







Affordable Housing For All New Yorkers

**Building Stronger 2014-2021:** 

What the Next Mayor Can Do to Address New York City's Housing Crisis



May 2013









## Be Our Guest: City must help domestic violence survivors find safe, affordable housing

Less than one percent of supportive housing in New York City is designated for domestic violence survivors. Only 28 percent of domestic violence shelter residents are eligible for NYCHA's Domestic Violence priority

Comments (1)

BY CAROL CORDEN / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2013, 5:40 PM





MARK BONIFACIO/NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

'Ms. O', a domestic violence victim, attended a lower Manhattan press conference by Legal Services NYC, which announced filing of a suit against NYCHA seeking reform for treatment of domestic violence victims seeking emergency housing to escape their abusers.







## HUFFINGTON POST







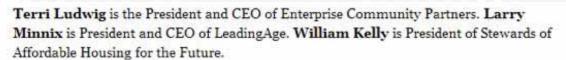






### To Curb Medicaid Spending Tomorrow, Invest in Housing Today

Posted: 10/25/2013 3:37 pm



Modest investments in housing and services, especially for low-income seniors, could dramatically reduce the government's healthcare bill

Forty-eight years after it was signed into law, Medicaid is at a critical crossroads. In most states the program is undergoing a significant expansion under President Obama's healthcare reform law, leaving state officials searching for bold new ideas to improve services and curtail costs.

The State of New York has a particularly smart plan for accomplishing both goals: Invest in affordable, long-term housing for Medicaid recipients.

Each year, New York Medicaid spends billions of dollars on costly services like trips to the emergency room and overnight hospital stays. State officials believe that many of these costs can be avoided -- or at least made less expensive -- by ensuring that low-income families and people with disabilities are in quality, stable homes. Get people off the streets and connect them with the right services, the logic goes, and they'll stay healthier.

Under the proposed pilot, New York State will appropriate additional funds to build permanent supportive housing for 5,000 people. Officials hope that the additional cost to the state -- roughly \$50-\$60 per day per person, according to the Wall Street Journal -- will generate even bigger savings down the line through lower healthcare costs.









### What if it does happen in your back yard?

Article by: LORI STURDEVANT, Star Tribune | Updated: November 30, 2013 - 4:55 PM

Revisiting the site of a controversial supportive housing initiative in Minneapolis, we find that things didn't turn out so badly.



3 comments | comments













No pickets were in sight when a small group gathered recently in the senior pastor's office at Plymouth Congregational Church to talk about Lydia Apartments, a supportive housing facility that the church helped launch 10 years ago last month amid a storm of local opposition.

I missed them. Unhappy neighbors were a big part of the rebirth story of what had been an abandoned pink wreck of a nursing home across LaSalle Avenue from the Minneapolis church. I wanted to know how the picketers view the unobtrusive beige building today, now that its positive contribution to both its residents and the neighborhood are clear.

"Please don't demonize the opposition," urged the Rev. James Gertmenian. "They are people who live in this community and care about the community just as we do. We had different perspectives about what would work" to improve the neighborhood that surrounds Franklin and Nicollet Avenues.

That wasn't just a professional preacher of forgiveness talking, though Gertmenian is a local leader in that role. It's also learned wisdom about how to handle NIMBYism, the Not In My Back Yard resistance that predictably arises when all manner of urban change is proposed. Minneapolis is growing again, and urban growth is to NIMBYism as global warming is to extreme weather. Gertmenian's counsel wasn't just for this journalist, but also for all the newly elected officeholders at City Hall.

#### related content



The building that was at the center of the Lydia House controversy in south Minneapolis a decade ago. Duane Braley • Star Tribune 2001

More from Lori Sturdevant

Caucuses vs. primaries? The thinking is evolving.

The parties and their perils:







# The Washington Post

Want to keep people out of the hospital? Make sure they have a place to live.

BY HAROLD POLLACK November 2, 2013 at 11:00 am



CHICAGO -- In Illinois' Medicaid program last year, 3.2 percent of patients accounted for half of all spending. The top 0.15 percent – 4,500 people in a program covering 3.2 million people – required annual expenditures upward of \$285,000 each.

