



**At 54, John was homeless and seriously ill, fighting a battle—terminal cancer**—that cannot be prolonged, let alone won, without the stability of housing. John was also ready to start a new life with his partner, Katana, and their chihuahua, Hikaru.

John, Katana and Hikaru engaged for more than a year with staff and services at Catholic Charities, the Murphy Center, and elsewhere—and received a Housing Choice Voucher in late 2017. HFI helped the couple locate a unit, and the family moved into their new home in December 2017.

Now a year later, challenges remain. But the couple remains housed, together, and grateful for the little things. For Katana: the chance to get out of the elements. For John, something simpler: a place to rest.

**We know what to do.**

**We know how to do it.**

**Together we will make homelessness rare, short-lived and non-recurring.**

**For more information:**

[homeward2020.org/resources](http://homeward2020.org/resources)



# Homelessness

## Solutions

### Community Forum

Monday, May 13  
6 – 8 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church  
531 S College Ave.



PREVENT



SHELTER



HOUSE



## PREVENTION

Avoid homelessness by identifying those at-risk and providing tailored supportive interventions to preempt housing crisis. Entering emergency shelter is the last resort.

### Approaches

- Early intervention
- Family, friends, faith community and employer's assistance
- Eviction Prevention Programs
- Flexible emergency and stabilization funds
- Reunification with supportive networks
- Prevent discharge from institutional care into homelessness
- Enroll eligible individuals for benefits
- Housing Retention case managers
- Mediation services
- Clear, accessible crisis contacts and resources

### Who benefits from prevention?

- Persons/families paying the majority of income on rent
- Persons with limited, low income + health challenges
- Persons with disabling conditions
- Persons leaving violence or abuse
- Households experiencing long-term unemployment
- Persons exiting prison or rehabilitation
- Youth exiting foster care
- Fixed income, isolated or medically frail seniors
- Low income, single parents

### We will make homelessness rare.

It is far more efficient and cost effective to proactively work with people who are at-risk or experiencing housing insecurity before they become homeless.

## SHELTER

Accessible emergency shelter is a fundamental community service providing a safe place for people to rest, sleep, and assess their situation, then find supports to navigate to a permanent place to live.

### Shelter is important for many reasons.

- "My home isn't safe.
- I lost my job. I couldn't pay the bills.
- Everything fell apart.
- My health is so bad, I can't cope with anything else.
- I haven't found a home since I left foster care.
- I am looking for a job, so I can get a place.
- I can't find a place I can afford.
- I got kicked out of my house.
- I need some help. I don't know what to do.
- I have nowhere else to go."

### Shelter intake and admissions inform the most effective navigation to housing and services.

- How many shelter beds are de facto 'attainable' housing due to an individual's housing and health barriers?
- What brought the person to emergency shelter today?
- Where does the person have connections?
- Does the person need immediate crisis counseling?
- Does the person need supervised medical care?
- Is there a safe place other than emergency shelter beds?
- Does the person have income to put towards housing?
- Are there friends and family who can help?
- Can navigators help the person search for housing?
- Who is not accessing shelter and navigation support, and why?

### We will make homelessness short-lived.

Emergency shelter clients inform the specific supports needed to transition themselves out of homelessness.



## HOUSING

Housing First, the guiding supportive housing model, is the proven solution to end homelessness. First step is a stable place to live, followed by services to build individual stability and grow self-sufficiency.

### Housing Solutions

- Subsidies and Vouchers
- Low rent, studio and one-bedroom housing
- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Affordable Housing
- Bridge Housing Programs
- Flexible funds for rapid rehousing/resolutions
- Landlord & 'Niche' population Partnerships
- Assisted Living
- Hotel/motel conversions
- Dedicated public funding
- Land donations

### Supportive Services

- Housing Retention Case Management
- Social Security/Disability enrollment
- Medicaid enrollment and Assigned Primary Care
- Treatment for long-term health issues
- Mental Health Services
- Substance Use Counseling
- Medical Billing Coordination
- Employment/Training/Education Placements
- Legal Aid and Justice System Navigation
- Reunification with social networks

### We will make homelessness non-recurring.

When communities focus on housing assistance and retention, paired with services tailored to people's unique needs and strengths to help them achieve and sustain stable housing, the entire community is stronger.

