



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

P.O. Box 2312 Austin, TX 78768 512.796.4366 [www.HouseTheHomeless.org](http://www.HouseTheHomeless.org) [www.UniversalLivingWage.org](http://www.UniversalLivingWage.org)

## 2018 Year-in-Review

Greetings:

For the 26<sup>th</sup> year, we invite you to join us at the Homeless Memorial, at 900 West Riverside Dr. It is 75 years to the east of the Stevie Ray Vaughan statue and 75 yards to the west of the Fannie Davis Gazebo. The Sunrise Service on Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, starts at 6:57am and lasts an hour when we will again honor our friends who have lived and died on our streets. Please join us for song, prayer, hot cocoa/coffee and fellowship. Last year we sadly read the names of 147 people. Our precious **Sara Hickman** will move us with song this year.

This past year, we raised all the money to complete the Home Coming statue. The bonze has been cast! This year we will site it. <http://www.housethehomeless.org/home/bronze-statues/> You must come to the unveiling and celebrate! We will start the process of putting a *positive* face on homelessness. Date to be determined.

At the close of the Memorial, we will again kick off the Thermal Underwear Drive, which lasts 30 days. Every homeless person who did not get housed will spend the winter on our streets in our unpredictable weather. Once again, your gift will outfit a person with a thermal top and bottom. Every spring a dozen people will come to me, reach under their T-shirt, pull up the top of their thermals and say, “wore’em all winter long...they saved my life. Thank you.” We also provide knit hats, gloves, scarves, socks, safety whistles, and hand sanitizer. At the Thermal Underwear Party, New Year’s Day, we serve a hot lunch and have a live band. Go to our SignUp.com event- <http://signup.com/go/jqXzQgP> and sign up for a volunteer spot.

Sylva Troxell led the Hill Country Middle School in raising \$9,500 in our little HTH house banks. She/they have done this for eight years in a row now. Wow! Jeff and Alyssa Korn have also been stalwart supporters.

In my capacity as Director of Legal Aid for the Homeless, we helped hundreds of people secure disability benefits. We then worked earnestly and passionately and in conjunction with Community First Village and others to house these individuals.

You may have heard of Mayor Steve Adler’s wonderful plan to address homelessness with his brilliant idea to create a permanent income funding stream by involving the Convention Center and our own business community. I presented House the Homeless’s proposal to tweak the “money need” and reduce it by 2/3 (over 20 million per year) at the Texas Homeless Network convention. Go to our website to see the full discussion.

As if the year hadn’t already been hard enough, a disgruntled homeless individual with mental health concerns smashed 21 major windows at the First Baptist Church where I have our Legal Aid for the Homeless outreach office and where we have held the Thermal Underwear Party for the last decade. Pastor Griff Martin has asked us all to look above and beyond this event and not let our energy or our love be dampened. Our prayers are with all who suffer. Please fill your hearts and the envelopes once again. Thank you.

In Unity There is Strength,

Richard R. Troxell