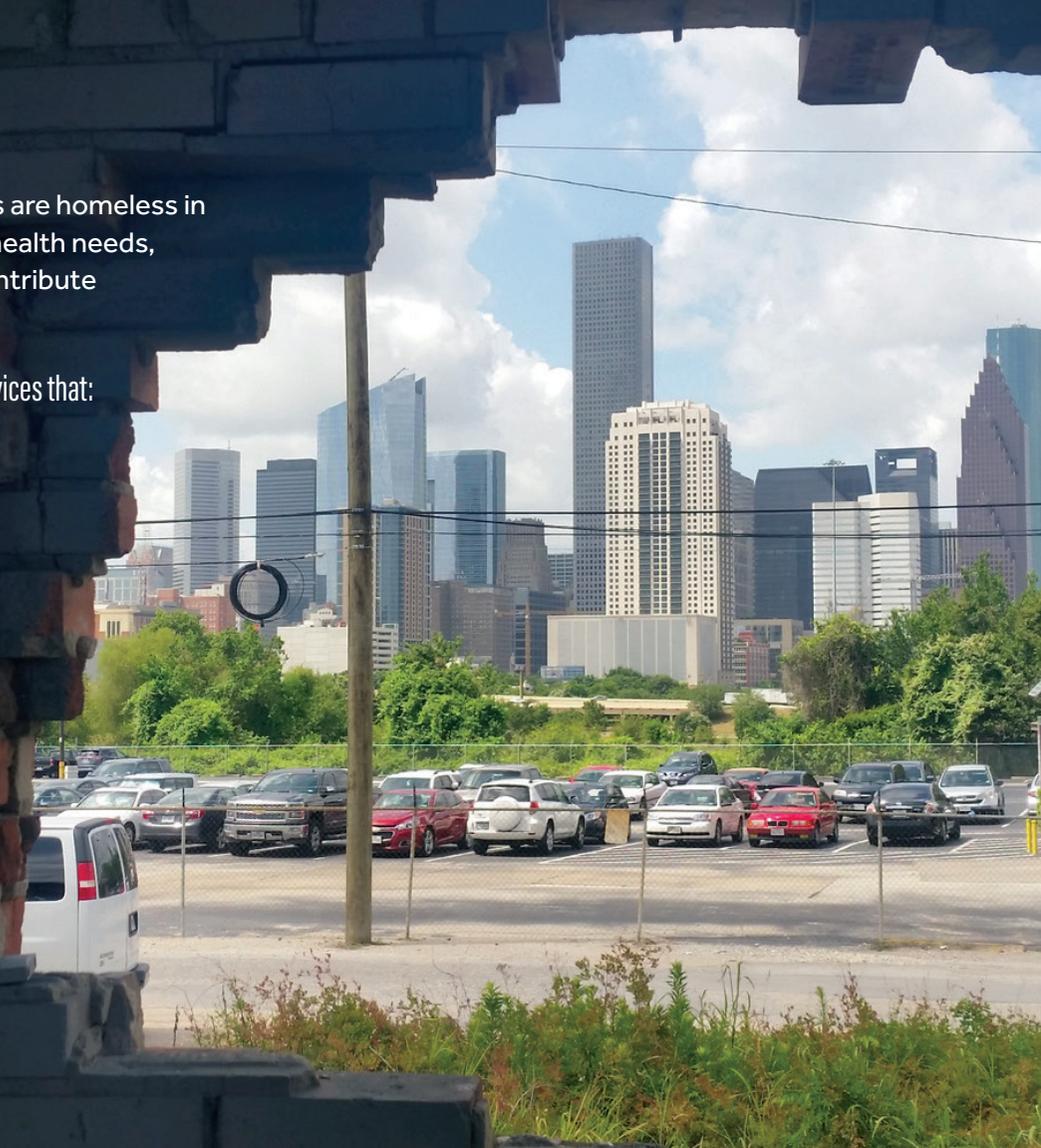
HOUSE
and Build Community



EMPLOY
and Increase Income



EDUCATE
and Break the Cycle
of Homelessness



ENGAGE & STABILIZE

Follow one man's **JOURNEY HOME** after 25 years on the street, prison, and recovery.

