

2019 | Year-in-Review



HW

HOUSING WORKS

Whatever it takes for as long as it takes.

HW

Housing people by doing whatever it takes for as long as it takes, we create community: one life, one person, one relationship at a time. Since 2003, Housing Works has supported chronically homeless individuals and families throughout the County of Los Angeles with a Housing First approach.



Dear Friends,

Housing Works of California has been my work “home” for the past eleven and a half years.

Throughout this time, I have learned so much about the ever changing landscape of homeless services and the nonprofit sector. I often compare the daily juggle of deadline sensitive tasks and contractual obligations to an intense game of Jenga...always remaining vigilant of not allowing the tower to tip over.

It never fails that when this work becomes overwhelming and frustrating, suddenly, a reminder surfaces out of the blue to stay the course in doing this very difficult work. I often imagine my late mentor, Mollie Lowery, working behind the curtain like the great and powerful Oz, cheering us on and seeing us through.

Many of the folks we serve are funded through contracts which end after a year of service, leaving them with no provision for the future. Rather than let these individuals fall through the cracks, we stay with them. Right now Housing Works provides services to 100 individuals and families who are unable to be funded in any other capacity.

Housing Works ends the revolving door of homelessness by keeping people housed for the long-term and assuring that the folks we serve have a quality of life. Working together, people are restored to wholeness, health, and participation in the community.

Over the past year, Housing Works' Mobile Integrated Services Team ensured that 577 people maintained permanent housing. Additionally, 152 individuals were engaged in either employment and/or reintegration activities. Thank you to each of you for your ongoing support in 2020. YOU make housing WORK!

Celina Alvarez

Executive Director, Housing Works

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“I just want to say THANK YOU. Thank you to Housing Works and to Empowerment Works. I would not be here today if it was not for all of you supporting me along my journey.”

MONIQUE J.





HEAL WITH EMPOWERMENT WORKS

In October 2019, Empowerment Works (EW) partnered with L.A. Care and Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH), to host a second cohort of the Health Education Advancement Ladder (HEAL)—a training that puts people with lived experience (those who have experienced homelessness) on a track to become Certified Peer Specialists while building self-esteem, opportunity and community. This six-week curriculum provides an introduction to understanding the landscape of homeless services and how they operate.

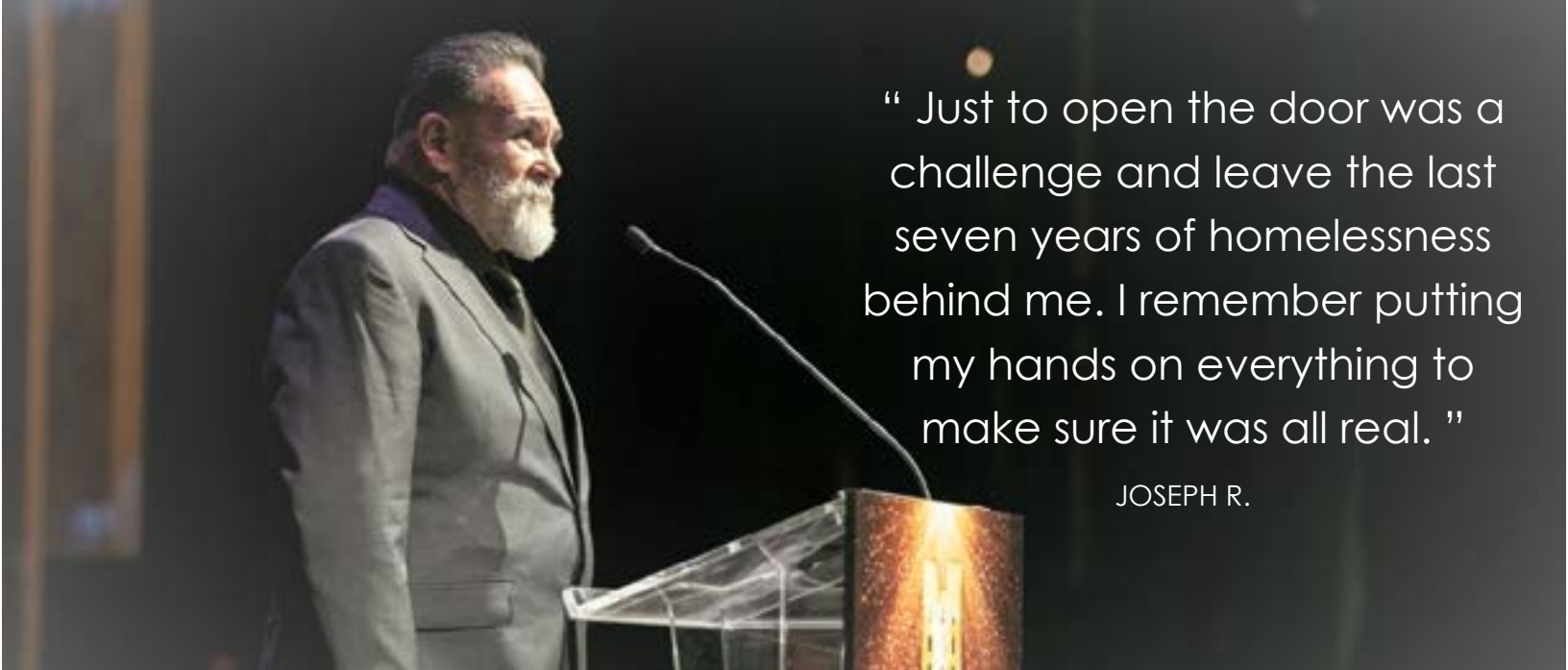
HEAL graduates will be employed by a variety of nonprofit organizations, building the service capacity of their employer, as well as the entire homeless services sector.

