



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.

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Year in Review 2017

It has been a very hard year for people suffering from natural disasters. House the Homeless suspended The Home Coming statue GoFundMe campaign to lend a hand to victims of Hurricane Harvey. Like other organizations, we too donated 1,000 socks, jumped out early to work with the Red Cross, the COA Mayor Steve Adler's initiative, and worked with Scott, the manager at The Hope Family Thrift Store at IH 35 and 51st Street. Finally, we made a financial contribution matched by the Dell Corporation to be used as needed.

When our homeless citizens were turned away from resources and housing needed for evacuees, HTH posted a "No Line Butting," statement when newly homeless citizens were again served before those who have been patiently but desperately waiting in line, were passed over following Katrina, the Veteran push, and now Harvey. Spring-boarding off that disgrace, HTH is now pushing for our newest Resolution to become federal legislation. This would allow any person experiencing homelessness to receive services and housing if they present themselves to be homeless at the time of, and in the area of, a declared disaster. Presently, they cannot.

HTH captured media attention twice this year. First was when "The Mighty, Mighty Homeless" marched and serenaded South Congress shop patrons with clever chants promoting Living Wages and calling for a Austin Homeless Worker's Hotel. We also got newspaper ink when we chimed in with a *letter to the editor* pointing that much of the unrest in the country stems from the **lack of living wage jobs and good, quality, affordable health care ... for all.**

The Home Coming statue project has all but reached its initial financial goal with 100 % of these funds separated from our core budget!

Last Year's Thermal Party was an **enormous success** as we again "winterized" folks right and left! We also gave out over 400 new, one piece, surplus coveralls.



As we say, it has been a brutal year for many of our nations citizens. Our core need remains. Please give generously to help us protect and "winterize" our neighbors again with thermals, hats, gloves, socks, safety whistles, & reusable rain ponchos. We got 10 inches of rain over the weekend of Harvey. My goodness, did the people thank you! "Please thank everybody for us. Over and over again, I heard people say, "We wouldn't have survived without House the Homeless!" * **You**, the House the Homeless supporters, are the **blessing** given to our people experiencing homelessness in Austin/ Travis County. We *are* the change that we hope for.

Finally, please join us for the **25th annual Homeless Memorial** when we stop what we are doing, put our pencils and brooms down, get up just a wee bit earlier, 6:57 am, and say goodbye to our sisters and brothers, who we have lost on the streets. Sara Hickman always called upon us, the mourners, to outnumber the names of the people we honor when we read their names. Perhaps, on the 25th anniversary of this event, we will meet her challenge. In any case, we will remember this memorial. Bring your children. The family needs to gather.

In Solidarity,

Richard R. Troxell