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The New Face of Housing Assistance in Dallas

By Nicole Kiser

As of January 2020, Dallas had the largest population of those experiencing homelessness in Texas. The annual **Point in Time Homeless Count** in February 2021, conducted by Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance (MDHA), showed **4,570 individuals** facing homelessness in Dallas and Collin Counties, 90% of which were in Dallas County. This count is widely believed to be an underestimate.

The effects of the pandemic and Winter Storm Uri, which made an accurate count difficult, have only worsened the housing problem in Dallas. Thanks to new funding available from the federal government, Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance is spearheading a new rapid rehousing project for the Dallas area: the Dallas R.E.A.L. Time Rapid Rehousing Initiative. The Dallas City Council unanimously approved a \$72 million regional rapid rehousing effort, needing only a vote by the **Dallas County commissioners** on **September 7** before the program can launch.

What is rapid rehousing?

“The main difference with rapid rehousing is that it is supposed to be rapid. A lot of the other programs that we have in Dal-

las are what is known as permanent supportive housing, and in order to qualify, you have to be chronically homeless, which means you’ve spent years on the street or years in the shelter. So you have to wait a while to get in,” says Michelle Secours, director of housing services at The Stewpot.

“Only about 10 to 20% of the homeless population need that type of long term solution. Most folks are in a situation where they’ve hit a sort of speed bump in life. They need wraparound support for one to twelve months...With that help, they will be able to move on with their lives and hopefully never need our services again,” says David Gruber, senior development and communications director for MDHA.

“In rapid [rehousing], you can get into the shelter and get out very quickly into [housing and] get connected to case management services and employment services to help you get employment and get back on your feet,” says Secours. The Stewpot Rapid Rehousing program only requires participants to be homeless — whether that is for over a year or just for a day.

Those case management services and employment services are



Ofelia Zamora, a case worker for The Stewpot, helps a family served by The Stewpot’s rapid rehousing program get settled in their new apartment. Courtesy of The Stewpot.

part of the wraparound services included in the Dallas R.E.A.L. Time Rapid Rehousing Initiative. According to Ofelia Zamora, a case manager for the Rapid Rehousing program at The Stewpot, participants will receive education on how to be a good tenant and how to budget. The employment services include help making connections and assistance with resumes, applications and onboarding paperwork. **Food assistance and mental health services** will also be provided.

“It’s all about getting them back out into the community and becoming self-sufficient and not relying on an agency to continue

paying that rent,” says Secours.

Where did it come from?

“The broader idea of rapid rehousing is something that has been around since the Great Recession,” says Gruber. The rap-

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WHAT SHOULD WE COVER NEXT? FILL OUT OUR SURVEY AT: <https://bit.ly/2WbMRsg>

STREETZine

STREETZine is a program of
The Stewpot.



The **STREETZine** is a monthly newspaper published by The Stewpot, a ministry of the First Presbyterian Church of Dallas. The Stewpot provides services and resources for people experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of being homeless. The organization also offers opportunities for a new life.

As part of this ministry, the **STREETZine** seeks to raise awareness about the issues surrounding homelessness and poverty. The monthly publication also offers financial opportunity for Stewpot clients who sell the paper to Dallas residents. Vendors are able to move towards economic self-sufficiency by using the money they receive from selling copies to purchase bus passes, food, and necessary living expenses. Clients also receive stipends for contributing articles to **STREETZine**.

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The Pastor's Letter: Finding Normal

By The Rev. Rebecca Chancellor Sicks

I've had a coffee table book for years that I love, and its title is "Normal Is Just a Setting on the Dryer." And isn't that true? We all yearn for normal, but what does that really mean?

As we approach the start of fall this year, the world, the church and our everyday lives don't look the way we had hoped a year ago. We want so desperately to have a "normal" year, where we kickoff our church programs, and the church building is once again full of children, youth and adults gathering together for worship, social time over coffee or meals and Bible studies and classes. We want to get back to a schedule that we know and trust and understand. But alas, with the Delta variant of the coronavirus and a vaccine not available to children under 12 just yet, we are left to figure out what our current "normal" is. We still feel loss, grief, pain, exhaustion and uncertainty from the on-going pandemic.

