



Ending Community Homelessness In Austin/Travis County

2nd Annual Progress Report

(September 2007)

End Chronic Homelessness Organizing Committee
Community Action Network's Homeless Task Force
Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department



Ending Community Homelessness (ECHO) Coalition

Vision:

A community fiercely focused on ending homelessness

Mission:

*To provide dynamic, proactive leadership that engages policy makers
and the community to end homelessness.*

www.AustinECHO.org

Acknowledgements

A special dedication goes to our homeless fellows.

We thank all community leaders, volunteers, advocates, and agency staff for their tireless work and commitment to improving the lives of our homeless neighbors and friends. Especially:

Homeless Task Force and End Chronic Homelessness Organizing Committee Members:

See Appendices A and B

Community Leaders, Planners, Volunteers for 2007 Homeless Count and Survey:

Bianca Aguilar	Rachel Hause	Martin Montero	Robin Schwartz
Angela Atwood	Sally Hayes	Charlene Nickels	Carol Swicker
Katherine Barksdale	Ian Herman	Chris O'Neil	Susan Szaniszlo
Stephanie Barnes	Nicole Hollinsworth	Nurgul Oskonbaeva	Donny Thomas
Lindsey Berry	Amber Hunter	Ben Pagano	Wendy Thomas
Steve Bewsey	Katie Jackson	Tricia Patterson	Dave Thompson
JW Burnside	Susan Jackson	Joyce Pohlman	Vicki Totten
Mario Cortez	Barbara James	Melanie Prestidge	Sandra Valenzuela
Debra Crovo	Amber King	Karen Rankin	Charles Walker
Dave Davis	Dwayne Kinloch	Sarah Rarick	Lee Walsh
Maggie Dornfeld	Kimberly Kitchell	Ariel Reynolds	Laura Wiginton
Lauren Dreyer	Kristen Knight	Kathy Ridings	Mike Wilder
Lindsay Frenkel	Dana Malone	Wanda Robins	Stacey Yates
Elizabeth Gfell	Laura Martin	James Rosenthal	Homless Services Providers
David Gomez	Dana McDonald	Mary Rychlik	
Jerry Hardin	Michael McIntire	Eric Samuels	

Community Action Network:

Fred Butler (former Executive Director)	Vanessa Sarria	Sam Woollard
Karen Cook, Webmaster	Amy Arquilla	Brenda Ahrns

City of Austin Health and Human Services Department:

David Lurie	Vince Cobalis	Susan Gehring
Gilja Koo	Natasha Ponczek	Blender Hill

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I. Introduction

The Austin community has been actively engaged in ending community homelessness through the collaboration of community volunteers, business leaders, service providers, and City staff support. This document is a report to our community on how community planning on homelessness has evolved in Austin over the past decade.

The next section of this report tells the story of two citizen planning entities, Homeless Task Force and End Chronic Homeless Organizing Committee. These two groups often worked together in the past year and are officially merging into a new planning body called Ending Community Homelessness (ECHO) Coalition in September, 2007. Section three describes the progress made by the two entities in the 18 months prior to the merger.

While members of the new ECHO Coalition are pleased with the activities and successes in the past, we also face many challenges as we move forward. These challenges are analyzed in section four. We will discuss there how to turn them into new opportunities in order to fulfill the mission that has been defined for the new ECHO Coalition.

ECHO Coalition Mission: To provide dynamic, proactive leadership that engages policy makers and the community to end homelessness.

On-going support and participation from all parts of our community is central to the success of this mission. Section five therefore provides information, including event calendar and volunteering opportunities at local homeless service organizations. We hope more citizens of Austin will participate as citizen planners with the ECHO Coalition or as service volunteers to help end community homelessness.

At the end of this report, a series of Appendices offer detailed information about the chronology and organizational structure of Homeless Task Force and End Chronic Homelessness Organizing Committee.

II. Evolution of Community Planning on Homeless Services

Nonprofit organizations have a long history of serving the homeless and the downtrodden. Collaboration among nonprofit homeless service providers began in 1989 when Legal Aid for the Homeless joined Helping Our Brothers Out, also known as HOBO, to begin the first homeless resource centers in Austin. Along with Salvation Army, Caritas, and other service providers, the nonprofit sector took early leadership in drawing the attention of the Austin community to the plight of the homeless.

A. Transition from Nonprofit Services to Community Planning

By the 1990s, however, there was recognition among both nonprofit providers and the civic leadership of the Austin community that effective strategies to deal with homelessness have to include broader participation than just nonprofit service providers. This recognition actually extended beyond just homeless services to all social equity issues and human service areas. As a result, the Community Action Network was created in 1992 with financial support from the City and the County.

Since then, the Community Action Network (CAN) has served as the central coordinating body for health and human services in Austin/Travis County. The purpose of CAN is to coordinate community resources in order to address strategically critical health and human service needs in Austin/Travis County. CAN membership is broad-based. It includes City and County elected officials and staff, board members and staff from United Way, School District, the Local Mental Health Authority, Chamber of Commerce, Workforce Development Board, local businesses, the faith community, and the community at large.

This was the context in which the story of community planning for homeless services began in Austin.

B. Development of Homeless Task Force

With a charge from the Austin City Council, Homeless Task Force (HTF) became an official planning body of Community Action Network in 1996.

Responsibilities of HTF included:

- assessing the needs of homeless individuals,
- reviewing existing services, identifying gaps,
- developing a strategic plan to address priority needs for homeless populations,
- examining pertinent policy issues, and

- offering policy recommendations.

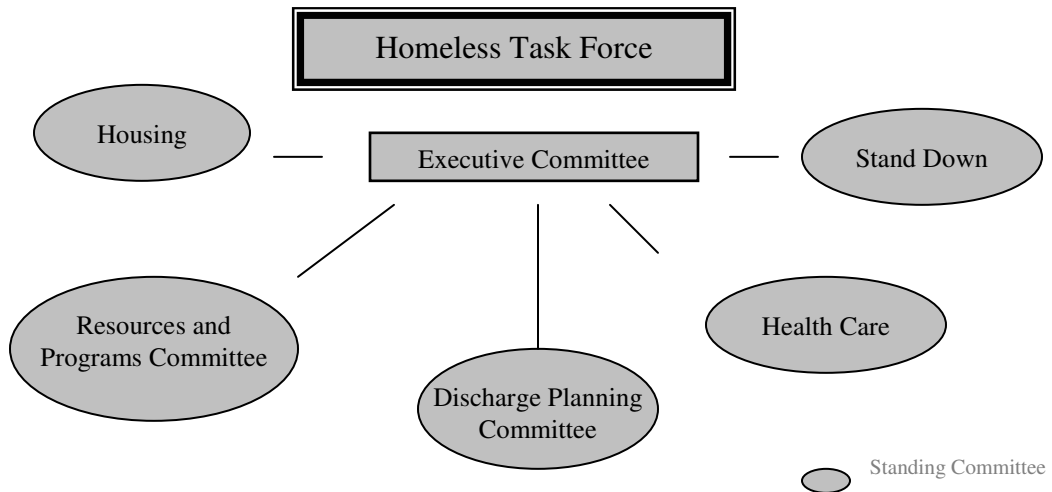
In addition, HTF was also asked to coordinate with other planning bodies under the CAN umbrella network to improve access to mainstream services.

For the first time, groups such as the homeless, the faith community, service providers, business leaders, and government officials came together to work on homeless issues in Austin. As a result of HTF planning, the Homeless Self-Sufficiency and Responsibility Initiative¹ was adopted by the City Council in 1998. Since then, Austin has made quite a bit of progress in pooling resources to fill the gaps in the Continuum of Care that moves homeless individuals through a series of steps from mere crisis management to eventual self-sufficiency.²

HTF was the sole planning entity focused on planning issues in Austin until 2004. Its accomplishments and activities on homelessness between 1996 and 2004 are summarized on the next page. Among its achievements, HTF successfully put in place a planning infrastructure that paved the way for a second, more specialized planning entity in 2004.

The structure of HTF is shown in the chart below.

Organization Chart: Homeless Task Force from 1996 to 2004



¹ “A Step Toward Self Sufficiency”, Austin Travis County Health and Human Service Department Briefing to the City Council, July 1999.

² Continuum of Care refers to the concept that a wide spectrum of services and support networks have to be available to help the homeless gradually move towards permanent shelter and self-sufficiency. Under that name, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) offers annual grants to local jurisdictions to make Continuum of Care services available. For details on Austin’s Continuum of Care strategy, committee activities, and a list of resources in our community, please refer to Exhibit I in the Austin HUD Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Grant Application (“SuperNOFA”).