We understand that retention is the real measurement of success, and the foundation of this grassroots project is fueled by the Housing Works motto, “Whatever it takes for as long as it takes!” Once a participant graduates and completes the 160 internship hours, each student is assigned an EW coordinator to work on an individual level to offer direction, support and encouragement on their way to stable employment.

EW has worked with 100 people who have entered the workforce, educational and volunteer service sectors. With the opportunity of the HEAL training, we look forward to watching that number grow as students bring their talents and knowledge to other organizations in LA.



STORY BY SHARA MATHES
EW COORDINATOR, HOUSING WORKS



“ Just to open the door was a challenge and leave the last seven years of homelessness behind me. I remember putting my hands on everything to make sure it was all real. ”

JOSEPH R.

Joseph has closed and opened many doors in his life. He grew up in East Los Angeles in his grandfather's barber shop where he remembers starting to work at seven years old. His grandfather came from Mexico and was an entrepreneur who owned businesses that employed people and houses which families rented, opening doors for many in his community. Joe's family taught him to do the work and take others along the way. On his journey, he enlisted in the Marine Corp, married and created a family of his own. As the head of his family, Joe had many doors open and close, and as each door appeared, he did his best and worked hard.

“Life gives you no guarantees,” Joe shares. “I was a business and homeowner and ended up losing both.” When his mom was diagnosed with cancer there was no question that he would support her. He was by her side through the journey of her illness, medical bills and HMO bureaucracy. As his mom slowly passed away, Joe recalls, “I tried to pick up the pieces until there were no more pieces left to pick up.” Joe's support of his mom gave her an additional three years that he treasures, but his support led to his own homelessness.

“I lost everything as I focused on my mom and found myself living in the San Gabriel riverbed where over 2000 people live and struggle to survive.” Joe chose to live in the riverbed because it offered a strong community where he could contribute and find belonging. Eventually, he met Sergeant Gutierrez of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department who connected Joe to Palo Verde, a project-based housing development where Housing Works provides intensive case management services. Sergeant Gutierrez opened a door for Joe, but Joe was the one who decided to walk through, and Housing Works supported him through the application, lease up and move-in processes.

On February 1, 2019 Joe opened the door to his apartment at Palo Verde with tears of happiness: “Just to open the door was a challenge and leave the last seven years of homelessness behind me. I remember putting my hands on everything to make sure it was all real.” When asked what the best thing about being housed is, Joe grins and says, “Knowing that I lay my head down in the same place, in my place.”

Joe has settled into his place this year and is opening the next door to his life: “Charity starts at my front door.” He is doing his part to give back to the community by cutting hair as a barber in Skid Row for those who are still experiencing homelessness: “I talk to people and try to make a difference myself.”

Joe knows doors can open as suddenly as they close, and he is making sure he does his part to keep his open to a bright future: “I want to keep giving.” Through the supportive services that Housing Works provides, Joe is building a relationship to the community, and with his Empowerment Support Worker, Gloria Alcala, who always has her door open to him.

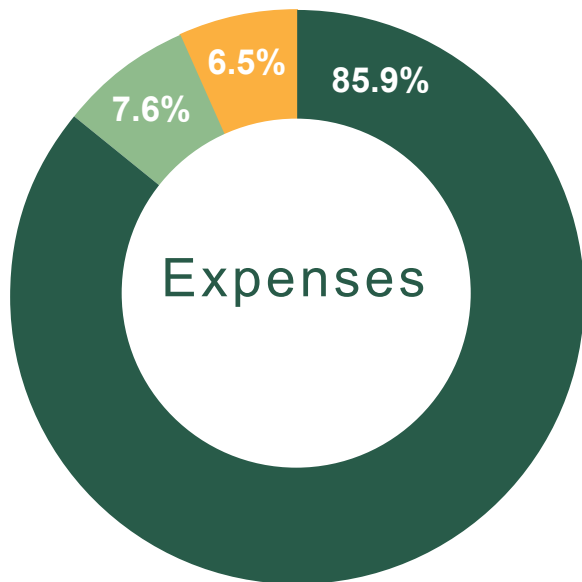
STORY BY SILVIA GUTIERREZ
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS, HOUSING WORKS

PICTURED ABOVE: Joseph as guest speaker and honoree of the 2019 Hollywood Community Housing Corporation Gala.