In the health-policy world, these heavy spenders are known as "frequent fliers:" patients with severe conditions, disabilities and life problems whose complex care accounts for such a disproportionate share of the medical economy.

However the health-reform debate proceeds in Washington, improving the quality and economy of care provided to this concentrated group will remain a central challenge.

A striking proportion of the patients with the most costly and complex conditions are either homeless or one step away from that in precarious or temporary housing. It stands to reason that providing secure housing to people with chronic illnesses might help.

"With our supportive housing units, we improve quality of life, improve health outcomes and save significant health care costs," Arturo V. Bendixen, who runs the center for









### Changes Help San Diego Homeless, But Long Road Remains Ahead

by PAM FESSLER

April 16, 2013 1:59 PM



#### Listen to the Story

**Morning Edition** 



5 min 9 sec

- + Playlist
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- **Transcript**



Wanda Rayborn, 63, was homeless for nine years and was living under a tree in downtown San Diego two years ago. She now lives in a newly renovated efficiency apartment — part of an initiative to help get homeless people off the streets.







#### **Network to Highlight Sequester Stories**

08.05.2013

Help us put a face on painful cuts to low-income individuals



The Network has launched a new initiative to highlight the direct effects of sequestration on homeless, low-income and working class Americans. Visit our Sequestration Stories page for a regularly-updated listing of news stories on this pressing issue

We're calling on our members to help raise awareness of the real, tangible effects of sequestration. If your program and your tenants have been impacted in any way by budget cuts related to the sequester, please email us to have your story featured on our Sequestration Stories page. We will also highlight your stories --

preserving anonymity, if you prefer -- in meetings with elected officials who have the power to end the sequester.

We will also continue to highlight the impacts of sequestration on Twitter using the hashtag **#SequestrationStories**. We urge you to share your personal stories relating to sequestration, along with published news articles, using this hashtag.

The supportive housing community did not feel the immediate effects of sequestration, but we're beginning to now and at an increasing rate. There was an initial delay as local public housing authorities (PHAs) scrambled to devise and initiate plans that caused the least amount of harm in their communities. Over the last couple months, as the PHAs have had their <u>Section 8</u> frozen, one depressing story after another has risen to the surface.

If sequestration is allowed to continue, the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) alone is looking at the loss of 3,400 vouchers next year. To avoid rescinding vouchers this year, HPD has spent down its reserves, put a temporary freeze on rent increases and reduced payment standards from the current 110% of fair market rent (FMR) to a 105% as of June 15.

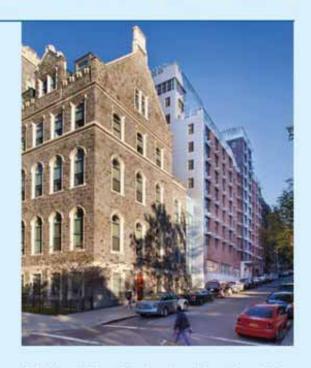






# New York/New York III Supportive Housing Evaluation

#### Interim Utilization and Cost Analysis



A report from the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in collaboration with the New York City Human Resources Administration and the New York State Office of Mental Health









# The New York Times









### Let's Treat Housing as a Health Issue

Homelessness exacerbates chronic conditions, reduces life expectancy and raises medical costs. Public policies ought to reflect that reality.

By Jeff Foreman | Thursday, Oct 17, 2013

Read Later





















Governor Andrew Cuomo and New York State did something recently that homeless advocates in New York City have long argued for. They adopted the policy that housing is health care.

Health care professionals who specialize in treating people experiencing homelessness have known it, and said it, for a long time. It's not just easier to access treatment when you're stably housed, but ongoing treatment is always more effective for those who have stable housing.

As early as 1998, The New England Journal of Medicine published a study, based on New York City data from over 400,000 hospital discharges, that conclusively labeled homelessness as an extraordinarily aggravating condition for numerous chronic conditions and showed it produced "substantial excess costs" both in preventable utilization of emergency rooms and hospitals and in longer and more expensive hospital stays.

The study recommended more "low-cost housing," supportive housing and better access to substance abuse treatment programs as prescriptions for "a more cost-effective as well as more humane approach to the problem of homelessness."