Table 1: Community Accomplishments on Homelessness, 1996-2004

During this period of time, Homeless Task Force was the sole planning body on homelessness in Austin.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first homeless memorial service in 1992, which observance has continued every year since then (House the Homeless) • Implemented the City’s Self-Sufficiency and Responsibility Initiative: Shelter for Men, Day Resource Center for the Homeless, Health Care Clinic, Expanded Shelter for Homeless Women and Children (Salvation Army), Transitional Housing for Homeless Women and Children (SafePlace), Downtown Austin Community Court, Transition of the First Day Labor Site, Completed Plan for the ARCH, and the formation of the overseeing Committee. • Received HUD Continuum of Care funding: Two Supportive Housing Programs (SafePlace and LifeWorks), Passages Program (Salvation Army), Youth Street Outreach Program (LifeWorks), Homeless Management Information System (ATCMHMR), ReEntry Program (Caritas), Safe Haven (ATCMHMR), Women and Children’s Supportive Housing Program (Push-Up Foundation), and Two Shelter Plus Care Programs (ATCMHMR and two Housing Authorities). • Developed the Comprehensive Plan on Homelessness to address community wide homeless problems in 2000 • Initiated Stand Down Austin, one-day event linking homeless people to agencies and resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opened and leased to capacity 85-unit Single Room Occupancy housing (Garden Terrace/Foundation Communities). • Built and opened the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH), a new shelter and resource center for homeless persons, with three components: a 100-bed shelter for men, a day resource center, and a health clinic for all homeless individuals (Healthcare for the Homeless). • Initiated the Collaboration Technologies for Organizations Serving the Homeless (CTOSH) project between the Department of Communication Studies at the University of Texas at Austin and local health and human services organizations. • Established working committees to address Housing and Discharge planning. • Conducted a Survey of local services to address Chronic Homelessness. • Developed the Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness in Austin/Travis County. • Expanded Representative Payee Program for chronically homeless persons (Family ElderCare). • Established the End Chronic Homelessness Organizing Committee. • Joined Universal Living Wage Campaign.
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Table 2: Community Accomplishments on Homelessness, 2005-2007

During this period, Homeless Task Force and End Chronic Homelessness Organizing Committee co-exist with different focus, but often work together on planning issues.

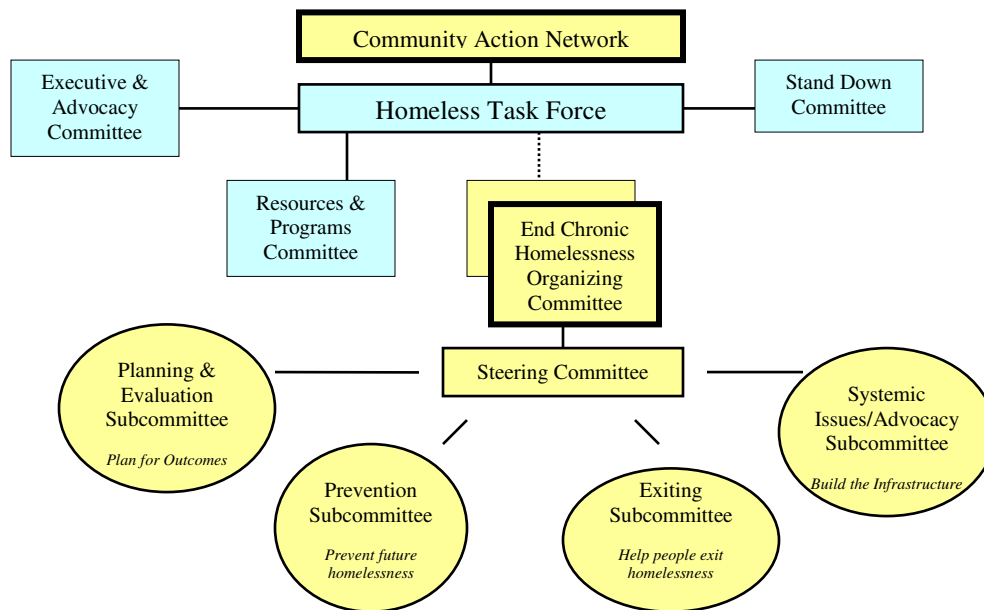
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formed an Organizational Structure, adopted guiding principles, and instituted procedures to implement the Plan to End Chronic Homelessness. • Opened and leased to capacity 140 unit SRO housing (Spring Terrace/Foundation Communities). Obtained through federal Continuum of Care funding 20 units of Permanent Supportive Housing for chronically homeless persons (Caritas). • Held Outreach Event/Educational Forum on homelessness in 2004, 2005, and 2006. • Developed the Website on Homelessness (Collaborative Support from the CAN and ATCHHSD) • Created Information Brochure to increase public awareness about the prevention of homelessness. • Formed Coalition with other advocates in the Housing Works Coalition, Re-entry Roundtable, Basic Needs Coalition (BNC) of Central Texas, Mental Health Jail Diversion Task Force, and Mayor’s Mental Health Task Force Monitoring Committee. • Increased the number of agency participants in Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). • Supported Launching Community Voice Mail (ATCMHMR). • Enhanced weekend day resource center services and increased sleeping capacity by 70 mats at ARCH. • Integrated the CTOSH Archives into the HTF Website (Collaborative Support from ATCHHSD and CAN). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained CTOSH Listserve (Support from ATCHHSD) • Development of a more coordinated and accurate Homeless Count for unsheltered homeless persons • Continuum of Care application coordination annually (HTF and ATCHHSD) • Supported Passage of Housing Bonds • Numerous Testimonies and Presentations before government bodies including the city and the county • Buy-in for the 10 Year Plan from Travis County Commissioners’ Court • Supported the local application for 25 leased supportive housing units for homeless veterans (Spring Terrace/VA) • Began Construction on 100 unit SRO housing (Skyline Terrace) and 15 additional units (Garden Terrace) • Updated the CAN FAQ Sheet on Homelessness (CAN, HTF, and ATCHHSD) • Completed Community Talking Points on Homelessness • Held Forum on Serving ex-offenders at LBJ School of Public Affairs, The University of Texas at Austin (Re-entry Roundtable, ECHO, and LBJ School). • Increased number of homeless participants and service agencies at Stand Down (Stand Down). • Completed Inventory of Volunteer Opportunities for homeless service agencies. • Created a Myth Buster Video on Homelessness (THEO, ATCHHSD, CAN, and ECHO)
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C. Development of End Chronic Homelessness Organizing Committee

In response to the federal initiative on Ending Chronic Homelessness in Ten Years,³ and under the leadership of the Homeless Task Force and Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department (ATCHHSD), Austin developed in 2004 its own *Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness in Austin/Travis County*. The key objective in this Plan is to **end**, rather than **manage**, chronic homelessness in our community. With adoption by the Austin City Council, endorsement by the Community Justice Council, and support by the Community Action Network, the Plan was forwarded to and approved by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH) in December 2005.

The Committee was charged with moving the plan forward by developing and prioritizing strategies to end chronic homelessness. Chaired by business leaders with strong support from service providers and local government, the Committee offered strong presence in the community, drawing more than 60 members representing service agencies, community and government entities, homeless and formally homeless persons, and individual volunteers. With HTF dealing with homeless issues in general and the Committee focusing on chronic homelessness, the homeless service planning structure in Austin from 2005 to 2007 is as follows:

Organization Chart: HTF/Committee, 2005 to 2007



³ According to HUD, a chronically homeless person is “an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more, OR has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.” These “disabling conditions” include substance abuse, serious mental illness, developmental disability, and chronic physical illness or disability.

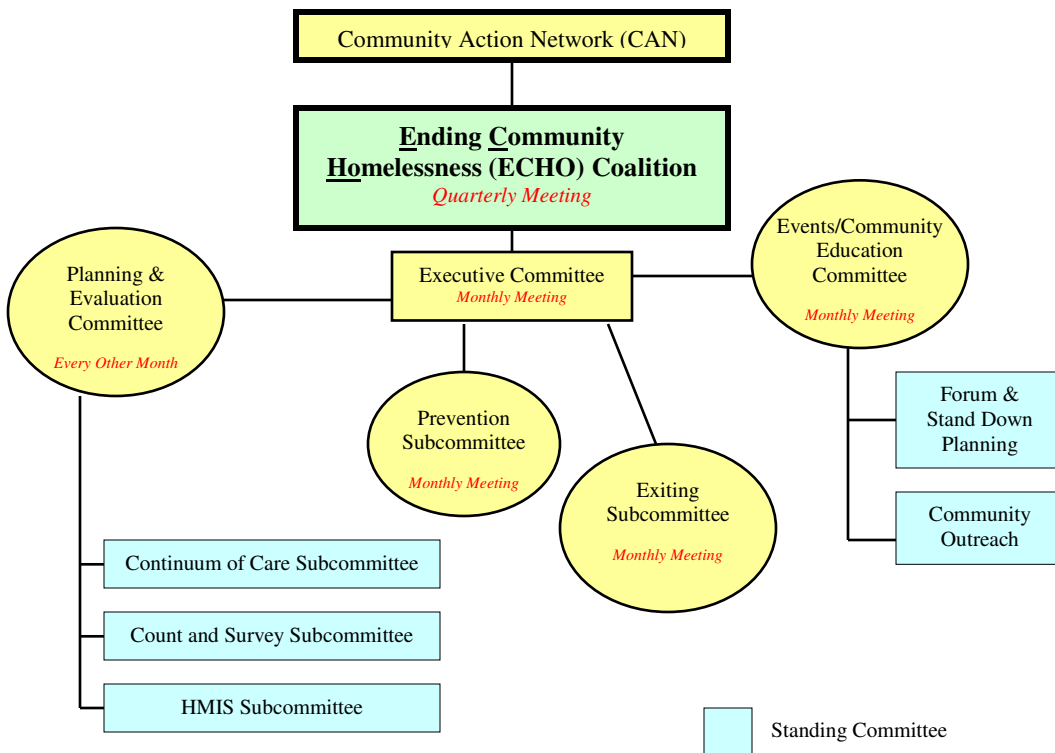
D. Transition to Ending Community Homelessness (ECHO) Coalition