And yet, as the virus continues to mutate and spread, on we go. Piecing together schedules with Zoom gatherings and in-person events with masks on and no food allowed, we go on. Our call to love God and love our neighbor is still real and relevant. We certainly know that while the pandemic continues and people all around us are getting sick, there are still people in need beyond those who are sick: people who are hungry, people who are thirsty, people who are strangers (immigrants and refugees), people without clothing, people in prison and people without a safe place to lay their head at night. If this list sounds familiar, it's because Jesus had something to say about the way we treat these people, our sisters and brothers, in the gospel of Matthew.

Over the last four months, I have taught two of our adult classes a study on Matthew 25. That chapter in Matthew contains three parables, and it's part of Jesus' final discourse to the disciples. I have to believe that the words found in this chapter bear a lot of weight. These teachings from Jesus to the disciples were the last he uttered before the events were set in motion for Jesus to share the Last Supper with his disciples; these were part of the last teachings before Jesus was arrested, crucified and died.

We know the story of Jesus doesn't end

there, but what he said to the disciples in Matthew 25 was important: Be ready and keep awake, for you don't know the day or the hour. Make good use of the gifts you are given. And whatever you do to your brothers and sisters in need, you have done it to me. Feed the hungry, give something to drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, give clothing to the naked, visit those who are sick or in prison. In other words: No one should be left alone; take care of the basic needs of all of God's people.

We are intimately caring for Jesus anytime we are caring for another person in need. Does it matter what the person has accomplished or how hard they have been working? No. Does it matter who they love or how kind they have been? No. Does it matter how many times we have helped the person before? No. Does it matter if they are from around here? No.

Our efforts to provide for those in need may not look "normal" these days ... but the needs are as great as ever.

What does matter is their need: hunger, thirst, hospitality, protection, safety, community. Knowing there are people in Dallas and the surrounding area in need, we must keep going. Our efforts to provide for those in need may not look "normal" these days as we continue to don masks and practice social distancing, but the needs are as great as ever. We know Jesus came to teach us a new way of being. Maybe we aren't meant to operate on "normal." Maybe "normal" really is just a setting on the dryer, and God is calling us to see with new eyes, hear with new ears and understand with renewed hearts. Maybe part of our new normal, then, is finding new ways to build community, new ways to meet the basic needs of the people in our neighborhoods, new ways to share, new ways to make a friend. Maybe our new normal is not normal at all, but, instead, is radical with hospitality, extravagant with giving and sacred with living in the present to meet the basic needs of others.

May God help us to look ahead with hope and live into this new normal until heaven and earth meet.

The Rev. Rebecca Chancellor Sicks is associate pastor for adult faith formation at the First Presbyterian Church of Dallas.

A Letter from the Executive Director

By **Brenda Snitzer**

The Stewpot's 46-year ministry of helping people in poverty or experiencing homelessness has always been about the services that enabled folks to get housed. That includes providing documents for housing or employment; supplying food, clothing, medical, dental and mental health care; offering educational resources and opportunities for enrichment through our garden, art and music programs; and creating access to other resources and support through our partners.

For the past two years, we also have been committed to preventing homelessness through providing rent and utilities assistance. Most recently, we have created a housing department to help those experiencing homelessness get rehoused.

Our first foray into housing came with a grant from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. We were recommended for funding through Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance. The \$500,000 grant enabled us to hire staff and begin the Rapid Rehousing (RRH) program with a goal of housing 40 individuals in a year.

To be eligible for our program, folks must be on the Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance's housing priority list. Once they are referred to us, we begin working as part of the larger Dallas R.E.A.L. Time Rapid Rehousing Initiative to find them housing.

After five months, we are one-third of the way to the goal of housing 40 people in a year. We also are beginning to seek additional funding to house more individuals and to continue paying our incredibly experienced staff.

Michelle Secours, with over six years of housing experience, is director of housing; Ofelia Zamora is our very experienced case manager; and Jennifer Hernandez is our driven and well-resourced vocational counselor who works with clients in securing employment or better employment so they can become self-sufficient. This trio, along with our Rent and Utilities team of Angeles Rodriguez, Robin Craddock and Lauren Queme, are helping hundreds of people stay or become housed.

Of course, there are many different stories about people experiencing homelessness. The main difference between people who find themselves homeless, and those of us who are housed, is the access that we have to resources and safety-nets, whether that be family, financial means or friends that can help lift us during difficult times.