## Coalition Sparks Homelessness Discussion at Final NYC Debate

10.31.2013

United to End Homelessness Twitter rallies lead to homelessness question



United to End Homelessness held two Twitter rallies this month to urge New York City's mayoral candidates and debate moderators to discuss homelessness during the final debates leading up to NYC's citywide election on November 5. The most recent of these rallies was held on Monday, when more than 55 organizations (including the Network) took to Twitter to call on Bill de Blasio, Joe Lhota and moderator Melissa Russo to "Home in on Homelessness."

Yesterday, the coalition's efforts paid off. After several debates in which the word "homeless" was never uttered, moderators at last asked both candidates to detail their plans to reduce NYC's record level of homelessness. You'll find a transcript of the exchange below. To watch the entire debate, head <a href="here">here</a>. You can read the tweets from October's Twitter rallies by following <a href="this link">this link</a>.

#### Moderator:

The number of homeless people spending the night in city shelters recently surpassed 51,000, which is now more than the number of seats at Yankee Stadium. That's a 64% increase since 2002, when Mayor Bloomberg took office. Have the Bloomberg administration's policies on homelessness failed, and, if so, what specifically would you do differently? Mr. Lhota, you're up first.

#### Joe Lhota:

I think the Bloomberg policies have missed one critical area in dealing with homelessness. First and foremost, we're just housing people. We need to find out what the problem is. For some, especially the families, they really do need housing, and let's help them get the housing and the other public assistance they need. But for those who have other needs, whether it's a drug addiction or alcoholism, we need to be benevolent as the city of New York and get them fixed. Get them back to be mainstreamed into society, go through jobtraining programs and actually get them back. The city of New York is spending over \$1 billion today on the homeless problem in New York, and they're not doing anything about reducing the number of people going into it. It just keeps growing and growing and growing, and nobody's coming out of it. We need to treat all the folks who are homeless as humans and get them the services that they need.









# Op-ed: If Lhota and de Blasio can agree on affordable housing, why can't Congress?

by Ted Houghton and Todd A. Gomez, Oct 01, 2013



New York's recent primary elections made one thing clear: our next mayor will make a significant investment in affordable housing.

The Democratic candidate, Bill de Blasio, promises an <u>ambitious plan</u> to build or preserve 200,000 affordable units over the next eight years. Saying that "it's not right for the Democrats to own affordable housing," Joe Lhota, the Republican candidate, supports a 150,000-unit <u>housing plan</u> created by a broad-based coalition we lead called Housing First!









# A Roadmap to Ending Homelessness

A Guide to Proven, Cost-Effective Policies that Can Prevent and End Homelessness in New York City





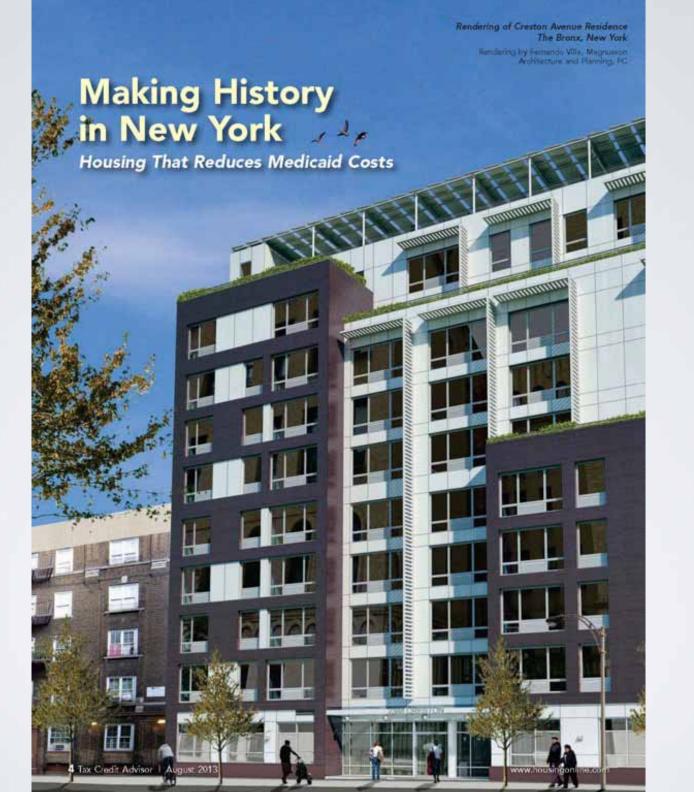


















# DAILY®NEWS

### Housing for the homeless — built with Medicaid money

New Bronx facility is part of a Cuomo administration initiative to save healthcare costs by providing quality housing.