Although the priorities and target populations for Homeless Task Force and End Chronic Homelessness Organizing Committee were different, Tables 2 shows that some of the work between the two groups overlapped. Membership also overlapped to some extent. As two separate organizations, members faced coordinating challenges while carrying out similar missions of ending slightly different but related aspects of homelessness in Austin/Travis County. Some of these challenges included inefficient communication between two bodies, redundant meetings among committees, and complicated structure from a marketing stand point.

To discuss and define optimal organizational structure for these two bodies, more than 300 hours of community volunteers, service agencies, city and county staff were contributed to a strategic planning process from December 2006 to April 2007. In June 2006, members of each body held their membership meeting to vote on the newly proposed structure that will enhance the use of resources in most effective ways towards ending homelessness in our community.

The new ECHO Coalition was thus born by merging the two existing planning bodies. The new organizational structure is described in the chart below:

Organization Chart: Ending Community Homelessness Coalition



III. Progress Towards Ending Community Homelessness Since 2006⁴

Even before the official merger, Homeless Task Force (HTF) and End Chronic Homelessness Organizing Committee (the Committee) regularly worked together between January 2006 and June 2007. Even though the two entities were organizationally distinct, therefore, it makes more sense in practice to view them together as the community planning structure for homeless issues. This section documents the accomplishments of this planning structure in the past 18 months.

- **Endorsement from Travis County Commissioners' Court**

In order to accomplish the goal of ending homelessness, collaboration among local stakeholders, including County and City governments, is an important key. End Chronic Homelessness Organizing Committee approached the Travis County Commissioners Court and made a presentation on the Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness in Austin/Travis County. The Travis County Commissioners Court officially endorsed the Plan on August 29, 2006.⁵

We expect this will help direct collaborations with existing County programs and support local organizations seeking public and private funding as federal programs reallocate their resources to target ending chronic homelessness. The resolution was forwarded to the Region VI Office of the U.S Interagency Council on Homelessness.

- **Testimonies/presentations before Government bodies**

Members of the End Chronic Homelessness Organizing Committee well understood the critical need for acceptance of the Plan by diverse entities and government bodies. As part of its community outreach campaign, members of the Committee have been proactive in creating opportunities to explore collaboration with other members of community groups as well as to present recommendations to elected officials on homeless issues.

Key recommendations made in 2006 were: 1) Make a long-term investment in rapid, supportive, and permanent housing services, 2) Approve the 67.5 million housing bond package, 3) Consider allocating additional local resources toward supportive services in order to leverage additional federal funds for housing, 4) Local public housing authorities collaboratively participate in and develop housing opportunities for chronically homeless persons, 5) Relax housing prohibitions against non-violent

⁴ This section covers the period January 2006 to June 2007 when the Homeless Task Force and End Chronic Homelessness Organizing Committee formally and separately voted on merging into the Ending Community Homelessness (ECHO) Coalition. For documentation of planning activities before January 2006, please refer to *Ending Chronic Homelessness in Austin/Travis County, the First Year Progress Report (Jan.-Dec. 2005)*, End Chronic Homelessness Organizing Committee, 2006.

⁵ The Resolution is attached as Appendix D.

ex-offenders, 6) Provide transition-planning services for offenders with mental illness and persons who have been chronically homeless prior to incarceration, 7) Create targeted affordable housing for youth aging out of foster care, and 8) Develop stronger relations with employment-related partners to enhance the capacity to serve chronically homeless persons.⁶

Major public presentations were summarized in the table below:

Date	Government/Community Bodies	Presenter(s)
June 5, 2006	The Community Action Network (CAN) A-Team	John Nyfeler
June 9, 2006	The Community Action Network (CAN) Resource Council	Jeff Trigger and Vince Cobalis
August 15, 2006	The City Council Public Health and Human Services Subcommittee	Mitch Weynand and David Lurie
August 29, 2006	The Travis County Commissioners Court	John Nyfeler, Donna Carter, and Helen Varty
December 14, 2006	The Austin City Council	Rick Rivera (HTF), John Nyfeler (End Chronic Homelessness Organizing Committee), Alan Graham (Mobiles Loaves and Fishes), Richard Troxell (House the Homeless), and David Lurie (ATCHHSD)
January 08, 2007	The Austin Mayor's Committee For People with Disabilities	John Nyfeler, Jo Kathryn Quinn, and Helen Varty

- **Presentations at Texas Homeless Network Conference**

Austin was requested by the Region VI Coordinator for the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, Sally Shipman, and the Texas Homeless Network, to present its strategies for ending chronic homelessness as a model program. Members of the Committee made presentations at the 2006 Texas Homeless Network Conference in Houston: 1) *Austin's 10 Year Plan Process* presented by John Nyfeler at the 10 Year Planning Statewide Meeting on September 5, 2006, and 2) Workshop: *Implementing Austin's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness*, presented by Mitch Weynand and Jo Kathryn Quinn (Guest Speakers: John Nyfeler and Donna Carter/Committee Staff: Gilja Koo), on September 6, 2006.

- **Launching of permanent supportive housing initiative at Spring Terrace**

Caritas of Austin started a new permanent supportive housing program, funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, for single, chronically homeless individuals at Spring Terrace in July 2007. The project is designed to lease 20 efficiency apartments with in-depth, long term case management.

⁶ These recommendations are documented in the First Annual Report of End Chronic Homelessness Organizing Committee.

This is the first project of permanent supportive housing provided by Caritas, whose focus used to be on transitional housing. With a case manager on site, the project will help chronically homeless persons get into stabilized housing and more effectively able to focus on other issues such as mental illness, substance abuse, inability to find affordable housing, and money management issues.

- **November Community Forum at St. David's Church**

A very successful community outreach event was the 2nd Annual Educational Forum on Homelessness. The theme of the Forum was "Building Community Partnerships to End Homelessness." Presenters included Mayor Pro Tem Betty Dunkerley, City of Austin; Walter Moreau, Foundation Communities; and Mary Rychlik, Trinity Center. Guest speakers include Mayor Will Wynn, City of Austin; District Attorney Ronald Earle, Travis County; Chief Michael McDonald, City of Austin; and Alan Graham, Mobile Loaves & Fishes.

The Forum was attended by double the number of citizens at the 2005 community forum. There was an increase in the number of local and state agencies participating in the Forum's Resource Fair. Through this forum, the Committee also formed new working partnership with Downtown Austin Alliance (DAA), Texas Homeless Network (THN), and Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association (DANA), in addition to the existing partners such as the Community Action Network and Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department.

- **Completion of a Homeless-Myth-Buster Video**

A new 7-minute video clip on "Ten Myths And Facts About Homelessness" was created for the November, 2006 Forum. The Austin/Travis County Health and Human staff, with technical support from a UT graduate Student, produced the video in collaboration with the Texas Homeless Education Office (THEO), Community Action Network (CAN), and Austin homeless service providers.

Since November, 2006, the video has been shown at various meetings and used as an education tool to bust the myths about homelessness. The contexts of the video was selected for the inside cover page of the 2008 Calendar produced by the Texas Homeless Network. To see the video, go to the link at http://www.caction.org/homeless/ECHO/ECHO_Video_12-10-06.swf.

- **Completion of Talking Points on Homelessness in Austin**

Members of End Chronic Homelessness Organizing committee and the Homeless Task Force, with assistance from homeless service agencies and the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services department staff, have drafted a talking point document on "Homelessness in Austin."

It is a set of power point slides offering six ways of understanding homelessness in Austin—by the numbers, services, costs, barriers/needs, successes, and ways to help. This constitutes one of the most critical action items for reaching out to our region’s neighborhoods and civic organizations about homeless issues.

- **December workshop on serving ex-offenders at LBJ School**

Co-sponsored by Re-entry Roundtable and LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas, a workshop on Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable issues took place on December 7th, 2006. The main focus of the workshop was to review the survey results of the inventory of community based reentry programs, conducted by Dr. Nancy LaVigne from Urban Institute, and to discuss issues around programs that work and what strategies that can be implemented in Austin/Travis County. More than 35 participants participated in this workshop.