Here are a few examples of people we recently have helped:

- A couple who had worked diligently to care for the husband's dying mother. After she passed away, her unemployed son and his wife, who works as a health aide, lacked the money to afford a place to live. They went to a shelter while the husband continued to look for work. Through our Rapid Rehousing program, they are now housed and he is working with our vocational counselor in finding a job

while his wife is working to increase her income.

- A man in his 40s who moved to Dallas for a fresh start after an assault charge defending a family member. He has an MBA and previously owned a business. But his criminal history made it more difficult to get a job and rent an apartment. He ended up at The Bridge Homeless Recovery Center while he continued to search for employment and housing. Through our Rapid Rehousing program, The Stewpot has been able to help him find a job and an apartment.
- A couple in their 60s who have been living in encampments for over five years. The husband is disabled and the wife works at a steady, full-time job. They lacked the rental history and the income required to get an apartment. With our assistance, they are now housed and doing well.

Through our case management services, we have been able to work with each of these individuals on budgeting their resources and educating them about landlord relationships. In one case, we were able to help the person during a health crisis that might have impacted their employment.

Our goal in working with each person in our Rapid Rehousing program is to help them become more self-sufficient. We are honored and grateful to be able to provide these services.

Brenda Snitzer is executive director of The Stewpot.



Housing First: A Conversation with Mandy Chapman Semple

By Bill McKenzie

*Mandy Chapman Semple is managing partner of Clutch Consulting, a firm that is working with the City of Dallas in launching a new Dallas R.E.A.L. Time Rapid Rehousing Initiative program. Previous to consulting with Dallas on its initiative, she helped launch Houston's rapid rehousing efforts. Semple spoke with **STREETZine's** Bill McKenzie about the fundamentals of rapid rehousing and what lessons Dallas might learn from Houston's experience in this important work.*

How do you find clients for rapid rehousing?

We typically find them in two ways. The first is [when] a client enters an emergency shelter or goes to a service provider for daytime services. We ask the shelters and service providers to assess the clients and put them on a coordinated access queue for housing. The second way is we will deploy outreach workers throughout the region to engage individuals who are sleeping outside or unsheltered. We assess them and add them to the coordinated access queue.

For the Dallas R.E.A.L. Time Rapid Rehousing Initiative, we have added a third way, and that is going directly to

encampments where folks have set up tents and are living as a community. We engage those communities and similarly assess them and offer access to the rapid rehousing solutions.

However you might find them, how do you identify clients who might be ready to enter the program?

Rehousing is a solution for all people experiencing homelessness. The nice thing about the Dallas initiative is that it includes two types of rental subsidies and service support. That means nearly all individuals who need rehousing intervention should qualify for Dallas' initiative. There is not a tremendous amount of triage that needs to take place.

Now, we would try to provide a diversion opportunity for individuals who are newly homeless. That way they can exit homelessness without going through a long process to get rehoused. We want to get them right back into the community and housing stability.

Whether it is in Houston, Dallas or any other city, how do you define success?

A homelessness response system is designed first and foremost to help people exit homelessness. The primary measure of success is the number of individuals we were able to help exit homelessness in a given period of time. And, then, does that number correlate to a reduction in the number of people experiencing homelessness on an annual basis?

We have a second tier of success measures. For example, do these people return to homelessness within a 24-month period? We are building a system to move people quickly out of homelessness into an appropriate exit pathway and helping them remain out of homelessness for a long period of time.

The third tier of metrics we would examine are can we decrease the amount of time it takes to get someone out of homelessness and into permanent housing? We also would examine those metrics to determine our success.

Thinking of Houston, what difference exists between now and 2015, when it began its program?

Houston had a bit of a head start because it had started a permanent supportive housing system before it began the rapid rehousing system. Before it started the permanent supportive housing initiative, Houston had more unsheltered individuals than sheltered individuals on any given night. But Houston was able to dramatically reduce that unsheltered population over a four-year period by targeting unsheltered individuals for permanent supportive housing.

