



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.

December 10, 2023 (Sunday Morning) – Alan Graham is our Keynote Speaker for HTH’s 31st Annual Homeless Memorial Service. Program starts at 9:00 am to 10:00 am, preceded and followed by refreshments. Volunteers welcome prior to event. Sadly, we will again remember more than 250 children, women and men who died while houseless or abjectly poor in Austin. Please join us at the House the Homeless Memorial Site with MLK Bench and Tree of Remembrance, Lady Bird Lake (*Lady Bird Lake (1st St./Riverside/Auditorium Shores)*).

New Year’s Day 2024 (Monday, Jan. 1st) – Annual HUGSS+ party and hot lunch for our unsheltered friends at First Baptist Austin. Bless hundreds with new Winter thermals and survival items). Volunteers will gather at 11am* with guests served from Noon to 2 pm. 901 Trinity FMI: <https://www.housethehomeless.org> To volunteer: Cbblanford@icloud.com

2023 IN REVIEW

Boots on the Ground. More and more individuals and families are moved, often forcibly, from their last resort “encampments;” sometimes even fined up to \$500! Often their belongings are tossed as they are told to “move on” – but to where? It’s reported that, In the downtown area, 584 people were found to still need shelter, but open beds are virtually nonexistent. In fact, the May /July Points in Time counts reported a 25% increase in Austin area folks living unsheltered.

Thank you for helping House the Homeless (HtH) volunteers to bless remote camps with relief – spreading love through education, advocacy, navigation tools, much needed bus passes, etc. -- to help our friends progress towards sustainable housing and life skills. We especially thank last year’s contributors of \$100 or more that helped to provide temporary sanctuary, along with basics to meet critical needs as our friends work towards housing.

We brought critical supplies and direct guidance to those seeking housing and emergency assistance. This last year we have supplied tents, sleeping bags, blankets, bus passes, flashlights, hygiene supplies. Guiding all to transitional services, 12,000 HtH Plastic Pocket Resource Guides were distributed during 2022-2023. Uniquely designed by Richard Troxell, these PPGs were provided to multiple camps, individuals on the street, and direct services providers. Donations toward cost makes this durable resource accessible (2024, 18th bi-annual).

Feature: HtH volunteers provided support and guidance to formally unhoused friends, so some become field examples that encourage others to pursue their own successful path to housing. We have a growing field team already showing results in mentoring programs. And we are continuing to promote more buddy system style team building; and it is working.

News from Richard Troxell, Founder and National Education Director (NED):

“Sad news and good news- Sylvia’s father passed in February. He is deeply missed. Our grandson Henry was born in January. He is the joy of our lives. The circle of life completes itself over and over. We are blessed and Sylvia’s mom has moved in with us.

*Work on the ULW calculator will soon be completed <https://universallivingwage.org/fmr-api/>. Bo with yanbosolutions.com is helping us to calculate work wages automatically and by area and...wait for it...zip code. This all coincides with HtH and the National Coalition for the Homeless in our letter to President Biden. Watch both web sites for the letter and word on the new Calculator quality up-grades. **As long as we have blood, a breath, and time, we will fight for a better wage.** Much love, Richard”*

Richard continues to serve on the HtH Board of Directors & Executive Committee.

He also sits 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. www.bringamerica-homenow.org/. House the Homeless, Inc. is a partner-organization.

More Big News! Blythe Plunkett has been elected as the 2024 President of House the Homeless. After 34 years since co-founding HtH with Richard, Cecilia has asked to move to the Advisory Board, along with long time Board members, Jo Ann Koepke, and Greg Gibson. Please join us in welcoming Blythe to this higher leadership role and in supporting Will Hyatt, Charles Guidry, Danny Marrs, and Richard Troxell as the voting board of directors for 2024.

Blythe Plunkett is a native Austinite who has worked with Austin's homeless for the past 27 years. It became more than a casual act after working as a corrections officer and seeing how impacting small circumstances can be on one's life. She currently works for TDIndustries as a Purchasing and Project Coordinator. Experience includes employment, advisory and board positions with Project Transitions, CommUnityCare, Downtown Austin Community Court, ECHO, Mobile Loaves & Fishes, Hill Country Ride for AIDS, Community Advancement Network and the Austin Poverty Initiative. Join us in welcoming and supporting Blythe in 2024!

Blessings to you and yours,

Cecilia Blanford, President, 2021-23, Co-Founder, circa 1989

Richard R. Troxell, National Education Director and Founder

Will Hyatt, Vice President & Volunteer Chaplain

HousetheHomeless.org

UniversalLivingWage.org

512-565-1388

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