#### Comments (3)

BY MATT CHABAN / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

PUBLISHED: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2013, 4:45 PM UPDATED: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2013, 4:45 PM















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nydn.us/18o3kYm



The state's supportive housing facility on Boston Rd. in the Bronx is being built with Medicaid money typically set aside to provide healthcare to the poor.

157





















The 12-story affordable housing complex rising on Boston Rd. is not only prettier and greener than other facilities for the homeless — but it's also the first such project in the five boroughs to be funded with Medicaid money.

The building, which will formally break ground Wednesday in Morrisania, is the fruit of a 2011 Cuomo Administration initiative to take funds typically set aside for health care for the poor and use it to build permanent housing for the homeless.

The administration said the money could be diverted for housing because doing so would save billions in health costs among the chronically homeless, who have some of the highest Medicaid bills in the state.

"They basically use the emergency room as a shelter," said Brenda Rosen, executive director of Common Ground, which is building the 154-unit project, which will set aside 60% for homeless seniors.

#### RELATEDSTORIES

- B'klyn dentist allegedly defrauded Medicaid
- Four men put bite on Medicaid: AG
- Healthcare website woes will reduce insurance enrollment in 2014: Congressional Budget Office
- New York state inspectors recoup \$851 million in Medicaid funds

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# Bloomberg NEWS

## Proven Reforms Help Beat Homelessness Even in Tough Times



By the Editors | Jan 1, 2013 6:30 PM ET | 6 Comments Email - Print

Remarkable developments are embedded within an otherwise humdrum announcement last month by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which said that the number of homeless people in the U.S. declined slightly in 2012, according to a count on a single night last January.

The slight dip, a drop of 0.4 percent to 633,782, continues a **trend of improvement** now lasting five years. In that time, the U.S. has reduced homelessness by 5.7 percent even as the **poverty rate** grew by 20 percent.

The decline shows that the country has learned something about how to address homelessness. The solution, it seems, lies not in publicly sheltering the homeless for sustained periods but in ensuring that they quickly secure their own places to live.

This approach was first applied to the **chronically homeless**, who made up 16 percent of all cases in 2012. These individuals almost always have disabilities such as mental or physical health problems or addictions. As a result, they fare poorly in conventional homeless programs, which may require compliance with the rules of an emergency shelter -- such as sobriety -- before allowing them entrance to a transitional shelter. Further compliance, including treatment for substance abuse, for instance, may be required before they can qualify for permanent housing support.









### Perspective

#### Housing as Health Care — New York's Boundary-Crossing Experiment

Kelly M. Doran, M.D., M.H.S., Elizabeth J. Misa, M.P.A., and Nirav R. Shah, M.D., M.P.H. N Engl J Med 2013; 369:2374-2377 | December 19, 2013 | DOI: 10.1056/NEJMp1310121

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housing.

References

Among the countries in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United States ranks first in health care spending but 25th in spending on social services. 1 These are not two unrelated statistics: high spending on the former may result from low spending on the latter. Studies have shown the powerful effects that "social determinants" such as safe housing, healthful food, and opportunities for education and employment have on health. In fact, experts estimate that medical care accounts for only 10% of overall health, with social, environmental, and behavioral factors accounting for the rest. 2 Lack of upstream investment in social determinants of health probably contributes to exorbitant downstream spending on medical care in the United States. This neglect has ramifications for health outcomes. and the United States lags stubbornly behind other countries on basic indicators of population health.