Houston built upon the principles it used for its permanent supportive housing to launch a rapid rehousing program in 2015. It had the muscles to get the new system going and move people into rapid rehousing solutions. Houston continued to see a decline in homelessness

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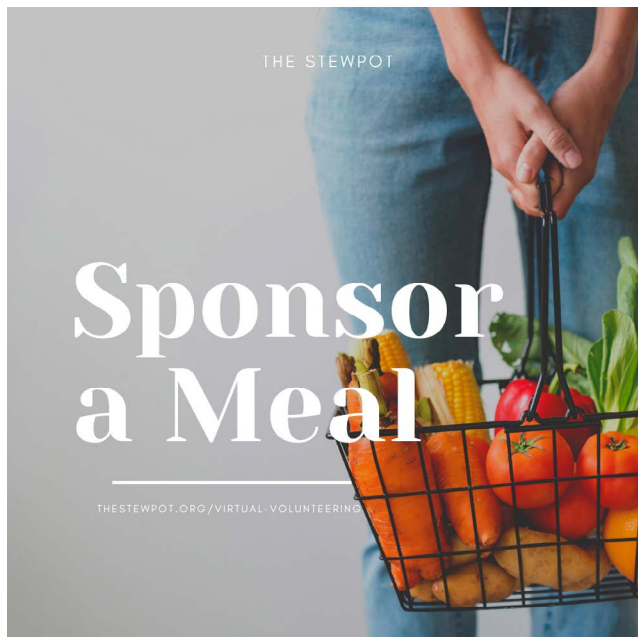


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A View from the Street: From Homeless to Housed

By Sarah Disasa

Hubert Reaves lives in Old East Dallas and rides the bus or DART downtown each day to Greyhound, where he is employed. Reaves is one of the success stories from The Stewpot's Rapid Rehousing Program. May 12, 2021 was a happy day for Reaves as he moved into his very own new home.

Like many people experiencing homelessness, Reaves had lost his job and did not have any kind of safety net of support. "I didn't have family that could help me," he said, as he recounted his story of transitioning to Dallas from Terrell in October of 2020. After being late for work for three days in a row, he lost his job.

When Reaves moved to Dallas, he initially stayed at The Bridge. A case manager at The Bridge recommended that Reaves connect with The Stewpot, which was the starting point for Reaves's rapid rehousing journey. It was at The Stewpot that Reaves began working with one of The Stewpot's Rapid Rehousing case managers, Ofelia Zamora. "She helped get me on my way," he said.

While staying at The Bridge, Reaves received his stimulus check from the government and wisely bought a laptop computer to assist with getting a job. "I was looking for work," he said, "but being homeless is kind of difficult...getting transportation and clothing and stuff like that." The Stewpot helped Reaves with several essentials of getting a job, such as clothing for interviews and bus passes. "Without the Stewpot," he said, "I wouldn't be employed yet. And I defi-



The Stewpot's Rapid Rehousing team prepares housing for a client. Courtesy of The Stewpot.

nately wouldn't be in a home yet."

With the help of a grant, The Stewpot launched the Rapid Rehousing program and began placing people in apartments in April 2021. The Rapid Rehousing program helps place those who are experiencing homelessness into homes of their own through the efforts of caseworkers, who work with people experiencing homelessness, and landlords that agree to help house clients.

The Rapid Rehousing program will pay for the rental security deposit, help with applications and fees, and provide rental assistance for up to 24 months. Clients assume financial responsibility for rent and utilities as they become able.

When asked about the challenges of obtaining sustainable housing, Reaves described it as feeling insurmountable. He explained that without having money for a housing deposit and without having a stable job, the thought of having a home of his own seemed unobtainable, until he was connected with The Stewpot. He said, "The Stewpot and Ofelia became that support that

I needed to get started."

When Zamora found the apartment in Old East Dallas for Reaves, he took a virtual tour and moved in shortly after. The Stewpot helped to get all the details taken care of, from getting the electricity turned on, to furnishing the apartment with furniture and all the essentials.

The Stewpot's Rapid Rehousing program changed Reaves's life in a dramatic way: having his own home became a reality. "It was a real blessing," he said. As Reaves elaborated on some of the ways that having his own place has impacted his life, he said, "Privacy is nice," recalling that "being homeless is scary at times." Reaves expressed sincere gratitude for his new digs, saying, "Being able to keep my home clean and safe takes away a lot of burdens from my mind."

Sarah Disasa is a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Dallas and the STREETZine Editorial Advisory Board.

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Homeward Bound: Elton's Journey

By Poppy Sundeen

It's been close to five years since Elton Baty, 60, had a place to call home. "Back in 2017, the company I worked for in Louisiana shut down," he explains, "and I found myself out on the street."

