



# COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FOR THE HOMELESS

## VOICE

Vol. 2, No. 1, July 2007

THE COMMUNITY

### OPPORTUNITY MAPPING EVENT

Opportunity is central to Community Partnership's mission. We believe it is fundamental to provide our clients with the opportunity to lift themselves out of homelessness. It is this emphasis that led the organization to launch the Opportunity Mapping initiative, an initiative focused on helping us better understand how opportunity is distributed throughout our Central Texas community.

As a first step, Community Partnership hosted a luncheon in March where over 225 guests joined us to learn more about the initiative's work. At the event, Professor John Powell of the Kirwan Institute for Race and Ethnicity, a nationally recognized leader in community development, presented "opportunity maps" that begin to give us a sense of how socio-economic opportunity is distributed in the five-county Austin metro area.

The central premise of opportunity mapping is that residents of a metropolitan area are situated within an interconnected web of opportunities that shape their quality of life. These opportunities can be categorized in terms of a few key issue areas – housing, public education, public health, the environment, and economic mobility.



Frank Fernandez, Community Partnership Executive Director and John Powell, Kirwan Institute Executive Director.



Sarah Eckhardt, Travis County Commissioner.

Put together through the collaborative work of the Kirwan Institute and other engaged stakeholders, the broader purpose of the opportunity maps is to serve as a framework for community development practitioners and policy makers to offer products and services and create policies that increase socio-economic equity for all Central Texans.

A panel of local business leaders and community representatives shared their reactions to the maps and what actions can be taken, both short- and long-term, to enhance socio-economic opportunity for members of the community.

The panel included: Tyra Duncan-Hall, former Provost of Austin Community College; Sarah Eckhardt, Travis County Commissioner; Jim Walker, Director of Central Texas Sustainable Indicators Project; Lee Walker, Chair of Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority; and Valerie Williams, Senior Vice President of Bank of America. Frank Fernandez, Executive Director of Community Partnership for the Homeless, was the event host and moderator.

Numerous organizations helped underwrite this extensive study and its presentation to the community. Our sincerest thanks go to: Bank of America, Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Wachovia, Capital One, Washington Mutual (WaMu), T. Stacy & Associates, Compass Bank and Envision Central Texas.



Panelists Lee Walker and Sarah Eckhardt visit with luncheon attendees.

Maps are available online at: <http://austinhomes.org/events/032107/>

### WHAT'S INSIDE

- o Community Partnership News
  - o Board member receives Dell Foundation award
  - o Capital One generously donates funding
  - o Community Partnership moves to new location
- o Letter from Executive Director Frank Fernandez
- o Client Highlight
  - o 84 year old WWII Veteran shares his stories of war, academic pursuit and world travel
  - o New Clothing Pantry Built and ready to be filled!

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP NEWS



Board Treasurer Charlene Lee was honored recently by the Dell Foundation as a Volunteer of Distinction for her exemplary voluntary service on behalf of Community Partnership. Ms. Lee was selected as a Community Service Ambassador from hundreds of Dell employees who were nominated by community-based organizations. Ms. Lee has been on our Board for four years. Thank you, Charlene, for your great work! From left to right: Joyce Pohlman, Program Director; Tom Stacy, CPH Board President; Kamran Shah, CPH Board VP; and Charlene Lee, CPH Board Treasurer.



Capital One Bank generously donated funding to Community Partnership for program support. Pictured left to right: Community Partnership- Tom Stacy, Board Chair; Chris Marcum, Development Consultant; Frank Fernandez, Executive Director; Capital One- Mike Williamson, Senior Vice President, City President/Regional Manager; Kandi Young, Assistant Vice President-Market; and Catherine Pena, AVP/Outreach and Business Development Officer.