The role of social determinants of health, and the business case for ₹ Download addressing them, is immediately clear when it comes to homelessness and housing. The 1.5 million Americans who experience homelessness in any given year face numerous health risks and are disproportionately represented among the highest users of costly hospital-based acute care. Placing people who are homeless in supportive housing — affordable housing paired with supportive services such as on-site case management and referrals to community-based services - can lead to improved health, reduced hospital use, and decreased health care costs, especially when frequent users of health services are targeted. 3,4 These benefits add to the undeniable human benefit of moving people from homelessness into

Audio Summary



Interview with Dr. Nirav Shah on New York State's decision to address housing needs as a social determinant of health. (10:56)

D Listen







# The New York Times

EDITORIAL

### The Forgotten 50,000

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD
Published: June 16, 2013 

☐ 130 Comments

More than 50,000 New Yorkers slept in city homeless shelters and on the streets last night. About 21,000 were children. These numbers are huge and appalling, higher than they were in 2002, when Mayor Michael Bloomberg took office, higher than in the dismal days of the fiscal crisis, the Reagan '80s and the surly administration of Rudolph Giuliani.

# THE NEXT MAYOR □ □ ☑ Browse editorials by subject. — Select a Topic ▼

#### Today's Editorials

Editorial: Release the Facts About the I.R.S. Scandal (June 17, 2013)

Editorial: That Extra Hurdle at the Airport (June 17, 2013)

aditor Andrew Rosenthal follow

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place to live form a small city unto
themselves — an abandoned one. The
shelter population has risen 61 percent
while Mr. Bloomberg has been mayor,
propelled by a 73 percent increase in
homeless families, according to the
Coalition for the Homeless, whose
relentless advocacy has been provoking n

New Yorkers who have no permanent

relentless advocacy has been provoking mayoral fury since the 1980s. These surging numbers — of families with children, especially — undercut claims that New York is steadily becoming a better place to live, and that its government has gotten better at helping its most vulnerable citizens meet their most basic needs.

The next mayor will have to do better by them than Mr.

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#### Mayor Bloomberg Fully Restores HASA Cuts

11.22.2013

The annual budget battle to preserve HIV/AIDS supportive housing funding is over



We are delighted to announce that, as part of his final budget modification yesterday, Mayor Bloomberg fully restored all cuts to HIV/AIDS Services Administration (HASA) supportive housing contracts.

Five years ago, Mayor Bloomberg proposed cutting HIV/AIDS supportive housing contracts by \$1.876 million. In subsequent years, he increased that cut to \$5.1 million. Each year, the Network's staff and members fought vociferously alongside VOCAL, Housing Works, the Momentum Project and other advocates

to convince the City Council to restore the funding. Thanks to the leadership of Speaker Christine Quinn and General Welfare Chairs Annabel Palma and then-Council Member Bill de Blasio, the funding was restored each of the past five years. Each year, however, the administration failed to restore this funding to what's known as "the baseline budget" for permanent restoration. Yesterday, Mayor Bloomberg did just that. In short: The annual HASA budget dance is no more.

The Network staff wants to thank all the members, tenants and advocacy partners who came out year after year for rallies, press conferences, meetings and testimony. We also want to thank Mayor Bloomberg for making this permanent restoration and applaud his efforts to leave Mayor-elect de Blasio with a balanced budget.

For more information on this multi-year budget battle, visit here.

To see Mayor Bloomberg's press release and budget documents visit, <u>here</u> and <u>here</u> (p.29).







### **YOUTH COUNT!**

#### **PROCESS STUDY**



July 2013









### INTERVIEW: Why Supportive Housing Cuts Down on Health Care Costs

New York | 10/28/2013 6:00am | ♥ Comments

BILL BRADLEY | NEXT CITY





Since 1990, Common Ground has worked to create affordable and supportive housing for homeless and vulnerable New Yorkers. Today, the organization has almost 3,200 units of permanent and transitional housing in the five boroughs, Connecticut and upstate New York. It's the largest developer and operator of supportive housing in the region.

Executive Director Brenda Rosen has been with Common Ground in many different capacities since 1999. Here, she talks about the group's newest initiatives, aging in place seniors, why supportive housing can cut down on health care costs, and the various ways Common Ground goes about funding its programs.

