



SEARCH

For a Houston without Homelessness

2016 Impact Report

SEARCH BY THE NUMBERS



Dear Friends,

It's been an amazing year of progress for our community, our clients, and SEARCH as we continue our work **for a Houston without homelessness**. Today, SEARCH's teams are disbursed throughout the city working from 16 different sites to serve our clients wherever they are and to help them move faster from the streets into housing, jobs, and independence.



While our successes show in the numbers of people who are no longer homeless and in the numbers of this Impact Report, at the end of the day, it's about the lives of the people we've touched—people like Sheryl.

Petite, almost waif-like, Sheryl led the life of a typical suburban wife and mother. However, the grief of losing two children caused a major breakdown and prompted her to leave the life that she could no longer bear. With years of rough living on the streets,

Sheryl developed multiple illnesses and recently passed away at the age of 59. Before her death, SEARCH helped Sheryl move into a cozy apartment and reconnect with her grown daughters and grandchildren. She befriended neighbors who cherished her winning smile and sweet, caring ways. While Sheryl's life ended too soon, she died in the comfort and safety of her own home, surrounded by people who loved, cared for, and memorialized her. She was relevant. She was not forgotten, which is one of our clients' worst fears.

Heart-wrenching and heartwarming stories like Sheryl's are reminders of why your involvement is critical to our mission and success. Please continue to be a part of providing hope, creating opportunity, and transforming lives.

With deep appreciation,

THAO COSTIS
President and CEO



When you help one person,
you truly do help change
the world.

WENDI HAY
former SEARCH client

Can we achieve our vision of a Houston without Homelessness?

OF COURSE WE CAN

Thanks to the generous support of our community, SEARCH opened two new facilities this year. Under the leadership of campaign Chair, Doug Foshee, and committee members, Bill Boyar, Larry Heard, and John Knox, Jr., SEARCH completed a \$16.5 million capital campaign.

In June 2016, SEARCH moved into its striking new headquarters that will allow us to better serve our clients and help more people move from the streets into jobs and safe, stable homes of their own.

In September 2016, SEARCH opened its second House of Tiny Treasures preschool in Houston's historic Third Ward, tripling our capacity to 104 students and allowing us to help more children and families break the cycle of poverty and homelessness.

We would like to express our
deepest gratitude to everyone who helped
to make this possible!



The Foshee Family House of Tiny Treasures
2323 Francis Street

SEARCH Employment Services & Care Hub
2015 Congress Avenue

THE WAY HOME

Changing the Path for Houston's Homeless

The Way Home is Houston's collaborative action plan to end homelessness in our community. SEARCH is proud to be a major part of The Way Home.

Community Progress

Through the efforts of SEARCH and our community partners, we have helped thousands of homeless individuals find their *way home*.

 **57%** reduction in overall homelessness since 2011

Number of people experiencing homelessness



4,819

veterans housed since 2012

Together, we've effectively ended veteran homelessness in Houston. ✓

SEARCH HOMELESS SERVICES

For a Houston without Homelessness

Since 1989, SEARCH Homeless Services has pursued a mission of providing hope, creating opportunity, and transforming lives for the thousands of individuals experiencing homelessness in our community. We bring this mission to life every day by connecting men, women, and children not only with housing and employment, but with the targeted resources and wrap-around support they need to remain stably housed and regain self-sufficiency.

Our work is focused on three primary groups:



