

Solving the Homeless Crisis One Human at a Time

By Ken Draper

Let's face it, most of what we in media have to publish is bad news. This is a good news break.

Los Angeles has been home to the largest homeless population for eons. And appears helpless in resolving the homeless crisis which now affects almost all of the neighborhoods in the city.

The non-profit affordable housing developer, Skid Row Housing Trust, is an exception. They have created a program that works. And it works for several reasons.



Skid Row Trust ends homelessness by providing homes that are affordable ... coupled with the help needed to permanently break the cycle that keeps the homeless trapped in the mime's glass box among the debris on LA's dark streets.

The over 1300 residents of the Trust's 21 buildings in downtown LA have access to a range of services which enable them to address the very factors which caused them to become homeless in the first place. And under one roof and one management.

They can treat their physical and mental health problems, address addiction and overcome poverty ... under one roof ... drawing valuable support from their neighbors and community while they work to maintain their homes and lives from their own homes. (**See video success stories.**)

"This isn't just the community where lives fall apart," Trust special projects director Molly Rysman told the Times, "It's the community where they find recovery. Where people come to start over." (**See Times story**)

What it's not tells us what it is. It is not a one-night shelter. Or, a stop for a meal before returning to the filth of downtown back alleys.

And it's not a program that sends you into the bureaucracy for shuffling from agency to agency for stop-gap results.

It's a community where residents have raised plywood beds where they're growing onions, peas, carrots and more. Where built in planters hold timber bamboo and ornamental grasses ... "more green for a concrete jungle," says Mike Alvidrez, executive director of the Trust.

This Thursday the Trust will host a special VIP night at the New Carver Apartments at Hope and 17th Streets at 6 p.m. ... to unveil its newest complex and to celebrate 20 years of quietly providing supportive housing and ending homelessness in Los Angeles ... one human at a time. And you're invited. Check the **details here**.



The new complex was designed by world-renowned architect Michael Maltzan because, as Rysman says, “the trust is not only rebuilding lives but is also transforming communities.”

So, stop by on Thursday and celebrate some good news. And, if you can't make the party, check out the videos on the Trust **website** and celebrate some success stories.

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