At SEARCH, we seek to engage with those who are homeless in a personal and meaningful way.

Every day, our Outreach Team moves throughout the city to help people living on the streets – **people like Wendell.**

Wendell had been homeless for more than 25 years. He never expected to be homeless, but a life of abuse and drug use left him without a home or a job. Upon release from jail for a drug conviction, Wendell connected with SEARCH's Outreach Team and began to turn his life around.

1,237 people helped by
SEARCH's Outreach Team

EMPLOY

At SEARCH, we know that getting people back to work is key to achieving a stable, **self-sufficient life.**

Wendell wanted to work, but because of his drug conviction, every door seemed closed to him. With help from an Employment Counselor at SEARCH, Wendell was able to get a job at Phoenicia Specialty Foods and has proven himself to be an outstanding employee.

539 SEARCH clients
increased their income

HOUSE

At SEARCH, we know that the only way to cure homelessness is with a home. Once in their own home, people can better focus on the future and on stabilizing and rebuilding their lives. Our case managers provide them with the support they need to do that.

Wendell was desperate to get off the streets. He went to the chapel at SEARCH every day to pray for housing. After months of patiently waiting, Wendell was finally approved for housing. Yet he struggled to find a landlord willing to lease to him due to his criminal record.

Four months later, Wendell's dream came true when he was finally able to find an apartment and, with SEARCH's help, **turn it into a home.**

308 SEARCH clients
moved into housing

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Today SEARCH works with more than 600 men and women who've moved into homes after years of living on the streets. Staying indoors, in a new part of town, away from familiar routines all contribute to feeling lost and alone. Now, they need new friends and meaningful activity in their days; they need to connect to something bigger; they need a sense of community.

Congregations and volunteers are vital to this final step of the journey home. Each month, multiple congregations from throughout Houston engage residents in coffee hours, game days, meals, Bible study, and conversation.

Building community together,
we help **create a foundation for the
journey ahead.**





HOUSE OF TINY TREASURES

In the three short years of O'Livia's life, she'd already been in and out of homeless shelters more than anyone ever should. The challenges that faced Katrina, her young single mother, put their lives in constant upheaval. They finally attained the winning combination that would turn their roller coaster lives around – a safe home, job training for mom, and a high-quality school for O'Livia.

At SEARCH's House of Tiny Treasures, O'Livia fell in love with dance class and yoga instruction, and her favorite part of the day is drawing in HTT's art studio. A little behind in her early development, O'Livia has benefited from the speech, art, and play therapies provided at HTT. Mom makes sure that she's at school regularly, a challenge for many families who struggle with poverty. Katrina has been determined in changing the course of their journey. O'Livia will have a much different life; Katrina's going to make sure of it.

148 children attended preschool at the House of Tiny Treasures



At the House of Tiny Treasures preschool, we strive to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness by **changing the journey for the next generation.**

HOUSTON'S JOURNEY

Ten years ago, Houston had one of the largest homeless populations in the country. Today, we have been so successful in reducing our homeless population that Houston has become a model for the rest of the nation. **And SEARCH has been a major contributor to this effort.**

Since 2012, Houston has achieved several major milestones:

60%

reduction in people on the streets and in shelters

75%

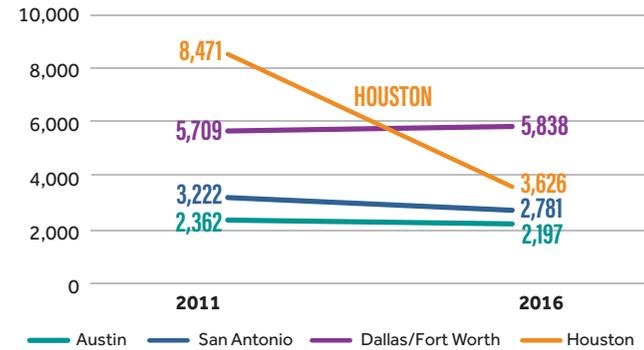
reduction in unsheltered homelessness

11,000+

housed, including **5,769 veterans**

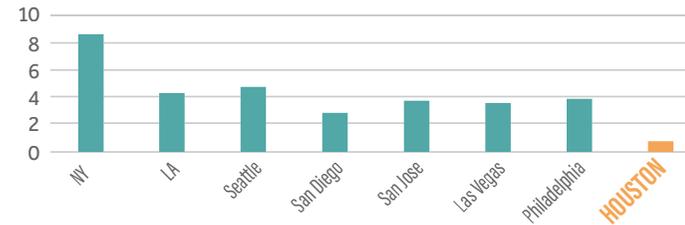
Homeless Populations of Major Texas Cities (2011 - 2016)