Photo courtesy of Hollywood Community Housing Corp.

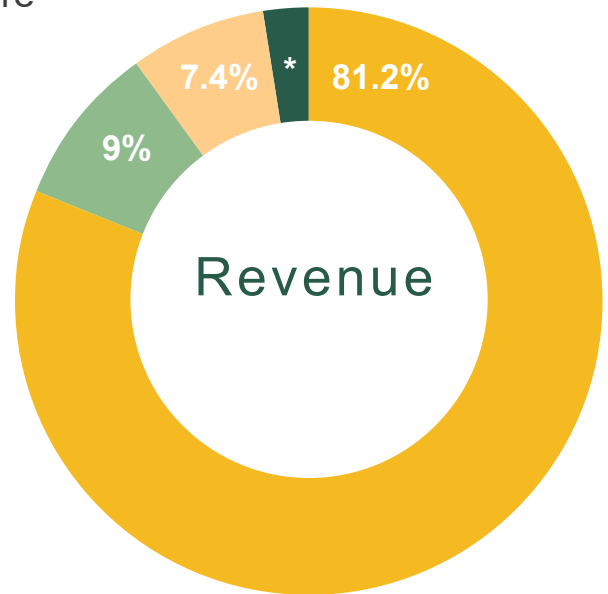
We rely on your support to fulfill our mission, so we handle all the resources provided to us with the utmost care and respect.

In recognition of this commitment, GuideStar has awarded us a Gold Seal rating, and to further demonstrate our sound management and fiscal responsibility, we are happy to share our financial information.



2,058,040	Program
183,030	Administration
155,812	Fundraising

Total Expenses **\$2,396,882**



1,961,319	Contracts & Grants
217,208	Federal Grants
178,701	Fundraising Events
58,864	Contributions (2.4%*)

Total Revenue **\$2,416,092**

On-Site Support Services

Housing Works leads the coordination of tenant care as the supportive service provider for five permanent supportive housing developments in LA County.

In these partnerships, we help tenants transition into their new homes, manage life choices, stabilize housing and integrate into the community. We seek to create equitable and inclusive community for the households we serve. Currently, we serve over 230 households which include families, veterans, youth, people with special needs and chronically homeless individuals.

HOUSING WORKS

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Los Angeles, CA 90038
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www.housingworkscsca.org

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS WITH HOUSING WORKS



DECEMBER 8TH, 2019

1:30 PM to 4:00 PM
Pasadena Highlands
1575 E. Washington Blvd.,
Pasadena, CA 91104

Celebrate the season of giving with Housing Works! Join us for a spirited reading of Truman Capote's "A Christmas Memory" read by noted actors Michael Kearns, Dale Raoul (True Blood) and Raymond Thompson. Hosted by Pasadena Highlands, this family-friendly event offers drinks, light refreshments and is free and open to the community. Don't miss the performance by St. Teresa of Avila children's choir and a visit from good old Saint Nick. We hope to see you there!

Please consider bringing a gift card for a participant in need. Gift cards are used throughout the year to help participants with food or accessories that public aid does not provide. THANK YOU!



PASADENA HIGHLANDS

A WellQuest Living Community

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

DONATE

HW relies on the generous financial contributions of hundreds of individuals each year. You make our work possible! Pledging even a small amount each month will provide crucial support to a family or individual on the path to housing.

GIVE ONLINE AT
HOUSINGWORKSCA.ORG/DONATE

CELEBRATE

Our 2019 Celebrating Neighbors Dinner was a huge success and recognized outstanding work in the field of homeless services and advocacy. Thanks to the generous support of sponsors and donors like you, HW raised over \$175,000.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR NEXT YEAR'S EVENT ON JUNE 7, 2020!

To learn how you can support this year's gala, contact Erica Arthur at earthur@housingworkscsca.org

ADVOCATE

Our advocacy focuses on calling for more permanent supportive housing, affordable housing, increased frontline services, and research in the homelessness sector. In 2020, we continue to be premier advocates for those in need. Look out for updates on our website and social media!

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[@HOUSINGWORKSCA](https://www.instagram.com/HOUSINGWORKSCA)