



House the Homeless founded in 1989, is the oldest, all volunteer, action organization in Texas fighting to combat, end and prevent homelessness all across North America.

P.O. Box 2312 Austin, TX 78768 512.796.4366 www.HouseTheHomeless.org www.UniversalLivingWage.org

Year in Review- 2015

Along with all of our other activities: We have a New House the Homeless Logo that includes the world's cutest dog who promises to love our people unconditionally.

Within House the Homeless is the national/international power project: **Universal Living Wage**. Its formula ensures that anyone working 40 hours in a week will be able to afford basic food, clothing, shelter, public transportation, and access to the emergency room. The U.S. Military and the federal government have both adopted our tenet of making their wages relate to the local cost of housing. This year, we brought in the designers through Leap to Success to give us a world class, interactive website: UniversalLivingWage.org Check it out!

Timothy P. Schmalz, the world's most renowned figurative bronze sculptor, is presently sculpting my concept of the homeless statue- **The Home Coming** in miniature. With a bit of luck, we will unveil the miniature at the Homeless Memorial in November. We'll use these to launch our final fund-raising campaign to build the life-size statue right here in Austin. Bring your \$500 check or your plan for how to get your family to pool together and catch a piece of history!

House the Homeless had the opportunity and honor to participate in the Mayor's initiative to end veterans' homelessness. This year, we are pleased to welcome Mayor Steve Adler as this year's keynote speaker at the **23rd annual Homeless Memorial** on Auditorium Shores (renamed the Vic Mathias Shores). See www.HouseTheHomeless.org for details for the Sunday, November 15th Sunrise Service. That's right, 6:56 am!

We also continue to fight very hard for the civil rights of our people who are under an escalating attack as the creation of the Waller Creek tunnel moves toward completion with the creation of the Austin River Walk for the "Haves." The weapons of choice are No Sit/ No Lie and No Camping Tickets. The Department of Justice, due in part to our urging, has declared "the Criminalization of Homelessness" as these Class C **Criminal** tickets become **barriers** to employment, housing, and escaping homelessness. Through an Open Records request, we have uncovered that in just over year, thousands upon thousands of tickets have been used to demand \$200-\$500 from people who have lost everything. **When will we simply House the Homeless?**

Finally, we know that not everyone is going to be housed by winter which is why we are holding our **15th annual Thermal Underwear Party** on New Year's Day. Last year, we served about 600 folks. We expect to do so again. Look for the sign-up at www.HouseTheHomeless.org if you wish to be part of this awesome event when we'll again have one heck of a party with Sylvia running the kitchen, and PJ Lyles and the South Austin Rockin' Gospel Project. We will give away life saving **HUGSS⁺** (*hats, thermal underwear, gloves, socks, scarves, and rain ponchos*). Please use the enclosed envelope to give generously to this life saving event. **Sponsored each year by good folks like you. Thank you!**



All the best in the New Year! Richard R. Troxell