- **Completion of Inventory of Volunteer Opportunities**

HTF and the Committee, with support from the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department staff, have developed a list of volunteer opportunities at agencies serving homeless persons and persons at risk of being homeless in Austin. By linking potential community volunteers with opportunities, this list is one step towards the goal of ending community homelessness. Forwarded to the United Ways’ Hands on Texas program, the four-page directory is presented in Section V below.

- **Stand Down Event**

Both Homeless Task Force and End Chronic Homelessness Organizing Committee have been supportive of Stand Down Austin. It is a one day event started in 2000 by a group of community volunteers, linking homeless people to agencies and resources⁷. The services and resources offered at Austin Stand Down include assistance with housing and job procurement, snacks and lunch, clothing, haircuts, HIV testing and counseling, hygiene items, legal aid, medical care, mental health services, birth certificate services, showers, spiritual counseling, veteran benefits assistance, and veterinary care for pets.

On November 11, 2006, 759 homeless individuals, including 133 veterans, received services at Stand Down Austin. Ever since the spring 2007, planning committee members from Stand Down and HTF/Committee have been meeting together to plan a joint event (Stand Down and EHO Forum) that will focus on the voices of homeless persons that is scheduled for November 3, 2007.

⁷ The original Stand Down was held in San Diego, California in 1988 in response to the dramatic increase in homeless veterans seeking services. “Stand Down” is a military term for a period of rest and recuperation as a means of respite from the rigors of war. This concept has been adapted to meet the needs of homeless individuals—both veteran and non-veterans in Austin.

- **Stand Up Homeless Unsheltered Count and Survey**

Despite its limited resources, the Austin community got together to collect data for a point-in-time unsheltered count. Planning for the Count began in October, 2006. It involved a great deal of time commitment, logistical coordination, and tireless energy from over 100 volunteers of AmeriCorps, Homeless Task Force, End Chronic Homelessness Organizing Committee, homeless services agencies, and City staff.

The count took place on January 25, with a subsequent sample survey completed in early May. It was the largest homeless count operation in Austin's history. The results from the count are presented in Appendix E.

- **Integration of CTOSH into HTF Website**

The Collaboration Technologies for Organizations Serving the Homeless (CTOSH) Project was initiated in 2002 by two former University of Texas faculty members to enhance communication and collaboration among service providers and local stakeholders. The project provided various tools including software and hardware infrastructure, technical support, web-based communication system.

With its closure in 2006, thirty eight articles that spotlighted local agencies, programs, and initiatives had transferred to the HTF/Old ECHO website of the Community Action Network. In addition, the management responsibility of the CTOSH listserv, as one of the most "used" tool created with the project, has been taken over by Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department.

- **Community Voice Mail fully implemented**

Community Voice Mail has been active in Austin since March of 2006. The program is funded by Impact Austin and operated by ATCMHMR. It has served a total of 1,027 people who are homeless, or near homeless. There are currently 799 people currently using a CVM phone number to receive and retrieve important messages. There have been 228 people who have exited the program due to employment success or leaving the area and/or social service agency.

- **Passage of housing bond**

Ever since the housing bond package was proposed to the City Council and the citizens of Austin, members of Homeless Task Force and End Chronic Homelessness Organizing Committee had partners with other groups on housing advocacy to support the bond package for Affordable housing as Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH). Housing bond was also the main theme of membership meetings and community outreach event in 2006. We are proud of the \$55 million bond earmarked for affordable housing voted by the citizens of Austin in November 2006. We believe this will contribute in important ways towards ending homelessness in our community.

IV. Analysis of Challenges—The Way Forward ⁸

Now that Ending Community Homelessness Coalition has been formed with a vision of making Austin a “community fiercely focused on ending homelessness,” we should examine the challenges we as a community face and consider how to turn them into fruitful opportunities. This section discusses some of the issues that could become either great challenges or tremendous opportunities over the next couple of years:

A. Shortfall of current service level from current needs

As the list of accomplishments in the last section attest, Austin as a community has done a lot toward ending homelessness. And the list does not even include the work of individual service organizations completed on their own. However, the fact is that there is still a large amount of unmet needs. For example:

- While on any given night Austin as a whole has 687 beds in emergency shelters, 632 beds in transitional housing, 254 beds in permanent supportive housing; the estimated unmet needs are 610, 1387, and 1100 beds respectively in those three categories. Organizations like Foundation Communities have had success building permanent supportive housing units in recent years, but we need to find ways to accelerate that success to catch up with the needs.
- There is a scarcity of alcohol and chemical dependency treatment facilities in Travis County. It is difficult to find publicly funded treatment outside of the criminal justice system. It is service gap that benefits neither the individuals with dependency problem nor the community that cherishes a drug-free environment.
- There is a great need for respite care for the homeless. Austin currently has no staffed respite beds for individuals discharged from hospitals who have no adequate living arrangements. Without appropriate opportunity for full recovery, homeless individuals with illness face high risks for complications and recurrence of health problems, resulting in high incidence of emergency room visits.
- As a community, we also need to work harder in helping the homeless obtain employment. Although most homeless individuals hold jobs, some need support maintaining consistent full-time employment. Many who do work full-time also need better earnings in order to afford their own apartments.

⁸ Our community is grateful to Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department staff for their diligent participation and valuable support. As non-voting members, they are not responsible for HTF and/or ECHO recommendations.

B. Implications of housing bonds for addressing community homelessness

In November, 2006, City of Austin voters approved \$55 million for affordable housing as a component of the \$567 million total bond package. The bond election's success was the result of keen community awareness regarding the need for affordable housing, including strong support from members of the homeless service and advocacy community.

The City has put an administrative process in place with quarterly Notices of Fund Availability released and proposals reviewed by a Bond Review Committee for recommended action by the City Council. Sixty percent of the housing bonds will be used to create rental housing and forty percent of the funds will be used for homeownership.

ECHO is in a position to ensure that some of these bond funds can be used towards the goals of ending community homelessness. By continuing its efforts in strategic planning and coordination of resources, ECHO can be a valuable resource to decision makers and housing providers. Implementation of the housing bond program should continue to be a high priority of the ECHO.

C. Federal Continuum of Care special project funding

Another important resource for housing services for the homeless is the annual Continuum of Care (CoC) program funds allocated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. CoC funds are not community entitlements. To obtain the funds, each community must go through a local planning process, prioritize its proposed projects, and ensure proper dedication of resources to the creation of dwelling units for the chronically homeless. In the past, Austin always defined its local planning boundary as Travis County and submitted CoC proposals with a mix of emphases between housing units and supportive services.

In the 2006 application cycle, the Austin application for the first time fell short of the requisite HUD rating for "bonus" funding, likely because our proposed projects, taken as a whole, weighted too heavily towards supportive services rather than creating physical housing units. As a result, while Austin received funds for renewal projects to maintain existing services, we missed the opportunity to obtain bonus funds that could have been used to acquire new permanent housing units for chronically homeless persons. In order to strengthen future applications the following strategic guideposts have been developed for ECHO activities in CoC planning:

- ECHO should provide leadership in strengthening the CoC planning process as an on-going, comprehensive planning process rather than as a short term task of responding to federal request for CoC funding applications.

- ECHO should explore broadening the geographic boundary of our CoC, in an effort both to enhance regional planning for homeless services on a broader scale, and to encourage our neighboring communities to develop housing proposals that emphasize housing unit development rather than social service provision. For the 2007 application cycle, Williamson County was invited to join Austin's CoC application, resulting in a greater housing mix. We consider that process a successful start.
- ECHO should explore additional strategies of using other funds to support social service activities so as to increase the proportion of proposed CoC funds dedicated to housing units. For the 2007 application cycle, City of Austin took the leadership of coming up with \$65,000 to fund support services for chronically homeless persons for an application for new permanent housing units. We should as a community explore alternative funding sources to allow CoC proposals to concentrate on housing units.

D. Community data on homelessness

As part of the federally mandated community CoC planning, Austin is required to set up a local Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) that records services provided to each homeless individual by providers receiving HUD funds. Austin Travis County Mental Health Mental Retardation Center is the designated HMIS administrative agency.

The MHMR Center has actively coordinated data collection and over the past few years has managed to improve Austin's compliance with federal requirements. The next step for our community would appear to be: How do we go beyond compliance and move towards making the HMIS system useful to our local community?

Another HUD mandated data issue is the biennial homeless count and survey. Austin has had the fortune of having American Corps volunteers who in January, 2007 were instrumental in planning and implementing our most recent homeless count process. As ECHO moves forward, we should also make plans to use the homeless count and survey data in ways that would be beneficial to our community planning and agency collaboration.