He's been out on the street ever since.

Baty left Louisiana and came to Dallas, hoping to find work and get back on his feet. He bunked in with friends from time to time and made the rounds of area shelters, all the while looking for a more permanent solution.

Searching for resources

The journey from employed and housed to unemployed and homeless may have been a straight shot, but the return trip has proved anything but. It's been filled with twists, turns and hurdles.

Ofelia Zamora, a Stewpot Rapid Rehousing program case manager, knew Baty and thought he would be a good fit for the program, so she sent word to his case manager in the homeless program at the Austin Street Shelter.

Shortly after arriving in Dallas, Baty applied for housing assistance and found himself on long waiting lists. "One program would close, and another would open up. I was just thankful to get on any list."

He tried to stay positive through the drawn-out, time-consuming process, but it wasn't easy. "It really didn't look like I was going to find something."

Meanwhile, the search for a full-time job was equally fruitless. "I got temp work, but nothing permanent."

Clearing a hurdle

Among the obstacles standing between Baty and the life he wanted was a lack of identification. A little 2-by-3-inch ID card looms large when you need one to

apply for jobs and housing.

Fortunately, Baty learned that The Stewpot could help him get his official Texas ID. During the course of obtaining it, he got acquainted with Stewpot staff and services. They would become key allies for him in the months ahead.

Baty was used to long waits on housing lists only to have his hopes dashed, so he was amazed at the speed of The Stewpot Rapid Rehousing program.

COVID closes in

Just as Baty was on the verge of getting housed, the pandemic hit. "Everything shut down, and it put me back out again."

It was a tough time for everyone in the homeless community. The February 2021 Homeless Count, conducted by Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance, tallied 4,570 people without a place to live throughout Dallas and Collin Counties.

The same month saw record cold and power outages that, combined with the pandemic, made conditions increasingly dangerous and frightening for those without shelter.

Big problems take big programs

As the pandemic intensified challenges for Dallas's homeless population, new programs emerged to address them. One such effort is the Rapid Rehousing program at The Stewpot, launched in April 2021.

The program combines up to two years of rental assistance with intensive case-work services. Clients meet weekly with their caseworkers to develop and implement personalized plans for achieving self-sufficiency.

Ofelia Zamora, a Stewpot Rapid Rehousing program case manager, knew Baty and thought he would be a good fit for the program, so she sent word to his case manager in the homeless program at the Austin Street Shelter.

By then, Baty had left Austin Street, but as luck would have it, he returned in time to get the message — and the op-

portunity. "It was kind of in my favor that I happened to show up at this particular time."

Rapid Rehousing lives up to the name

Baty was used to long waits on housing lists only to have his hopes dashed, so he was amazed at the speed of The Stewpot Rapid Rehousing Program. "It's been much faster than I expected," he says.

In just two weeks since establishing contact with Zamora, he's well along the way. "I should be in an apartment within 30 days."

He adds that although the progress has been fast, "It's been a long time coming."

A new home, a new job, a new start

Rapid Rehousing Program clients have a choice of areas, so they can be near work or family members. Baty is hoping for a location in Irving, so he'll have easy access to mass transit and his new job at a Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport terminal shop. "I'm working retail and hoping to get into management," he says.

Irving will be a new start for Baty. "I don't have any friends there now, but I have no problem meeting new people." He credits his background in customer service with teaching him people skills.

He envisions family holidays together. With any luck, the gatherings he longs for are just around the corner.

A welcome home for his family

What Baty looks forward to most of all is having a place where family can visit from Louisiana. He has two children and three grandchildren there. "The youngest is a newborn."

He envisions family holidays together. With any luck, the gatherings he longs for are just around the corner.

Poppy Sundeen, a Dallas writer, is a member of the STREETZine Editorial Advisory Board.

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id rehousing model is based on the Housing First model, which was developed in the early 1990s by **Dr. Sam Tsemberis** at Pathways to Housing in New York.

Before the Housing First model, housing was only offered to those who completed a series of steps designed to help prepare someone for living independently. Without housing, people often found it difficult to become sober, receive consistent treatment, find employment and complete other steps to independence.

“It’s all about getting them back out into the community and becoming self-sufficient and not relying on an agency to continue paying that rent,” says Secours.