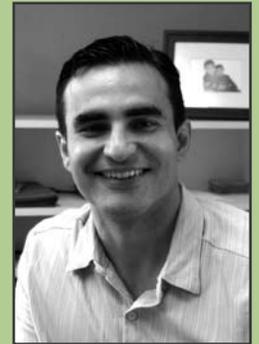
We've moved! Community Partnership is happily at home at 1503 South IH-35. With more office space and a larger conference room, we are better prepared now for our future growth. Pictured left to right: Joyce Pohlman, Program Director; Anise Hotchkiss, Office Manager; Noe Barrios, Property Manager; Frank Fernandez, Executive Director; and Chris Marcum, Development Consultant.

## OUR MISSION

Community Partnership for the Homeless is dedicated to help end homelessness by providing safe, affordable housing and access to supportive services for those working to achieve independent living.

## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Homelessness can touch our lives in different ways. For some, it is a daily reality that must be confronted every minute of every day; for others, it is a vague awareness in a side corridor of our mind that bubbles to the surface only when we sit in downtown traffic and see a man or woman resting at an I-35 underpass. For me growing up, homelessness loomed in the background, but never threatened us directly. Like many of our homeless veteran clients, my father, a Vietnam veteran, struggled with personal demons that almost overwhelmed our family. Fortunately, he had a family support network that enabled him to avoid that fate. Many of Community Partnership's clients are not as fortunate. Our role is to provide our clients with the opportunity to stabilize their lives and become more independent. It is a wonderful thing to witness when a formerly homeless veteran is able to take charge of his life and reclaim his or her personal dignity.

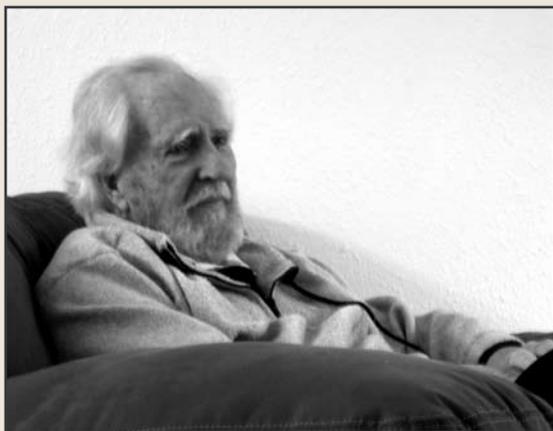


It is this mission and personal connection that attracted me to accept the Executive Director position just over a year ago. And this first year has been busy. Since last spring, we have conducted extensive rehabilitations on more than half of Community Partnership's properties, expanded the capacity of the Veterans Re-Entry program by almost 30%, launched the opportunity mapping initiative (see article), and will be breaking ground soon on a new development, Glen Oaks Corner, targeted to families struggling with homelessness. These activities are part of Community Partnership's strategic focus on growing the organization and our capacity to provide more supportive housing to families and individuals touched by homelessness.

In fall 2006 the Board, staff and interested stakeholders revisited Community Partnership's strategic plan and updated it to embrace a vision of the organization becoming a leading provider of housing for homeless individuals and families throughout Central Texas. We have begun growing in that direction, but cannot reach this ambitious vision alone. It takes quality social service agency partners, committed public and private funders, supportive civic and elected leadership, and engaged citizens who care about the most vulnerable members of our community.

Thanks to all of you who have supported us in one or several of these roles in the past. We greatly appreciate it. I now ask you to continue supporting us and join us as we grow to provide more supportive housing to meet the ever-increasing needs of Central Texas' homeless.

## CLIENT HIGHLIGHT



Chuck, a new Community Partnership client, has had his share of ups and downs over a life that now is on the far side of 84. Originally from Arkansas, Chuck recounts military postings to Italy, North Africa, and southern France during World War II, and was in Times Square on VJ Day August 14, 1945 when the war was declared over.

Prior to his service Chuck was a committed academic and returned to his pursuits as soon as the war was over. He attended graduate school in Texas, then at Columbia University, and spent time with IT&T on the US east coast. In his long life, Chuck taught and researched in

the fields of sociology and anthropology, studied the education of children of migrant workers, and even examined the local economic development of India on a Fulbright Scholarship. While in India, he collaborated with the National Institute for Mental Health on numerous projects.

