



PRESS RELEASE

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Downtown Partnership Reunites 1,000 Homeless Individuals With Loved Ones

The Family Reunification Program, sponsored by Sharp HealthCare, unites homeless individuals in Downtown San Diego with friends and family across the country

The Downtown San Diego Partnership and its Clean & Safe Program are proud to announce an exciting milestone reached today by the Family Reunification Program, sponsored by Sharp HealthCare. Through this comprehensive program, 1,000 homeless individuals in Downtown San Diego have been reunited with friends and family across the nation.

Launched in 2011, the Family Reunification Program enables Clean & Safe homeless outreach coordinators to identify homeless individuals who will benefit most by traveling back home to loved ones. Family and friends are then contacted to ensure the person will have a place to stay, as well as the support they need to get back on their feet. Once confirmed, the outreach team offers the individual transportation necessary to reconnect with their support system.

“Finding answers to homelessness is challenging, but this collaborative effort proves it is possible,” said Kris Michell, President and CEO of the Downtown San Diego Partnership. “A strong support system is essential for all of us, and I look forward to the continued success of the Family Reunification Program.”

Today’s tremendous achievement is made possible through a generous sponsorship from Sharp HealthCare, along with support and contributions from AT&T, Bank of America, California Apartment Association, the County of San Diego, Cox Communications, Jerry & Eleanor Navarra, The Mansour Group Inc., San Diego Gas & Electric, Travelers Aid San Diego, Underground Elephant, Union Bank, and the William D. Lynch Company.

“This amazing program has ended homelessness for 1,000 individuals and should be widely applauded,” said Dan Gross, Executive Vice President, Sharp HealthCare. “I encourage more organizations in San Diego to support this proven solution, which works with people living on the streets to renew relationships with family and friends in a supportive environment.”

Every single one of the 1,000 people aided by this program has a unique story. Take, for example, Jeffrey – an honorably discharged veteran whose struggle with alcoholism left him unemployed and homeless in Downtown San Diego. During a visit to St. Vincent de Paul, Jeffrey heard about the Family Reunification Program. He was referred to the Clean & Safe homeless outreach coordinators for assistance, and they were able to successfully reunite Jeffrey with his family and connect him to House Incorporated, a veteran treatment program, in Missouri.

“The Family Reunification Program changes lives forever. It gives hope to some of the most vulnerable members of our Downtown community,” said Alonso Vivas, Executive Director of Downtown San Diego Partnership’s Clean & Safe Program. “It’s been an incredible journey so far and this is just the beginning.”

To learn more about the Downtown San Diego Partnership and the Clean & Safe Program, please visit
www.downtownsandiego.org.

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