



Smart Solutions to Homelessness Public Film Showing of *Inocente*
Educating the community about youth homelessness
Watsonville, July 2014

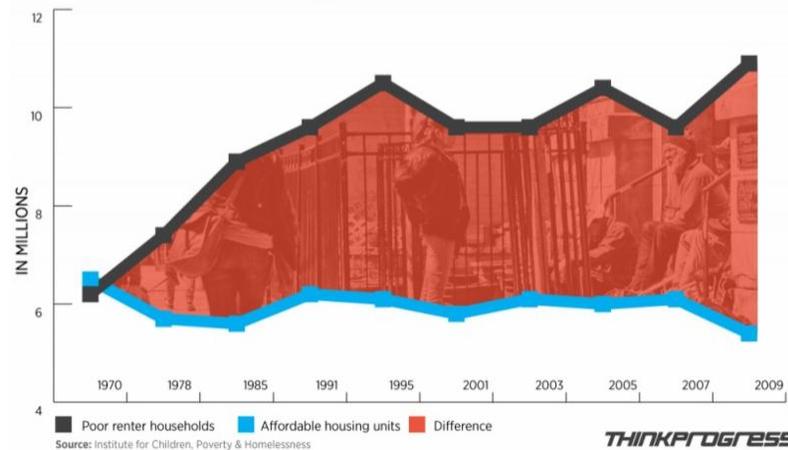


Smart Solutions to Homelessness-Become an Ally!

It Would Actually Be Very Simple To End Homelessness Forever

Here's a link to a very informative [article](#) on what it would take to end homelessness forever. Excerpt: It's really critical to remember that we didn't always have mass homelessness in this country.

FAMILIES IN NEED vs HOUSING AVAILABLE



In This Issue

What Are Smart Solutions Get Involved...
Ending Homelessness Project Homeless Connect Beyond the Statistics Faith Community Conference

What Are Smart Solutions?

- Evidence-based
- Produce measurable results
- Cost effective
- Benefit the entire community
- Take a step toward ending homelessness
- Support the dignity of each individual



WATSONVILLE PHC EVENT: NOV. 5, AT VA MEMORIAL BUILDING



NO BAND AIDS

We know from national data reported over the past two decades that homelessness is not just a local concern-- it is a broad societal issue with many systemic root causes. Instead of taking a **Band-Aid** approach to solving homelessness or shifting the location of the problem to different areas of the community, we must address these underlying root causes. [SC Sentinel 10/2013](#)

Get Involved

Let your voice be heard!

Join us at one of two evening Public Forums to provide your input on the strategic plan to end homelessness.

PUBLIC FORUMS- SAVE THE DATE:

Watsonville

First Christian Church
Tuesday, December 2



Santa Cruz

Veterans Memorial Hall
Thursday, December 4



Thank you! Together we can do this!

Our VISION is a Santa Cruz County in which every community member has some form of safe shelter, and where homelessness is a rare occurrence.

Don't Miss Project Homeless Connect - Coming to Watsonville in November

Project Homeless Connect is a one-day, one-stop event to provide housing, services, and hospitality in a convenient one-stop model directly to people experiencing homelessness in Santa Cruz County. It is a way to bring service providers, government agencies, and the general community together to address a problem that affects everyone.

The Watsonville event will happen on Wednesday, November 5th, 2014 at the Veterans Memorial Building located at 215 East Beach Street in Watsonville.

Take advantage of this opportunity and [volunteer!](#)



Homelessness in Santa Cruz - Beyond the Statistics

59 years old Janet (photo above) lives in her truck with her dog in Santa Cruz. She became homeless 5 years ago, when she lost her job in Silicon Valley. She is a strong advocate for people experiencing homelessness, and has been a member of several organizations which address issues of homelessness, including Smart Solutions. Recently she has begun a battle with cancer.

[more...](#)

Homelessness is a multifaceted issue, and there are many things we will need to do together to make our community the healthy, sustainable and economically and culturally vibrant place we wish it to be. We owe it to each other to make the effort!

Sources:

[National Health Care for the Homeless Council](#)

[ASR: Applied Survey Research](#)

Our MISSION is to improve the way Santa Cruz County works collaboratively to reduce and ultimately end homelessness.



Wear Your Smart Solutions Ally Status Proudly!

Just stop by the [United Way offices](#) and request your button at the front desk.

*Suggested donation \$2-5.
Please bring exact change!*



Temporary Outdoor Art
Santa Cruz Public Library, Downtown Branch 2013

The Association of Faith Communities 'Walks Their Talk' at Interfaith Conference

By [Jessica Wolf](#)

Community Organizer, United Way of Santa Cruz County
Staff for Smart Solutions to Homelessness & the Strategic Planning Process

Last month I had the opportunity to attend a conference sponsored by the Association of Faith Communities (AFC) titled 'Walking our Talk Together.' Several leaders from the faith community who helped organize the event are also strongly engaged in our local Strategic Planning Process, and are members of the Leadership Council and committees of Smart Solutions. The conversations that are happening are productive, and it's good to see them extending out to include the wider community.

Don Lane addressed the good-sized crowd on behalf of Smart Solutions, as did Megan Joseph of United Way. Jim Young from [WINGS Homeless Advocacy](#) and Phil Kramer of the [180/2020 Campaign](#), formerly the 180/180 Campaign, also spoke. Our allies and partners are doing amazing and inspiring things!

There were many memorable moments that afternoon, but what struck me most was how many people from our community turned out to consider the questions of how we all relate on a personal and spiritual level to the suffering we see around us, and what our individual and collective response should be. It illustrated for me just how important the faith community's leadership is to our efforts to end homelessness in Santa Cruz County, and how much it matters that we work together.

To quote from the keynote address delivered by Steve DeFields Gambrel, Pastor at the Circle Church: "*If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.*"



Join us at United Way of Santa Cruz County



Join us at Smart Solutions