The issue of managing community data is also related to the issue of expanding the geographic boundary of service planning described above. The new areas joining the Central Texas CoC area will be under the same mandate to turn in HMIS data and to participate in biennial homeless count and survey. This process requires human power as well as regional coordination. In consideration of this, ECHO has established an HMIS Subcommittee and a Homeless Count subcommittee to provide leadership in the respective issues. This infrastructure development should ensure that data issues are integrated into the overall mission and strategy development of ECHO.

E. Serving special need populations

The experience over the last two years has raised awareness of the housing and social service needs of a number of special populations in Central Texas, including:

- **The emergency homeless and disaster planning.** Member agencies of ECHO have been participating in the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness planning process organized by the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department. The plan is to assist in the development of a city-wide disaster plan that will address the needs of homeless individuals and families when an event occurs. As the plan is developed, there may be the critical role for ECHO to help increasing awareness within and outside the homeless community.
- **Ex-offenders and re-entry into community.** About 3,000 persons a year return to Travis County from a state prison or jail. Empirical evidence indicates that housing and community reintegration for ex-offenders is a difficult problem which, if unresolved, would in the long run increase recidivism, reduce the well-being of the individuals and families involved, and add to the cost of the criminal justice system. Re-entry Roundtable in Travis County has been an effective but small-scale program that contributes to the re-integration of some ex-offenders. Since ex-offenders often encounter difficulty in finding permanent affordable housing, the next step for ECHO would be to target housing development for this group in order to avoid homelessness and recidivism.
- **Returning veterans.** National experts in both the military and the mental field have been warning about an impending mental health crisis among returning veterans from Afghanistan and Iraq. Austin is a major metropolitan area near a major army base, and is likely to be a destination city for some veterans with no home to return to because of mental health issues. While this may not become a problem in the immediate future, it is prudent for ECHO to keep it on the planning agenda for the upcoming years.

F. Community Engagement and Consumer Voice

"Homeless burnout" is a risk that we face with the general community becoming tired and disenchanted with the seemingly ever-growing population of visible homeless. Backlash from commuters, property owners, and downtown residents/visitors frequently makes its way into the public discussion. Some would offer drastic actions that would to other appear to criminalize survival behaviors or curtail all our freedoms and rights. Others may simply abandon their generosity and contributions to the service providers when they feel there are no outcomes for their efforts.

It is imperative that we continue informed, thoughtful, solution-oriented discussion and public policy formation. To this end the ECHO Coalition should have an active community education and engagement campaign. There are many successes to be shared. Homeless people are being housed, becoming employed, paying taxes, getting an education, raising their children, becoming healthy, finding permanent solutions, and giving back to help others. Unfortunately, these are generally not the stories that reach the mass media or public discourse. They are witnessed only by a select few direct service providers. Many citizens want to help with their time, money, and personal resources. We must find ways to channel their desires and energy into fruitful action. Public officials, elected and in management, truly want to do the right thing. They need evidence of success, applicable models, and innovative solutions. The ECHO Coalition can offer them. We must.

G. Conclusion

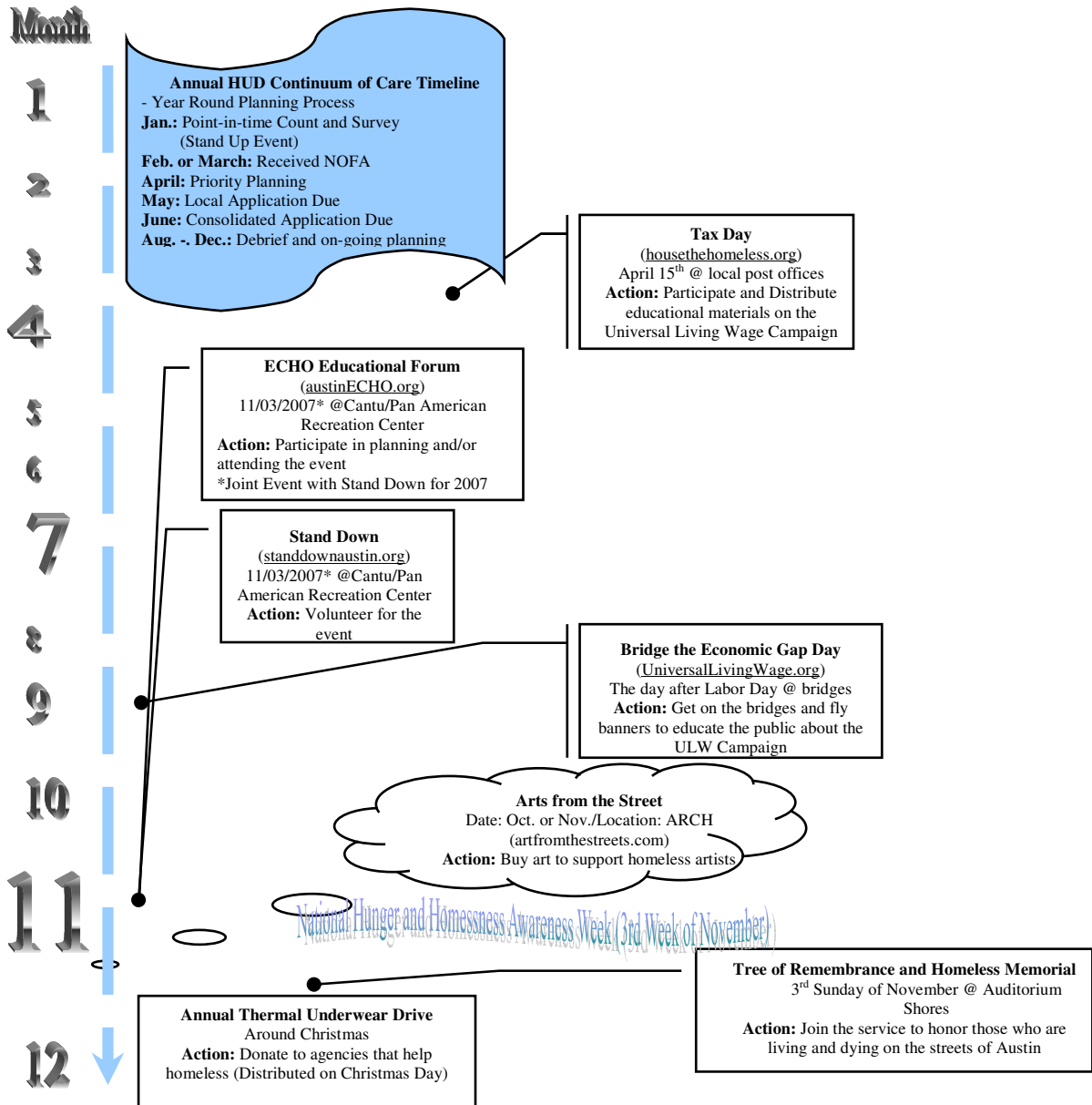
We have offered a short list of issues here that could guide the way forward for ECHO as a coalition with dynamic, proactive leadership. The list is short not because it has exhausted all the challenges we face, but because strategically it makes sense for us to focus on a manageable agenda for this upcoming year. With the focused attention and diligent efforts on the part of the current members of our Ending Community Homelessness Coalition, we are hopeful that we can make meaningful progress on issues on this list, and prepare ourselves for new agenda items this time next year.

There is no reason that the efforts should be limited to the current membership of the ECHO Coalition, however. We recognize that ending homelessness is a community responsibility and requires wide community support and participation. And we invite our fellow citizens to join our effort. Indeed, broad-based participation is the only way for ECHO to achieve its vision of making Austin “a community fiercely focused on ending homelessness.”

V. Community Participation

One does not have to be an official member of ECHO to contribute to ending homelessness, however. We also seek community support on specific events and on helping out with specific organizations. Therefore the final section of this report describes the events scheduled for the coming months on the next page. Following the event calendar, we offer a matrix on opportunities to volunteer at homeless service organizations in Austin.