Data from US Dept of Housing & Urban Development



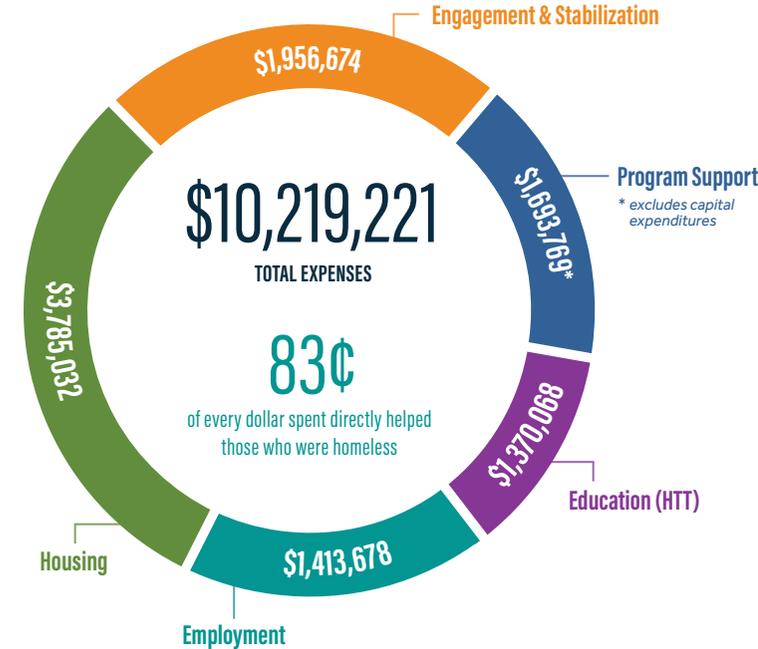
While other major cities in Texas have struggled to reduce their homeless populations, Houston has made tremendous progress.

Homeless Per 1,000 Residents in 2016



Houston is significantly lower than other large U.S. cities, with less than 1 homeless person per every 1,000 residents.

SEARCH BY THE NUMBERS



1,357
Donors

650+
Volunteers

125
SEARCH Employees





SEARCH

For a Houston without Homelessness



Since 1989, SEARCH Homeless Services has pursued a mission of providing hope, creating opportunity, and transforming lives. We bring this mission to life every day by ensuring that our clients obtain permanent housing, increase their income, improve their health, and ultimately regain their independence. We maintain a vision of a Houston without homelessness.

PROVIDING HOPE | CREATING OPPORTUNITY | TRANSFORMING LIVES

2015 Congress Avenue Houston, Texas 77002 713.739.7752

SEARCHhomeless.org

Board of Directors

Jonathan Brinsden, *Chairman*
Thao Costis, *President and CEO*
Shelly Cyprus, *Founder and Chairman Emeritus*

Bill Braun
Homer Carrillo
Stephen Dabney
Monica Fulton

Steven Graubart
Brett Hamilton
Chris Hanslik
Wendi Hay

Steve Jackson
Chip Johnson
Cindy Marion
Ron Messner

Meredith Mouer
Amy Pierce
Shavonnah R. Schreiber
Farid Virani

Community Advisory Board

Shirley Allen
Mark Breidenbach
Jason Cansler

Pete Dillett
George Gerachis
Kerry Gerachis

Dan Hamilton
TJ Hoffman
Lee Jourdan

Robin Klaes
Pam Lovett
Mark Nelson

Doug Parker
Richelle Rosenbaum
David Ruiz

Bentley Sanford
Sydney Shellebarger
Bert Tabor

Mark Tackley-Goodman
Ann Taylor
Jacob Umbriaco