



House the Homeless, HTH, founded by Richard R. Troxell in 1989, is the oldest, all volunteer, action NPO in Texas fighting together to *combat, end and prevent* homelessness locally, with national impact.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### December 11, 2022 (Sunday)

#### HTH's 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Homeless Memorial Service:

Program starts at 8:00 am sharp and ends at 9:00 am, followed by refreshments. (Sunrise Set-up/fellowship). Join us at the House the Homeless Memorial Site with MLK Bench, Plaques, and Tree of Remembrance. *Located between the Fannie Davis Gazebo & the Stevie Ray Vaughan Statue, 1<sup>st</sup> St. & Riverside/Auditorium Shores.*

### New Year's Day 2023 (Sun., Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>)

The HUGSS+ event will return indoors at First Baptist Austin with a hot meal, music and new Winter thermals and other survival items). Church & other volunteers will gather at noon to serve guests. 901 Trinity Street. FMI: <https://www.housethehomeless.org> To volunteer, please e-mail [Cbblanford@icloud.com](mailto:Cbblanford@icloud.com).

## 2022 YEAR IN REVIEW & WHAT'S AHEAD

**2022** began with our HUGSS+ event at First Baptist as an outdoor event with a BBQ lunch, free haircuts, volunteers as young as kindergarten age, and the distribution of nearly 300 new backpacks full of HUGSS+ (Hats, Under-thermals, Gloves, Scarves, Socks – and more).

**Boots on the Ground.** Individuals and families are increasingly being removed from last resort “encampments.” Circumstances vary widely. House the Homeless (HTH) volunteers reach deep into the woods. We serve as **advocates with & for** our unhoused neighbors. We often supply water (often taken for granted but life sustaining), as well as ice, coffee, protein drinks, toilet paper, flashlights, batteries, bus passes and more. We offer spiritual care, books and Bibles as requested. We are increasing our commitment to deliver relief and help our friends navigate verifiable resources, including the updating and printing of our **18<sup>th</sup> biennial HTH Plastic Pocket Resource Guide** in early 2023.

Collaborative efforts lead to successes, such as the story of Charles Guidry, Jr., our **newest HTH Board member**. Charles successfully transitioned from homelessness and unimaginable challenges to winning the 2022 AARP Award for Volunteer of the Year in Texas. Now housed and in his second year of gainful employment, Charles openly shares his uplifting story while serving relentlessly and encouraging others to thrive.

**Big News from Richard:** Sylvia and I are still with her 90-year-old parents in North Carolina. Our daughter, Colleen is also here, married and due to birth our first grandson in February.

As for me, my days are filled with telling and retelling the stories of folks, living on the streets of Austin and across the nation. I do this by connecting with people on Linked-In and sending out

my latest book, *Short Stories in a Long Journey: What it Takes to End and Prevent Homelessness*, to every member of Congress, all U.S. Cabinet Members, President Biden and the First Lady. I've written to 3,000 public libraries, 3,000 four-year college libraries, and countless others.

The book explores the lives of our people while weaving in my own experiences, the trials and tribulations of alcoholism, our crusade to discharge no one into homelessness from institutions -- the military, hospitals, jails, and so on -- over the last 35 years, and my formula that leads our battle for living wages. The book is about to show up in our libraries or you can get a copy at <https://www.amazon.com/Short-Stories-Long-Journey-Homelessness/dp/1632100886>

**More Big News!** Sylvia and I have successfully installed the **2<sup>nd</sup> Home Coming statue** (the first is at Community First! Village), at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. <https://housethehomeless.kinsta.cloud/dedication-blessing-ceremony-at-the-basilica/> We are told that the Basilica has foot traffic of over one million people each year. From now on, the powerful Home Coming statue in *Chapter 14 of the book*, (<https://housethehomeless.kinsta.cloud/bronze-statues/>) tells of the fascinating struggle to create, locate, and unveil the forces of kindness, hope, and humanity of people experiencing homelessness toward others. Plan your next D.C. pilgrimage and include the Home Coming! Finally, I continue to sit on the Core Team of the National Coalition for the Homeless campaign to end and prevent Homelessness. We call this, Bring America Home Now, BAHN, campaign <https://www.bringamericaahomenow.org/>. You can join the fight by going to this link and signing on.

In Unity There is Strength,

*Cecilia Blanford*, President and Co-Founder

*Richard R. Troxell*, National Education Director and Founder

*Will Hyatt*, Vice President & Volunteer Chaplain

*To live in a place of safety, peace and dignity is a human right!*  
*"House the Homeless" is imperative.*

[HousetheHomeless.org](https://HousetheHomeless.org)

[UniversalLivingWage.org](https://UniversalLivingWage.org)

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