A. Annual Calendar for Community Events on Homelessness



B. Volunteer Opportunities

Name of Homeless Service Providers	Program/Facility	Target Group	Volunteer Opportunities	Volunteer Contact
AIDS Services of Austin	Food Bank	Central Texans living with HIV and AIDS	1) Clerical/administrative work 2) maintenance and groundskeeping work 3) Food Bank	Sandy Bartlett 406-6163 asa.mail@asaustin.org
AISD	Project HELP (Homeless Education & Learning Program)	Homeless children and youth	1) Tutoring 2) Saturday Empowerment Academy 3) School supply preparation 4) Clerical work 5) Special group projects: making toiletries packs, snack packs, supply packs	Cathy Requejo 414-0760 crequejo@austinisd.org
A New Entry/SUSTANE	1) Transitional Housing 2) Case Management 3) Employment Development	Homeless & Ex-Offenders Populations	1) Client Training Programs 2) Job Search Assistance 3) General Office & Administrative Support 4) Computer Lab Support	Peter Daniels 470-3243 www.anewentry.org
ARC of the Capital Area	Adult Match Program	Disabled Individuals	1) Care for children with disabilities 2) Mentor adult clients to help them experience new opportunities in the community 3) Help clients with their academics and teach life skills 4) Support clients & their families in the Special Education process 5) Spanish speakers for translation during meetings 6) Special events	Sarah Andrews 476-7044 x217 sandr@sarcapitalarea.org
Austin Travis County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center (ATCMHMR)	1) ACCESS 2) Safe Haven 3) Community Voice Mail	People whose lives are seriously affected by developmental disabilities, mental, emotional and substance use disorders	1) Participate on a variety of action committees 2) Food pantry 3) Prepare CVM binders and help with mailing of CVM newsletter	Volunteer Contact: 440-4036 (CVM Contact: Teresa Jedinak - 440-4064)
Blackland CDC	1) Transitional Housing 2) Affordable Housing 3) Senior Housing	Homeless Families Low-income families, senior citizens, and individuals with disabilities	1) Help with rehabilitation of housing for low-income families: light construction, painting, drywall, etc. 2) Provide onsite childcare for affordable/transitional housing tenants while they are in money management classes. 3) Help with garden for senior citizens	<u>Primary Contact:</u> Pam Johnson - 972-5795 or pjohnson@blacklandcdc.org <u>Donation:</u> Isabelle Headrick - 972-5796 or headrick@blacklandcdc.org <u>Housing Rehabilitation:</u> Bo McCarver - 474-6009 or bmccarver@austin.rr.com
Caritas of Austin	1) ReEntry 2) Passages 3) Permanent Supportive Housing (Spring Terrace)	chronically homeless individuals	1) Community advocates mentoring clients transitioning to self-sufficiency 2) Apartment repair 3) Employment job development 4) Social work interns	Molly M. Sipe - 479-4610 ext 121 or msipe@caritasofaustin.org Nancy Ellis - 479-4610 ext 165 or nellis@caritasofaustin.org <u>Donation:</u> cthomas@caritasofaustin.org
Casa Marianella	1) Casa Marianella Emergency Shelter 2) Posada Esperanza Shelter for Women and Children	Immigrants and refugees	Teach English, childcare at Posada, transportation to appointments, cooking meals	Nicole DeGreg 385-5571 casamvols@yahoo.com

Name of Homeless Service Providers	Program/Facility	Target Group	Volunteer Opportunities	Volunteer Contact
Community Partnership for the Homeless	1) Transitional Housing 2) Food Pantry	Homeless veterans	1) Distribute food through weekly food pantry. 2) Solicit donations of household goods, clothing, other necessities. 3) Assist with maintenance, gardening, other improvements to housing.	Joyce G. Pohlman 469-9130 jpohlman@austinhomesless.org
Family Connections		Young children, parents, child care providers, teachers, community leaders	N/A	Donation Contact Only: Rick Rivera 327-7880
FamilyEldercare	Representative Payee Program	Chronically homeless adults	1) Administrative/Clerical opportunities 2) Interns 3) Provide budget set-up, checkbook balancing, and management of monthly bill payments for individuals determined to be incapable of handling their own finances.	<u>Primary Contact:</u> Joyce Hefner - 483-3553 or jhefner@familyeldercare.org <u>Volunteer:</u> Faith Unger - 483-3582 or funger@familyeldercare.org <u>Donation:</u> Julie Freeman - 483-3579 or jfreeman@familyeldercare.org
Foundation Communities	1) Garden Terrace 2) Spring Terrace	Homeless individuals - some are veterans and/or disabled individuals.	1) Food pantry 2) Computer classes 3) Spanish and American Sign Language teachers 4) "Lifeskills" coach to residents 5) Resident transportation assistance 6) Helping people to the grocery store or doctor's appointments	Jackie Blair 447-2026 ext. 35 jackie.blair@foundcom.org
Foundation for the Homeless	1) Feed My People 2) Interfaith Hospitality Network	Homeless individuals and families	1) Serve breakfast downtown Tuesdays and Thursdays at Feed My People. 2) Sunday Host and Sunday Kids Activity Planner 3) Shelter Host- Prepare meals, supervise guests, or spend the night 4) Volunteer Groups to spruce up Day Center 5) Deliver furniture to clients	Lori Kirchgatter 453-6570 lkirchgatter@foundationforthehomeless.org
FrontSteps	1) The Austin Resource Center for the Homeless 2) Garden Terrace Residences	Adult homeless individuals	1) Front Desk Support Volunteers 2) Dinner Servers 3) Clothing Closet Helpers 4) Emergency Shelter Intake Volunteers	Susan Morris 512-305-4133 smorris@frontsteps.org
Goodwill Industries of Central Texas	1) Green Works Project 2) Community Rehabilitation Programs 3) Video Phone Service 4) Goodwill Assistive Technology Lab	People with barriers to employment	1) Computer Museum: cataloguing computer museum pieces, greet guests, document attendance and answer general questions 2) Store: sort and display donations 3) Green Works Project: demanufacture donated computer systems to be resold or recycled 4) Community Center: special projects and general administrative tasks	Christine Chute 748-1684 christine.chute@austingoodwill.org
House the Homeless	1) Universal Living Wage Campaign Tax Day (March 1- April 15th) 2) Universal Living Wage Campaign Bridge the Economic Gap Day (Aug 21st - Sept 3rd) 3) Homeless Memorial (Oct 1st-2nd week in Nov) 4) Thermal Underwear Drive and Give-a-way Party (2nd week in Nov-Dec 25th)	Homeless	1) Assist in one of our programs, targeting all minimum wage workers/supporters seeking income equity and people living in the streets of Austin during the winter	Richard Troxell 796-4366 rrtroxell@aol.com

Name of Homeless Service Providers	Program/Facility	Target Group	Volunteer Opportunities	Volunteer Contact
LifeWorks	1) Street Outreach 2) Emergency Shelter 3) Transitional Living Shelter 4) Supportive Housing Program 5) Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention 6) Substance Abuse & Violence Prevention 7) Teen Parent Services 8) Youth and Adult Counseling 9) Resolution Counseling 10) Kid's Exchange 11) GED & Life Skills Training 12) Foster Care Transitional Services 13) Ben & Jerry's PartnerShop	1) At-risk youth and families 2) Foster care youth 3) homeless youth	1) GED Tutor 2) Street Outreach Volunteer 3) Exchange Kiddos Supervisor 4) Kid's Exchange Data Entry 5) Pregnant & Parenting Case Aide 6) Health Screening Volunteer 7) ESL Tutor 8) Special Events Support	Emily Greene 735-2475 emily.greene@lifeworksweb.org
Meals on Wheels	1) Groceries to Go 2) Medi Wheels 3) Care Calls 4) Handy Wheels 5) HOPE 6) Nutrition and Health 7) Meals for Kids 8) Country Wheels	Homebound, elderly, and disabled	1) Deliver hot meals 2) Shop and deliver vital groceries 3) Provide transportation to and from medical and dental appointments 4) Making "care calls" to clients 5) Perform minor home safety repairs	Theresa Medlin Bella 476-6325 (x108) tmedlin@mealsonwheelsandmore.org Denise Jimenez (x143) for meal delivery Kristin Organ (x141) for "And More" program
Micah 6	Food Pantry	Homeless and the impoverished in the University of Texas campus area	1) Serve on committees 2) Pick up and deliver donated food 3) Commit to defrost freezers, clean refrigerators or other maintenance chores 4) Plant a garden to provide fresh produce 5) Assist guests as they shop 6) Help stock shelves 7) Sponsor a grocery item drive	Charles Locklin 415-2407 chlocklin5@austin.rr.com
Mobile Loaves and Fishes	1) MLF SHARES 2) Habitat on Wheels	Homeless and working poor	1) Bread and Egg ministries 2) MLF Shares 3) Auction fundraiser 4) Food pick-up 5) Gardener 6) Grant writing 7) Make ready team 8) Office help 9) Sack lunch team 10) Truck servicing, maintenance, washing, and driving 11) Special events	Ruth 306-8036 ruth@mlfnw.org