This system often placed unrealistic expectations on participants, expecting them to abide by stricter rules than the everyday citizen to become housed. Though many resources still follow the older model today, giving immediate, or rapid, housing to participants with flexible support was found to be more effective in keeping people off the streets.

Federal stimulus money given to Dallas and Dallas County gave an opportunity to start a local rapid rehousing program. “The idea behind [the Dallas R.E.A.L. Time Rapid Re-

housing Initiative] started a few months ago when all the different American Rescue [Plan] Act (ARPA) funding was coming into the different entities, and all of the parties at the table basically decided to work together and align toward one collective vision of using their resources to end homelessness for 2,700 individuals in Dallas,” says Nissy New, chief operating officer of MDHA.

Dallas is modeling its rapid rehousing program after the program launched in Houston in 2012. Mandy Chapman Semple, **Houston’s first special assistant to the mayor for homeless initiatives from 2013 to 2016**, designed Houston’s rapid rehousing plan, which led to a **60% reduction in Houston’s homeless in just four years**. Now, Chapman Semple is using her firm, Clutch Consulting Group, to help Dallas create and run their own program.

Looking forward

Research supports the effectiveness of the rapid rehousing model. A national study found that **families seem to prefer the rapid rehousing model** over other housing models, and **over 80% left their program with permanent housing**. A different study found that **93% of participants** were able to exit their program in under a year.

Both Dallas and Dallas County are contributing \$25 million to the fund for the project. Fundraising from private donors is expected to raise another \$10 million. The

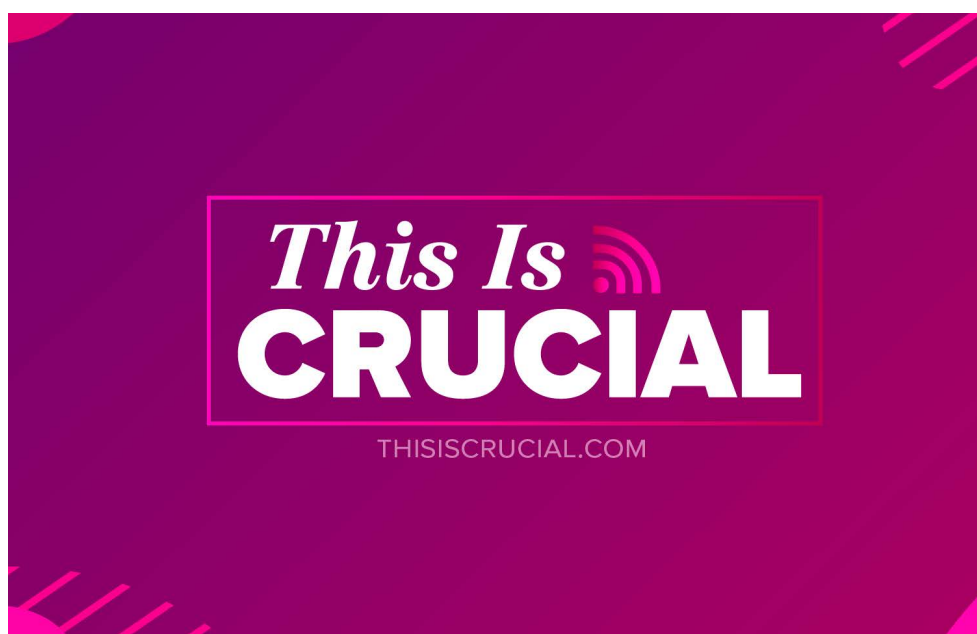
remaining amount comes from over 700 emergency housing vouchers given through ARPA to Dallas County, DHA Housing Solutions for North Texas, Mesquite, Plano and other cities.

According to **MDHA**, Dallas plans to “re-house over 2,700 individuals experiencing homelessness by October 2023.” Housing vouchers will be given to survivors of domestic violence, families experiencing homelessness, and individuals who need long term support.

Other individuals will be provided housing managed through partner organizations, like The Stewpot. “If you go to a shelter, the case managers there will help you get onto [the] list, they’ll help you collect the proper documentation that you need to get into housing, and they will put you on this community wide list,” says Secours. The program is using a Coordinated Access System (CAS) to assess applicants and refer them to appropriate housing resources at partner organizations. “Everybody is on the same list. That way there aren’t competing lists out there,” says Secours.