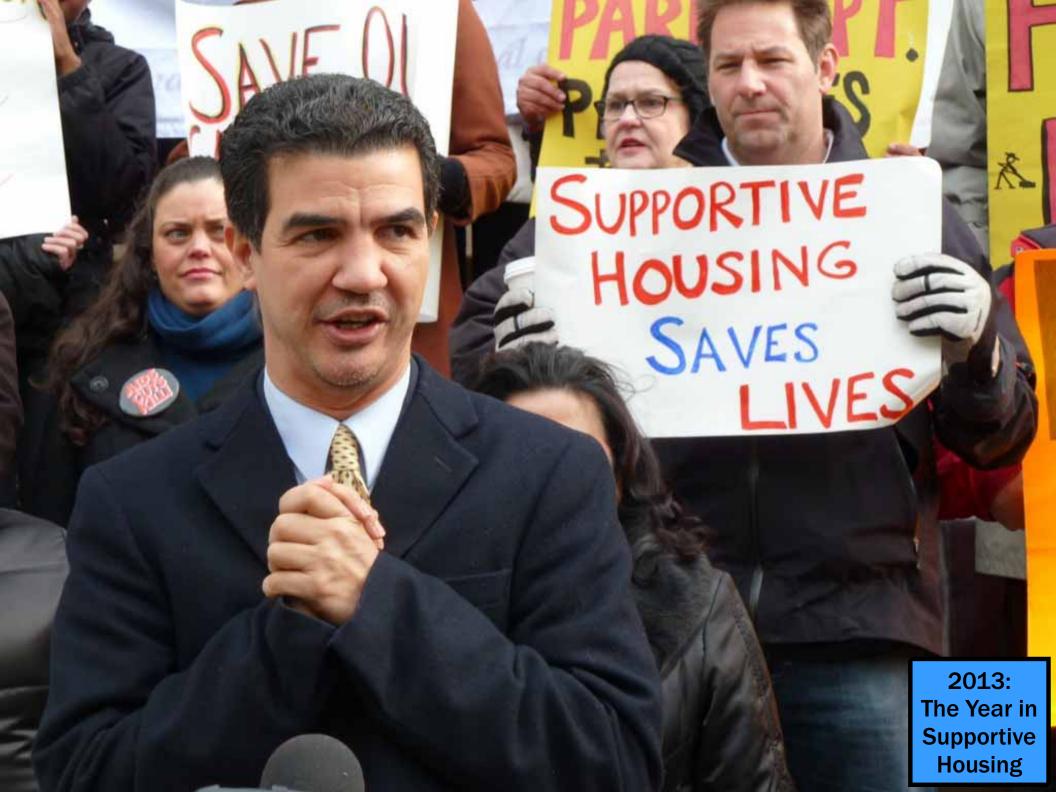
Next City: You broke ground earlier this month on a new, 12-story affordable housing development in the Bronx. How many units are there, and what is the focus of the building?

**Brenda Rosen:** That project is going to be a home for 154 individuals, both people that are formerly homeless and with mental illness and, oftentimes, a substance abuse disorder. It will also be home to low-income working individuals. There will be a preference for seniors.

In addition to that population mix, there is also going to be some of the highest cost users of Medicaid services in the state. They're expensive consumers of medical services — people that have been using emergency rooms as their shelters for the night, people who have had repeated hospitalizations because they're ill and on the streets.









## Los Angeles Times

#### Where mentally ill inmates actually get some help

Santa Monica's Step Up program may have saved Andy — and it saves taxpayers money. Just what was intended when AB 2034 was passed.



By Steve Lopez
August 10, 2013 | 12:00 p.m.

There is little in Andy's appearance or manner that offers a clue as to what he's been through. The arrests, the jailhouse beatings, the commitments. He's soft-spoken and unassuming, so much so that the story of his life doesn't seem to go with the man who tells it.

I ask how many times he's been locked up, and now a hint of distress creeps into his eyes.

"Maybe 20," he shrugs, adding that he's been in mental institutions nearly as many times.

Bio | E-mail | Recent columns



Steve Lopez: Does Mayor Garcetti have a plan for his 'back to basics' promise?



Steve Lopez: Victory for garden doesn't mean City Hall common

Andy emailed me after I wrote about a visit to L.A. County Jail, which houses about 3,200 inmates diagnosed with a mental illness. It's a barbaric system, with many of those inmates repeatedly filing through the turnstiles at great public cost, with little or no chance of getting help that might break the cycle.