The Chronically Homeless



The Employable



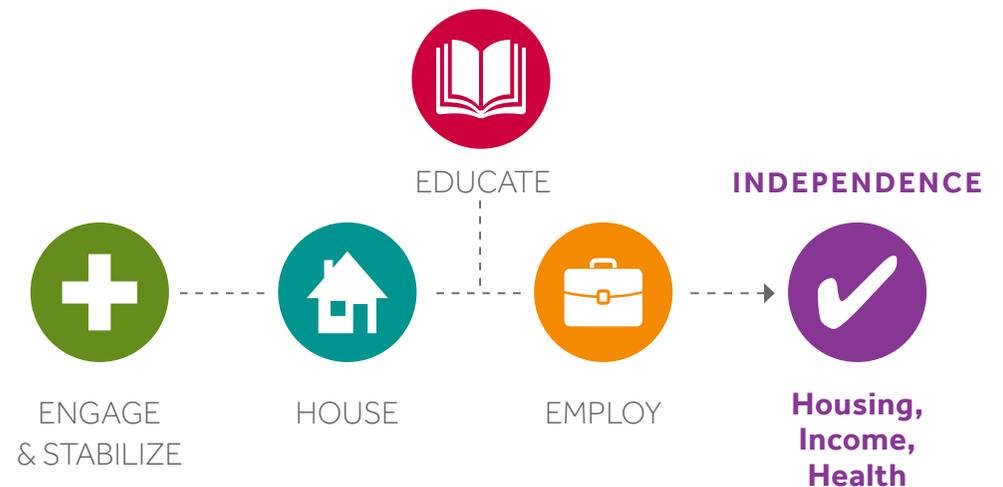
The Young Children

The Cost of Homelessness

Homeless	\$90,000	Cost of someone living on the street <i>(including public services, emergency rooms, jail)</i>
Housed	-\$55,000	Cost to house a homeless person <i>(including rent, healthcare, support services)</i>
Savings	\$35,000	Savings per person by moving someone from the street into housing
	x 2,500	Approximate number of disabled, homeless individuals
Total	\$87 million	Total annual savings

SEARCH'S Model

Our effectiveness lies in the way we treat our clients with dignity and respect and how we guide them in the direction of positive change.



ENGAGEMENT + STABILIZATION

Engaging the Most Vulnerable

At SEARCH, we dream of a day when no one must sleep on the street, and we are working to make this dream a reality.

SEARCH's Outreach Teams travel throughout Houston providing on-the-spot assistance to people living on the streets. Armed with food, water, clothing, and blankets, they offer an important lifeline to the city's most vulnerable individuals. Once connected to SEARCH, other team members match them to the housing and support they need to stabilize their lives and exit homelessness.



4,532
clients served

A single mother at only 19 years old, Keina's troubles started when her family lost their home in Hurricane Katrina. Eventually placed into the custody of Child Protective Services, Keina found herself homeless again after aging out of the foster care system.

Keina was living at a shelter when she found SEARCH. Struggling with a learning disability, Keina relied heavily on SEARCH to help navigate the complex and overwhelming process of obtaining housing.



Now in a home of her own, Keina is working to graduate high school and provide a better life for herself and her 4-month-old son.

EMPLOYMENT

Creating Opportunity Through Jobs

Increasing income is one of SEARCH's key goals in order to help homeless individuals and families regain their independence.

SEARCH is preparing people to get back to work and back on their feet. We offer job readiness assessments, skills training, employment placement assistance, and individualized case management with a skilled employment counselor.



35%

of homeless people report job loss as the cause of their homelessness.



549

SEARCH clients increased their income.

Saundra had it all – a well-paying job, a home of her own, good friends, and a family with whom she was close. Four years ago, she lost it all to alcoholism. Living in a homeless shelter, she felt depressed, hopeless, and alone . . . until she found SEARCH.

With hard work and determination, Saundra got a job as a certified flagger for a local traffic control company. SEARCH helped her realize her dream of getting back to work and into her own home again. Today, Saundra supervises 51 flaggers, continues to be sober after four years, and remains a woman of deep faith.

Saundra's greatest joy is the reconnection with her daughter and granddaughter after many years apart and knowing how proud they are of her.



HOUSING

Providing Hope Through Housing

Imagine trying to turn your life around without a place to call home.

We know that our clients need a home as a starting point to stabilize their lives. That is why SEARCH follows a Housing First approach, especially with the men and women who are disabled and have been on the street for years. We first place our clients in a home of their own and then provide ongoing support and guidance to help them increase their income, improve their health, and develop a new way to live and thrive.



402

SEARCH clients moved from the streets into a home of their own.



520

SEARCH clients in housing that we work with on an ongoing basis.



159

SEARCH clients graduated from our program and are living independently.



When Byron was released from jail for the tenth time in as many years, he was homeless as he had been other times before. Byron was ready for change and applied for housing through SEARCH's jail diversion program. He stayed on the streets near SEARCH so he could be close to his case manager and check in several times every week. Four months later, Byron moved into his new home.