After opening the program in the middle of April, The Stewpot has already housed 11 families and individuals as of August 14, 2021. Their goal is to house 40 by the end of the year.

Nicole Kiser is managing editor of STREETZine.



This is Crucial is a podcast with live and interactive recording sessions focused on healing justice and racial equity. It is an opportunity to learn from a rotating guest list of experts as they sit down to discuss these important, timely, and sometimes uncomfortable topics. *This is Crucial* is hosted by Rev. Amos J. Disasa (Senior Pastor of FPC Dallas) and Rev. Dr. Charlene Han Powell (Senior Pastor of FPC Berkeley).



Continued from page 4

and was able to use the rapid rehousing system to prevent a dramatic increase in homelessness after Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

The CARES Act also has allowed the city to embrace a rapid rehousing strategy as the pandemic unfolded instead of having to use a large-scale sheltering strategy. That was a game changer for public health and for homeless people who were facing the [same] pandemic we all were facing.

What lessons can cities like Dallas learn from Houston's experience?

The number one lesson is to be steadfast in your commitment to rapid rehousing as a solution for homelessness. It's easy to be enticed by the idea that if we tackled root causes like mental ill-

ness and addiction then we are going to see a reduction in homelessness. But the evidence has provided clear direction that rehousing is the solution and that affordable housing is the solution.

When Houston made that commitment, it has persisted to scale its homelessness response system to become a rehousing system. That has proven to make the most dramatic reduction in homelessness.

What are the biggest hurdles to making a rapid rehousing initiative work well?

The first hurdle is always securing the resources to make rehousing interventions available. The second hurdle is organizing the various parts of the system to work in tandem as a rehousing system.

Often, we have incredible organizations going their own way and doing their part. That produces success for individuals on a small scale. To produce success on a large scale requires an organized collection of agencies working in tandem, almost like an assembly line, where we effectively engage an individual and systematically move them through a process that results, without interruption, in a rehousing solution.

The third hurdle is getting enough housing solutions in the community. That takes getting creative, strategic and business-like in securing housing in the rental market for vulnerable people.

Bill McKenzie is a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Dallas and the STREETzine Editorial Advisory Board.



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Detail: Any Man's Dream
Teresa Zacarias



Detail: House in Flood
Stephen Kehr



House Big
Fernando Segovia

Around The Stewpot: Document Services

By Nicole Kiser

Driving. Opening a bank account. Enrolling your child in school. Voting. So many essential activities of daily life are all locked behind one requirement: valid, updated identification documentation.

“Vital documents collected by The Stewpot are necessary in getting individuals housed, keeping them housed and getting them employed,” says Courtney Ray-Riddle, director of client services and the representative payee coordinator at The Stewpot. “Not having the appropriate vital document is a major barrier when employment is needed. For example, many employers require their applicants to provide original Social Security cards to gain employment. Without this document, some individuals are forced to take lower paying jobs that don’t sustain their cost of living.”

Identification documents aren’t always

easy to obtain. People who are experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness may have lost their identification documents in a move, eviction or encampment sweep. And replacing a document can cost money that people who are experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness can’t afford. A new driver’s license costs \$33; a new birth certificate costs \$22. Even a Texas state ID costs \$16 to obtain.

And it’s often necessary to obtain multiple identification documents. To obtain a driver’s license or state ID, you need a passport or birth certificate. Obtaining a passport requires a birth certificate. And, without a state ID, obtaining a birth certificate requires multiple other forms of identification. This complex chain of necessary documentation can be confusing and overwhelming for people unfamiliar with the state’s regulations.

“We assist clients with the application process and the funds to get their necessary documents,” says Ray-Riddle. “Each client is assigned a caseworker that will help them apply with their necessary documents. Some clients may be able to accomplish their goal in one

visit. In most cases, clients will have multiple visits with their caseworker to gather all their documents.” Currently, The Stewpot provides document services Monday through Thursday at 8:00 am. The program has four experienced caseworkers, who can usually obtain the client’s documentation in one to eight weeks, depending on the documents required.

“When The Stewpot assists an individual with collecting their vital documents, it gives them an opportunity to start a new life,” says Ray-Riddle. “Clients are able to get housing assistance when they have the necessary documents to complete the application process. More individuals can be put to work. People are able to open a bank account with a valid ID.”

