



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.

YEAR IN REVIEW 2021: To live somewhere in security, peace and dignity is a human right!

This has been a very difficult year with COVID-19 and the fierce February cold front, dubbed as “snowmageddon,” that brought temperatures down to a deadly 8 degrees. **House the Homeless (HTH)** and others quickly appealed to City leaders to open the Austin Convention Center or Palmer Events Center. By opening round-the-clock shelters, the City saved lives with the help of many, including churches and countless volunteers. Throughout the crisis, we delivered relief directly to those suffering the cold, transporting them to safe shelter. One of our favorite stories is when we asked ministry friends to join us in making hot soups which we took directly to hunkered down folks. We got a bunch of breakfast tacos from *Fuego Tacos* that we delivered to people left to survive in camps, on the streets, and under bridges. We also took food and provisions to churches that were housing seniors due to massive power outages. Just before the blizzard, we delivered blankets, tents, gloves, warm socks and other winter gear directly to many camps including the State Camp Esperanza!

Our ***New Year’s Day 2021 HUGSS Party*** had to be adjusted, but not cancelled, as we rented a low-cost moving truck and filled backpacks at First Baptist with Winter thermals, gear and essentials that HTH delivered directly to our unhoused friends. HTH works hard to help as we advocate with unhoused friends through all circumstances. As “boots on the ground”, we deliver water, coffee, protein drinks, toilet paper, flashlights, batteries, bus passes and other critical relief; as well as spiritual materials, books and Bibles when requested in the field and by incarcerated persons concerned with a likely return to homelessness. This aligns with Richard R. Troxell’s proposal to “Discharge No One into Homelessness” which is part of the Civil Rights policy action agenda within the National Homelessness Coalition (NCH) of which HTH is a partner organization.

NCH provided HTH with 120,000 face masks, thanks to the Ford Foundation, which we handed out, including a share to Mobile Loaves and Fishes and others. We purchased various PPE items as well. The ***HTH Plastic Pocket Resource Guide (17th edition)*** was completed in July – just in time to take to camps being disbanded to help our friends find their way to area services. We also gave Guides to first responders, the HOST Team, mental health field workers and public libraries. In the absence of basic housing resources, and on an individual basis, HTH provides emergency aid. For example, with a donation of \$80 or more, you can supply a tent and sleeping bag plus some other essentials directly to those whose belongings were “lost” when they were further displaced. We ensure that trash bags and clean-up supplies are accessible. Our team reaches far into the woods where many of our friends have had to go after

reinstated **No Camping** ordinances that HTH fought against and won thirty years ago!

Greetings from Richard and Sylvia.

Greetings!

Sylvia, Colleen, and I have reunited, but we miss you all, and we miss Austin. We have relocated Sylvia's elderly parent near us, so we see them every day. Everyone is healthy and happy and as Alan Graham says, "it's all about family!"

Task: First, I am promoting the Universal Living Wage through the new campaign, Bring America Home! to help increase the monthly SSI checks and fix the Federal Minimum Wage. Secondly, my new book, *Short Stories in a Long Journey*, is more about homelessness in Austin and to be released in 2022. Third, on November 14th, Sylvia and I go to Baltimore and have 10 minutes to convince the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to accept the Home Coming statue and install it at the Basilica in Washington, D.C. (one of the largest in the world!). Please pray for our success and put a little extra in your contribution this year as these are very important but **expensive** projects that will help everyone who ever experiences homelessness. We love you and will never stop fighting for you and the people we all serve.

Richard R. Troxell, National Education Director
and Founder, House the Homeless, Inc, 1989

Author: *Looking Up at the Bottom Line*

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Livable Incomes: Real Solutions that Stimulate the Economy

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www.HousetheHomeless.org

www.UniversalLivingWage.org

(512) 796-4366

c: Board Members: Richard R. Troxell, Blythe Plunkett, Greg Gibson, JoAnn Koepke, Kevyn Meager, Danny Marrs; Advisory: P.J. Liles, Sylvia Troxell, Katie Richerson