Name of Homeless Service Providers	Program/Facility	Target Group	Volunteer Opportunities	<u>Volunteer Contact</u>
SafePlace	1) Emergency shelter 2) 24-hour hotline 3) Hospital accompaniment for sexual assault 4) Assault survivors, group and individual counseling for adults and children 5) Affordable housing through our transitional services program 6) Legal advocacy 7) Children's activities and therapeutic groups 8) Life Skills classes 9) Prevention and community education programs and systems advocacy	women, children & men affected by sexual or domestic violence	1) Clerical/administrative work 2) Fostering a client's pet in our SafePets program 3) Receiving donations and basic needs items in the warehouse 4) Provide support to clients as hospital or legal advocates 5) Children's activities volunteers 6) Shelter and house support volunteers 7) Provide outreach and education to the community through our Community Education volunteer program. 8) GED, ESL and Computer Class tutors that support our Life Skills and Grove Place adult education programs.	<p><u>Primary Contact:</u> info@austin-safeplace.org</p> <p><u>Volunteer:</u> Christine Langa - 356.1561 or langa@austin-safeplace.org</p> <p><u>Donation:</u> Patty Carvajal -267-7233 or pcarvajal@austin-safeplace.org</p>
The Salvation Army	1) Passages 2) Downtown Shelter 3) Austin Shelter for Women and Children	Homeless men, women, and children	1) Soup Kitchen, cleaning, painting, clothes sorting, landscaping, drives for food, clothing 2) Clerical and data entry 3) Sponsor birthday for kids, special events, Angel Tree, and Toys for Tots	<p>Bob Cox 634-5909 robert_cox@uss.salvationarmy.org</p>
Trinity Center	1) Woman to Woman 2) Weekday Volunteer 3) Spiritual Support	1) women experiencing homelessness and/or poverty 2) anyone experiencing homelessness and/or poverty	1) prepare and serve breakfast and coffee, serve as a "personal shopper" for women in the clothing closet, sort clothing 2) prepare and serve breakfast and coffee, provide information about community resources, assist people with using computers and phones, visit with people and provide emotional support 3) lead a devotional, prayer service, Bible study, sing-along, or other spiritual support activity	<p>Mary Rychlik 472-1196 Mary@TrinityCenterAustin.org</p>
VinCare	1) St. Louise House 2) Outreach to Street Youth	Louise House serves women with children and Outreach to Street Youth serves homeless street youth	1) St. Louise House: child care volunteers; special project volunteers (preparing meals for resident meetings or holidays); donations organization. 2) Outreach to Street Youth: prepare and serve meals to youth living on the streets around UT. During the winter, assist with the cold weather shelters. 3) VinCare Services: fundraising; newsletter mailings; special events; community outreach; and office assistance.	<p>Sharon Bieser bieser@vincare.org</p>

For more volunteer opportunities, please call the United Way 's helpline at 2-1-1 or visit their website at www.unitedwaycapitalarea.org/gethelp/index.cfm Or Hands On Central Texas website at www.handsoncentraltexas.org. To learn more about homeless issues, please go to the Information Website on Homelessness at www.AustinHTF.org

Updated: June 2007

Appendix A: Homeless Task Force Structure and Activities (January 2006-June 2007)

Homeless Task Force (HTF) is a community based volunteer coalition of people interested in the issue of Homelessness. It consists of a minimum of 21 Steering Committee Members, with no more than 40 percent being service providers. The Steering Committee oversees four committees: Executive & Advocacy, Resource & Program; Stand Down; and End Chronic Homelessness Organizing Committee.

The committee structure of HTF is as follows:

- **HTF Steering Committee (Voting Membership of HTF)**

The membership of HTF meets monthly, with the exception of December. Meetings allow members to receive reports from the committees about activities and receive information about community concerns. At each meeting the membership receives a presentation about existing programs in and outside of Austin.

The Steering Committee consists of between 30-40 persons.

- **Executive & Advocacy Committee (Officers of HTF)**

The Executive & Advocacy Committee meets monthly and provides direction to the Steering Committee, but also receives direction from HTF membership and greater community. The group, in its Executive capacity, is responsible for the ongoing business of HTF. In its Advocacy capacity, the committee meets with City Council Members, speaks before Austin City Council, Travis County Commissioner's Court, Community Action Network and other groups as required or requested.

HTF Chair:	Rick Rivera (2006-2007)
HTF Vice Chair:	Stacey Yates (2006) Coni Stogner (2007)
HTF At-Large (total 3):	Richard Troxell (2006-2007) Margarine Beaman (2006-2007) Alison Romano (2006) Rachele Misiti (2007)

- **Resources & Programs Committee**

The Resources & Programs Committee (R&P) meets as needed. This committee is responsible for the development of Austin/Travis County's Continuum of Care (CoC) application. During 2006-2007 the committee expanded our CoC area to include Williamson County, conducted our community's most successful count of homeless persons (working with ECHO's Planning and Evaluation Committee), began looking at issues surround homeless single women and conducted a survey of homeless persons. Membership varies.

Chairs: Rick Rivera, Angela Atwood

- **Stand Down Committee**

This committee is responsible for planning and execution of this community's "Stand Down". Stand Down is an event directed toward our homeless community members. This annual event seeks to provide a reprieve from the daily street life experienced by those who are without housing and provide access to information and services. Membership varies.

Chair: Mike McIntire

- **End Chronic Homelessness Organizing Committee**

End Chronic Homelessness Organizing Committee is responsible for the monitoring, progress, and planning for our community's 10 Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness. Its activities are reported in Appendix B below.

Chair: John Nyfler

Vice Chair: Donna Carter

Appendix B: End Chronic Homelessness Organizing Committee Structure and Activities (January 2006-June 2007)

End Chronic Homelessness Organizing Committee consists of a Steering Committee and four Subcommittees. These constituent parts have all periodically set new goals, continually adjusted their work as circumstances required, and regularly examined the most effective way to work with other planning bodies in our community.

- **Steering Committee**

The Steering Committee provides overall direction, vision, and resource development to support the Ten Year Plan and to convene quarterly meetings. In addition, many of the Steering Committee members also spend time on various community presentations and media interviews to inform the public and elected officials on homeless issues and our efforts to end chronic homelessness.

Chair:

John Nyfeler AQUIRRE CORPORATION

Vice-Chair:

Donna Carter Carter Design Associates

Members:

Sherry Fleming Travis County HHSVS
 Paul Hilgers City of Austin NHCD
 Jo Kathryn Quinn Caritas of Austin
 Kris Linenberger Casey Family
 David Lurie Austin/Travis County HHSD
 Jeff Trigger Downtown Austin Alliance (DAA)
 Helen Varty FrontSteps
 Mitch Weynand LifeWorks
 Pat Wong LBJ School of Public Affairs, The University of Texas

Staff:

Gilja Koo Austin/Travis County HHSD

Subcommittee Meetings/Events since January 2006	Number/Est. Value
Steering Committee Meetings	14 mtgs
Members' hours given to regular meetings	199 hours ⁹ (\$3,735 ¹⁰)
Old ECHO Quarterly Meetings	5 mtgs
Members' hours given to quarterly meetings	(278hours/\$5,218)

⁹ Accumulation of *Number of hours times number of attendees* at each meeting

¹⁰ According to Independent Sector, the 2006 estimate for the value of a volunteer hour is \$18.77 per hour.

- **Planning & Evaluation Subcommittee**

The Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee has focused on community data improvement on chronic homelessness. The major accomplishments of the Subcommittee include joining with Homeless Task Force in planning and conducting the homeless count for 2007, publication of the first progress report, and partnership with other organizations to improve the Homeless Management Information System.

Co-Chairs:

David Lurie Austin/Travis County HHSD
 Pat Wong LBJ School of Public Affairs, The University of Texas

Members:

Angela Atwood LifeWorks
 Vince Cobalis Austin/Travis County HHSD
 Debra Crovo* Goodwill Industries of Central Texas
 Jay Filderman The Salvation Army
 Elizabeth Gfell ATCMHMR
 Brendah Herndon Housing Authority of City of Austin
 Patrick Herndon Community Member
 Dwayne Kinloch Front Steps
 Martin Montero Latent Image Ventures/Haven Tea Bar and Lounge
 Raul Munoz* The Salvation Army
 Laurie Najjar Community Member
 Joe O'Neal St. Edward's University
 Patricia Ramos The Salvation Army
 Wanda Robins* Texas Homeless Network
 Natasha Ponczek Austin/Travis County HHSD
 Susan Szaniszlo Public Policy Research
 Sandra Valenzuela Travis County HHSVS

* Currently non-active members who served on End Chronic Homelessness Committee the period Jan. 2006 through June 2007

Meetings/Events since January 2006	Number/Est. Value
Planning & Evaluation Subcommittee Meetings	14 mtgs
Members' hours given to regular meetings	287 hours (\$5,387)
Stand Up Homeless Count & Survey Planning Meetings	7 mtgs,3 trainings,2 evts
Volunteers/Members' hours given to the Stand Up Planning Process	Est. 876 hours (\$16,443)

- **Prevention Subcommittee**

The Prevention Subcommittee works on developing/expanding relationship with other community groups that focus on preventing homelessness. The major accomplishments of the Subcommittee include research on programs that provide housing stability to those at risk of losing their housing and support to discharged homeless persons, particularly in the areas of corrections, health care and foster care. The Subcommittee also developed the inventory of the volunteer opportunities at homeless services agencies, as described in Section V of this report.