“Shelter and financial security are two of the barriers that most of the clients that we serve face,” says Ray-Riddle. “The Stewpot providing this assistance...helps people overcome poverty and homelessness.”

Nicole Kiser is managing editor of STREETZine.

10 Things to Know about Rapid Rehousing in Dallas and Elsewhere

Rapid rehousing is a concept gaining momentum around the country as a way to help people experiencing homelessness secure permanent housing. Below are 10 facts to know about rapid rehousing efforts around the country and here in Dallas.

1. Rapid rehousing focuses on a Housing First strategy, prioritizing families and individuals who are experiencing homelessness but who are not chronically homeless.

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

2. Rapid rehousing programs try to minimize the amount of time people may live in shelters or on the streets.

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

3. Rapid rehousing focuses on providing people experiencing homelessness short-term rental assistance and social services.

Source: National Alliance to End Homelessness

4. The goal of rapid rehousing is to help individuals obtain housing quickly, learn self-sufficiency and remain in housing.

Source: National Alliance to End Homelessness

5. Services offered through rapid rehousing initiatives include access to health care, employment counseling, child care and educational counseling, among other opportunities.

Source: National Alliance to End Homelessness

6. A consortium of organizations, led by the Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance, announced in June a \$72 million partnership to house at least half of Dallas County’s homeless residents.

Source: Dallas Morning News

7. The City of Dallas and Dallas County each will contribute \$25 million to the initiative.

Source: Dallas Morning News

8. Since 2012, and the launch of Houston’s rapid rehousing plan, more than 23,000 people have been permanently housed in Texas’ largest city.

Source: Dallas Morning News

9. Almost 90 percent of participants in Houston’s rapid rehousing program remain housed.

Source: Marc Eichenbaum, special assistant to the mayor of Houston for homeless initiatives

10. Houston’s rapid rehousing program focuses on people who do not need long-term housing assistance, but rather prioritizes those who need short-term rental and case management help.

Source: Coalition for the Homeless

Street Newspapers - A Voice for the Homeless & Impoverished

What is **STREETZine**?

STREETZine is a nonprofit newspaper published by The Stewpot of First Presbyterian Church for the benefit of people living in poverty. It includes news, particularly about issues important to those experiencing homelessness. **STREETZine** creates direct economic opportunity. New vendors receive ten free papers. After the first ten, vendors pay twenty-five cents for a paper to be distributed for a one-dollar or more donation. Vendors typically profit seventy-five cents from each paper. Vendors are self-employed and set their own hours. Distributing **STREETZine** is protected by the First Amendment.

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STREETZine Vendors are self employed and set their own hours.

They are required to wear a vendor badge at all times when distributing the paper. In order to distribute **STREETZine** vendors agree to comply with Dallas City Ordinances.

If at any time you feel a vendor is in violation of any Dallas City Ordinance please contact us immediately with the vendor name or number at streetzine@thestewpot.org

CHAPTER 31, SECTION 31-35 of the Dallas City Code PANHANDLING OFFENSES

Solicitation by coercion; solicitation near designated locations and facilities; solicitation anywhere in the city after sunset and before sunrise any day of the week. Exception can be made on private property with advance written permission of the owner, manager, or other person in control of the property.

A person commits an offense if he conducts a solicitation to any person placing or preparing to place money in a parking meter.

The ordinance specifically applies to solicitations at anytime within 25 feet of:

- Automatic teller machines;
- Exterior public pay phones;
- Public transportation stops;
- Self service car washes;
- Self service gas pumps;
- An entrance or exit of a bank, credit union or similar financial institution;
- Outdoor dining areas of fixed food establishments.

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Your vendor purchases this paper for 25¢ and keeps all the proceeds.

Only badged vendors are authorized to distribute **STREETZine**.

Sponsor a vendor for \$15.00*

Your vendor will receive sixty papers which will help him or her earn \$60.00.

Please include the vendor's name and badge number on this form.

Vendor Name

Vendor #

Make checks or money orders payable to

The Stewpot and send them to:

STREETZine 1835 Young Street, Dallas, TX 75201

[] Check here if you prefer that your check be returned if your vendor is no longer active. Otherwise, if your vendor is no longer distributing papers, your donation will be applied towards papers that are shared among active vendors.



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