"Before 2004, I had spent MANY a time in the L.A. County Jail." wrote Andy, explaining that he had been diagnosed with bipolar disease. "If you'd ever like some background on surviving ... the jails, I'm available. I've been stable and productive since 2004, and living in sunny Santa Monica."

Andy, now 63, grew up in Nebraska. He came west as a young man to attend UC Santa Barbara and later UC Berkeley, where he marched against war and majored in political science while thinking about a career in law or Eastern medicine. But then, when he was about 20, things began to go haywire.







# The New York Times

#### Program to End Homelessness Among Veterans Reaches a Milestone in Arizona

By FERNANDA SANTOS JAN. 15, 2014



SAVE





PHOENIX — Their descent into homelessness began almost as soon as they had closed a dignified chapter in their lives: their military service.

Dexter Mackenstadt, 63, a sailor who spent the Vietnam War tracking submarines along the East Coast, slipped into alcoholism. Robert Stone, 56, who spent three years stationed at naval bases in California, fell to that, too, and to a failing heart. John Hankins, 52, who repaired intercontinental ballistic missiles at an Air Force base in Wyoming, spent years as a drifter, living in a methamphetamine lab in the Arizona desert.

Today they are neighbors and participants in a program that White House officials have said has led Phoenix to become the first community in the country to end homelessness among veterans with long or recurrent histories of living on the streets.



John Hankins, right, who repaired intercontinental ballistic missiles for the Air Force, played chess with William Godwin as Gary Workman watched. All three veterans were considered chronically homeless but are now living in Victory Place, an apartment complex in Phoenix.

Semantin Tale for The New York Times.

In 2011, by a city count, there were 222 chronically homeless veterans here, a vulnerable, hard-to-reach population of mostly middle-age men, virtually all battling some type of physical or mental ailment along with substance abuse. Federal and city officials acknowledged that was not an exact number, but it is widely regarded as the best measure of the veteran population.

Last month, the last 41 members of that group were placed in temporary housing. Shane Groen, a director at the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness, one of the city's partners in the program, said the goal was to



NYC Clean Heat helped these buildings reduce soot pollution. See the difference?







## THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

#### Housing Group Aims to Preserve Gains

A Push to Preserve 'Affordable' Housing in New York City

























#### By LAURA KUSISTO

June 13, 2013 10:55 p.m. ET

A broad coalition of housing groups whose ideas were reflected in Mayor Michael Bloomberg's plan to create or preserve some 165,000 "affordable" housing units is pushing for the next mayor to embrace an equally ambitious housing agenda despite increased funding constraints.

The coalition is called Housing First and consists of 35 of the city's largest affordablehousing groups, with unusual allies that include for-profit developers, nonprofit community owners, providers of housing for the homeless and banks. Its plan, to be released Friday, includes recommendations to create or preserve 150,000 units in the next eight years and for a new deputy mayor slot to be created to oversee and coordinate between housing and homelessness agencies.

#### Related

- NYCHA Plan for Private Developers Is
- New York Housing Agency Plans Layoffs
- Mayor's Race Debates Set

The proposal comes as federal funds for affordable housing have shrunk by about a third since 2010, and funding for some programs has been reduced by half. Poverty advocates, business leaders and others say rising housing costs have

widespread implications, including increased homelessness and difficulty attracting young workers.

"With the retreat from Washington in all kinds of spending, there's a lot of concern that the





# The New York Times

After Foster Care Years, a Woman Becomes a Role Model for Her Sisters



Ruth Fremson/The New York Times

Precious Perry, 23, at her part-time job at a nonprofit toy store on the Upper West Side. She expects to graduate with a bachelor's degree in May, and has become a kind of surrogate mother to her siblings.

By JED LIPINSKI

Published: January 12, 2013

Precious Perry shares a few things in common with the fictional protagonist in the 2009 film "Precious."



For the past 100 years, The New York Times Neediest Cases Fund has provided direct assistance to Both young women grew up in Harlem with troubled single mothers. Both left home in their teens. And both had their lives changed by social workers who showed them that



## Rest In Peace



Robert Hess



Alan Epstein



Chris Molnar