But after those years of extensive traveling and rootlessness, eventually Chuck found himself without a home. And although he even carries shrapnel scars from multiple wounds, he did not access his VA benefits until he was 80 years old. It wasn't until he needed medical assistance that he came to the VA for help. When his VA officer learned that Chuck had no home or place to live it was then he was referred to Community Partnership. Happily established in his new home, making new friends, Chuck is hard at work on an appendix on the history of law. He still goes to dance classes, is a frequenter of the library and continues to participate and contribute to a community that he loves.

## OUR BOARD

President

**Tom Stacy**

*T. Stacy and Assoc.*

Vice President

**Kamran Shah**

*National Instruments*

Treasurer

**Charlene Lee**

*Dell Inc.*

Members

**Maria Laudenslager**

*Retired Occupational Therapist*

**Terry Mitchell**

*Momark Development*

## OUR STAFF

Executive Director

**Frank Fernandez**

Program Director

**Joyce Pohlman**

Property Manager

**Noe Barrios**

Office Manager

**Anise Hotchkiss**

Program Intern

**Caitlin Uzzell**

Development Consultant

**Chris Marcum**

Business Manager

**Jim Jimmerson**

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

### FILL OUR NEW CLOTHING PANTRY

Thanks to the generous support of Applied Materials, Community Partnership clients will be able to obtain work and casual clothing from an onsite apparel pantry. Many of our homeless clients have limited wardrobes, and since most are either employed, seeking employment or attending educational programs, the need



to dress appropriately is very important. Donations of new and gently worn clothing, shoes and men's accessories are needed to ensure an ongoing supply of items and sizes. Please contact us directly for more information or instructions on delivery of items.

### VOLUNTEER

Volunteers can help out in many ways: we have one-time assignments and ongoing needs, especially for food and supplies pickup, delivery and distribution. We encourage team-building projects, adopting clients for the holidays, help with landscaping projects, maintenance and organizational events.

## FEEDBACK

As we move forward with exciting plans for this year, we want to invite you to be a part of our success. We have volunteer projects that could use your expertise. Please let us know of your continued interest in supporting Community Partnership by returning this card.

- I'd like to be part of a volunteer group; contact me: phone or email \_\_\_\_\_
- Keep me on your emailing list, e-newsletter, and announcements; my email address is: \_\_\_\_\_
- Please change my mailing address to: \_\_\_\_\_
- Please contact me – I have other ideas to share: phone or email \_\_\_\_\_
- Enclosed is my tax-deductable gift to help Austin's homeless: \_\_\_\_\_

Clip this box and send to:  
Community Partnership for the Homeless,  
PO Box 685065, Austin, TX 78768  
or call us at 512.469.9130

## OUR SUPPORTERS

Community Partnership for the Homeless benefits from the counsel and support of the following businesses, foundations and organizations:

### COMMUNITY STARS

Bank of America  
Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
Capital One Bank  
Religious Coalition to Assist the Homeless  
Stratus Properties  
T. Stacy & Assoc.  
Wachovia Bank  
Washington Mutual Bank

### COMMUNITY BUILDERS

Anonymous  
The Junior League of Austin  
The Lola Wright Foundation

### COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS

Applied Materials  
Austin Community Eagles Society (ACES)  
Charlene Lee  
Compass Bank  
Frost Bank  
Kamran Shah  
Maria Laudenslager  
Wheatsville Co-op

Community Partnership for the Homeless is supported by the following federal, state and local agencies: City of Austin Health & Human Services and Neighborhood Housing & Community Development Departments, Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs, Travis County Health & Human Services & Veteran's Services, US Housing & Urban Development, and the US Veterans Administration.

### CONTACT US

Physical address:  
1503 S. IH 35, Austin, TX 78741

Mailing address:  
PO Box 685065, Austin, TX 78768

OFFICE: 512.469.9130

FAX: 512.469.0724

[www.austinhomless.org](http://www.austinhomless.org)  
[info@austinhomless.org](mailto:info@austinhomless.org)



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP  
FOR THE HOMELESS  
PO Box 685065  
Austin, Texas 78768