



June 2017 SEARCH Newsletter

SEARCH Success Story: John Long

John Long had been homeless for over 26 years. After being incarcerated for drunk driving, he was left with nothing. Upon his release from prison, he took a bus to Houston and found himself homeless and alone. He built an encampment, cared for his 8 cats, and collected cans for money. While it wasn't an ideal situation, it was home and so he refused housing assistance from many agencies. In 2009, his encampment was torn down, and he was left with nothing yet again.

At 69 years of age, Mr. Long realized that he finally needed some help and was ready to "go inside." Mr. Long reached out to the HPD Homeless Outreach Team and was referred to SEARCH. His case managers at SEARCH, in collaboration with our community partners, helped Mr. Long navigate the complex and often overwhelming process of applying for, obtaining, and moving into permanent housing. In less than a month's time, Mr. Long was able to move into an apartment of his own.



Mr. Long admits that it has been an adjustment to live in a home after so many years of living on the streets. He is finding new ways to stay busy and productive and is grateful that he will never again have to sleep in the rain.

Houston Achieves a 60% Reduction in Homelessness

In January, the Coalition for the Homeless conducted its annual point-in-time count to determine how many people were experiencing homelessness in Harris, Houston, and Fort Bend counties. The results of the count, released last month, show a continued six-year downward trend and **an incredible 60% reduction in overall homelessness since 2011**. This tremendous progress is due to the cumulative efforts of The Way Home, an ambitious community-wide effort to end homelessness in Houston. Through The Way Home, homeless service providers, public agencies, and philanthropic leaders have collaborated with the shared goal of achieving a Houston without homelessness. According to the 2017 count:

- There were approximately 3,412 individuals (sheltered and unsheltered) experiencing homelessness in the Greater Houston area on that given night, down from 8,538 in 2011.
- Chronic homelessness has decreased by 82% since 2011.
- Unsheltered homelessness has decreased by 75% since 2011.

- 39% of unsheltered homeless individuals had a high school diploma or GED, and 21% had some college or a college degree or higher.

The Way Home follows a Housing First approach and focuses on providing permanent housing with supportive services as the key to solving homelessness. The results of this year's count demonstrate the effectiveness of this approach. SEARCH is proud to play a leading role in The Way Home.



**Save the Date for our
9th Annual Picnic in the
Park!**

honoring

Robin & Danny Klaes

Macy's

chaired by

Denise & Robert Leisten

Tammy & Kim Norman

Thursday, November 2, 2017

6 – 9 PM · Levy Park

Join us for a fun filled night under the stars with a live band, raffle, complimentary beer and wine, and light bites from 20 of Houston's premier restaurants. It's a night you won't want to miss!

To register, please visit our [website](#).

Please contact Julianne Hickey at jhickey@searchhomeless.org

or 713-276-3055 with any questions.

SEARCH YPG Happy Hour

Join us at our happy hour for young professionals!
We will discuss volunteer opportunities, special events,
and other ways to get involved with SEARCH.

Thursday, June 22

5 – 7 PM · MKT Bar at Phoenicia

1001 Austin Street

Questions? Contact Julianne Hickey at
jhickey@searchhomeless.org or 713-276-3055



It's Summer at the House of Tiny Treasures!

Thank you to our volunteers who will be helping at our summer Splash Day at HTT! They are already a HUGE hit with our students. A special thanks to Chevron for kicking off the summer with the first Splash Day!

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