Co-Chairs:

Jo Kathryn Quinn Caritas of Austin
 Kris Linenberger Casey Family

Members:

Katie Falgoust Goodwill Industries of Central Texas
 Bill Fielding Fieldinglecht Gallery and downtown resident
 Darla Gay District Attorney’s Office
 David Gomez ATCMHMR
 Susan J. Jackson Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association (DANA)
 Rose Lancaster Austin Area Interreligious Ministries
 Sabelyn Pussman* Community Member
 Carolyn Reberson* DFPS – Preparation for Adult Living Program (PAL)
 Tina Slayton Community Member
 Terri Taylor Texas Youth Commission
 Melissa Turner LifeWorks
 Debbie Webb ATCMHMR

Meetings/Events since January 2006	Number/Est. Value
Prevention Subcommittee Meetings	18 mtgs
Members’ hours given to regular meetings	230 hours (\$4,317)

- **Exiting Subcommittee**

The Exiting Subcommittee focused on finding alternative housing solutions before its merger with the Systemic Issues/Advocacy Subcommittee in October 2006. Some of the Subcommittee accomplishments include the research paper on housing models, the inventory of boarding-homes, summary documents of housing barriers/case studies at ARCH.

- **Chair:**

Helen Varty Front Steps

- **Members:**

Jen Biddle* Vincare/St. Louise House (alternate: Linsey Berry)

Bonner Brown Community Member
 Molly Dougherty* Front Steps
 Jerrol Davis Caritas of Austin
 Rebecca Elizondo Goodwill Industries of Central Texas
 Stefan Fehr Front Steps
 David Gomez ATCMHMR
 Sally Hayes* Foundation for the Homeless
 Kentra Peters Family Eldercare (alternate: Myra Janssens)
 Kathy Ridings The Salvation Army (alternate: Jay Filderman)
 Charles Walker Homeless Advocate

Meetings/Events since January 2006	Number/Est. Value
Exiting Subcommittee Meetings ¹¹	7 mtgs
Members' hours given to regular meetings	126 hours (\$2,365)

• **Systemic Issues/Advocacy Subcommittee**

The Systemic Issues/Advocacy Subcommittee focuses on community outreach and collection/development of educational materials on homelessness. Accomplishments of the Subcommittee are the 2006 Homeless Educational Forum, the talking points document that includes “cost-savings analysis” and Austin’s Continuum of Care, and on-going development and management of the Committee website at www.AustinECHO.org

Chair:

Mitch Weynand LifeWorks

Members:

Bette Allen* Community Member
 Frank Fernandez Community Partnership for the Homeless
 Mary Frenzel* Homeless Advocate
 Renee Hopper Homeless Advocate
 Steve Kaiven Goodwill Industries of Central Texas
 Mike Manor Austin Area Interreligious Ministries
 Ken Martin* Texas Homeless Network
 Susan Morris Front Steps
 Patrick Herndon Community Member
 Vicki Totten St. Edward’s University
 Richard Troxell House the Homeless
 Rick Rivera FamilyConnections

Meetings/Events since January 2006	Number/Est. Value
Systemic Issues/Advocacy Subcommittee Meetings	15 mtgs
Members' hours given to regular meetings	222 hours (\$4,167)
ECHO Educational Forum	1 event
(Community) Members' hours given to the Forum	414 hours

¹¹ This Subcommittee has merged with the Systemic Issues/Advocacy Subcommittee since September 2006

Appendix C: Chronology of Events for End Chronic Homelessness Organizing Committee

Aug. 2003: Ms. Sally Shipman's visit to Austin.

Ms. Sally Shipman, Region VI Coordinator of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, visited Austin City Manager Toby Futrell to encourage the development of the 10-year plan to end chronic homelessness. The ATCHHSD hired a consultant to lead the process of developing and drafting the Plan, while working closely with the CAN Homeless Task Force.

Sep. to Dec. 2003: Worked to develop the Plan (weekly meeting open to all)

Recommendations developed by working group of the CAN Homeless Task Force. Austin's Plan Recommendations follow the guideline of National Alliance to End Chronic Homelessness for the Plan

Dec 2004: Plan was approved by the CAN Homeless Task Force

Jan. 2004: Presented to the Community Justice Council

April 2004: Presented to the Community Action Network A-Team

The CAN A-Team directed the HTF to conduct a survey to determine the extent of local services to chronically homeless persons (the ATCHHSD hired an intern to conduct the survey).

April to July 2004: Conducted survey on chronic homelessness in Austin/Travis County
The results of the survey were included as Appendix D in the Plan

Aug. 2004: Presented to the CAN A-Team (with Survey Results)

Aug. 2004: Presented to the CAN Resource Council (with Survey Results)

Aug. 2004: Presented to the City of Austin Health Care Subcommittee

Sep. 2004: Approved by the Austin City Council

Dec. 2004: Structured the implementation Committee (Old ECHO) and Recruited its Chair

Dec. 2005: Held a kick-off event to announce the Plan to the public (News Conference)

Jan. 2005: Held the first Old ECHO quarterly meeting for all members

April. 2005: Held the second Old ECHO quarterly meeting for all members

August 2005: Held the third Old ECHO quarterly meeting for all members

Nov. 2005: Held the 1st Educational Forum on homelessness for the public (Public Forum)

Jan. - Dec. 2005: Numerous Old ECHO Subcommittee meetings were held

Jan. 2006: Old ECHO Strategic Planning Session (Steering Committee)

Jan. 2006: Held the fourth Old ECHO quarterly meeting for all members

Jan. 2006: Old ECHO Strategic Planning Session (Steering Committee)

April 2006: Held the fifth Old ECHO quarterly meeting for all members

August 2006: Held the sixth Old ECHO quarterly meeting for all members

Nov. 2006: Held the 2nd Educational Forum on homelessness for the public (Public Forum)

Dec. 2006 – Apr. 2007: Old ECHO/HTF Joint Strategic Planning Session (Steering Committee)

Jan. 2007: Stand Up point-in-time Homeless Count (in collaboration with HTF/AmeriCorps)

February 2007: Held the seventh Old ECHO quarterly meeting for all members

May 2007: Stand Up Unsheltered Homeless Survey (in collaboration with HTF/AmeriCorps)

June 2007: Held the fifth Old ECHO quarterly meeting for all members (voted on new structure)

Jan. 2007 - June 2007: Numerous committee meetings inside and outside Old ECHO were held

Appendix D: Resolution by Travis County Commissioners Court

Travis County Commissioners Court



Resolution

WHEREAS, in 2001, the Bush Administration had established the goal of ending chronic homelessness within a decade and charged local communities to develop their individual plans for ending chronic homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines a "chronically homeless" person as an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition, such as serious mental illness or a diagnosable substance abuse disorder, who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more, or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years;

WHEREAS, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness has been created to develop and implement a comprehensive national approach to end homelessness in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the "Plan to End Chronic Homelessness in Austin/Travis County" has been approved by the Austin City Council, endorsed by the Community Action Network, and implemented by the End Chronic Homelessness Organizing (ECHO) Committee that has a broad community representation including business leaders, service providers, homeless and formerly homeless persons, local government entities, citizens, and representatives of the faith community; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that of the 4,000 homeless persons in Austin/Travis County on any given day, nearly 600 can be considered to meet the definition of a "chronically homeless" person; and

WHEREAS, the entire community will benefit from ending chronic homelessness; and

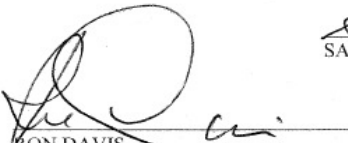
WHEREAS, Travis County recognizes that chronic homelessness is a result of poverty, untreated mental illness, and substance abuse; and

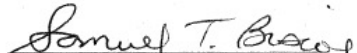
WHEREAS, Travis County recognizes its responsibility to serve all its citizens

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

That We, the Travis County Commissioners Court, hereby endorse and support the Plan to End Chronic Homelessness.

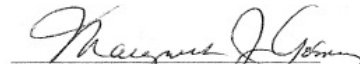
In Witness Whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and caused the Great Seal of Travis County, Texas to be affixed on this day 29th of August, 2006.


RON DAVIS
County Commissioner, Precinct 1


SAMUEL T. BISCOE, County Judge

KAREN SONLEITNER
County Commissioner, Precinct 2


GERALD DAUGHERTY
County Commissioner, Precinct 3


MARGARET J. GOMEZ
County Commissioner, Precinct 4

Appendix E: Homeless Count for Austin/Travis County

Austin/Travis County Estimate

Part 1: Homeless Population	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
1. Number of Households <u>with</u> Dependent Children:	71	80	369	520
1a. Total Number of Persons in these Households (adults and children)	237	303	1292	1832
2. Number of Households <u>without</u> Dependent Children**	609	156	1871	2636
2a. Total Number of Persons in these Households	609	156	1871	2636
Total Persons (Add Lines 1a and 2a):	846	459	3163	4468
Part 2: Homeless Subpopulations (Adults only, except g.)	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
a. Chronically Homeless	91		281	372
b. Severely Mentally Ill	275		636	911
c. Chronic Substance Abuse	211		1160	1371
d. Veterans	46		150	195
e. Persons with HIV/AIDS	9		75	84
f. Victims of Domestic Violence	522		281	803
g. Unaccompanied Youth (Under 18)	8		19	26