When Byron's case manager asked how he had stayed clean and sober, out of trouble, and out of jail while waiting for housing, Byron said,



Housing First—Because the only way to cure homelessness is with a HOME.

“Ms. Divya, you are working so hard for me. I was a nobody. Nobody ever called me by my name. No one cared for me the way you did. So how can I possibly let you down?”

THE HOUSE OF TINY TREASURES

Transforming Lives through Education

At SEARCH, we know that breaking the cycle of poverty and homelessness begins with the children.



SEARCH's House of Tiny Treasures is a nationally accredited preschool dedicated to serving children of families who are homeless or at great risk of becoming so.

The House of Tiny Treasures provides a full-day, year-round early childhood education program to prepare our young students to succeed in school and in life. While the children are being cared for at the House of Tiny Treasures, their parents can go back to school or work and turn their lives around.



30%

of children enrolled need art, speech, and play therapy to address their traumas and developmental needs.



104

children will benefit from attending the House of Tiny Treasures.



2
YEARS

Without proper interventions, children of poverty will enter kindergarten up to two years behind their more advantaged peers.

Fleeing an abusive relationship, Wendi found herself homeless with four young girls. Battling severe mental illness and trying to cope, Wendi felt lost, alone, and hopeless. Then she found SEARCH and the House of Tiny Treasures. With her three youngest girls enrolled at the House of Tiny Treasures, Wendi was able to take the steps she needed to turn their lives around.

Wendi recently celebrated her first year of living completely independently. She attends the University of Houston on a full academic scholarship for a degree in business management while also working as a supervisor at a large successful company. Accomplished artists, her precious girls are excelling in the Gifted and Talented program at their school, making straight A's, and are very happy.



“While I had experienced a lifetime of decline, it was the help and care of organizations such as SEARCH that started me back on the right path. I needed someone to care; I needed someone to say, it's okay to fall down because we are here to help you back up. I would have never made it without SEARCH and the House of Tiny Treasures.”

FINANCIALS

\$9,238,628

Total Expenses

Program Expenses

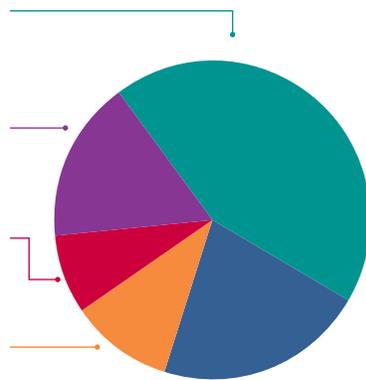
HOUSING
\$3,291,675

ENGAGEMENT
\$1,267,760

STABILIZATION
\$622,627

EDUCATION
\$801,173

EMPLOYMENT
\$1,644,652



\$7,627,887

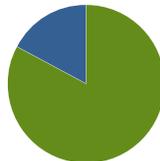
Total Program Expenses

Program Support

\$1,610,741

Total Program Support

83 cents of every dollar spent directly helps those who are homeless.



DONORS + VOLUNTEERS

YOU, our dedicated donors and volunteers, make this vitally important work possible!

We are deeply grateful for your loyal support and involvement and the tremendous impact you have made on the lives of those we serve. By being part of the SEARCH family, you provide hope, create opportunity, and transform lives every day.

THANK YOU!



1,366

donors



500+

volunteers

Thank you for being our partner in this life-changing work. If you are interested in donating or volunteering, please contact the Development Office at 713.276.3065 or visit us online at

SEARCHhomeless.org





SEARCH

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jonathan Brinsden, *Chairman*

Thao Costis, *President and CEO*

Shelly Cyprus, *Founder and Chairman Emeritus*

Bill Boyar

Wendi Hay

Ron Messner

Bill Braun

Art Huffman

Meredith Mouer

Homer Carrillo

Steve Jackson

Donna Phillips

Monica Fulton

Chip Johnson

Amy Pierce

Steven Graubart

Gregg Lynch

Twaunette Sharpe

Chris Hanslik

Cindy Marion

Farid Virani

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

