



Co-Presidents' Letter

Greetings! This is a special letter to update you on PPTFH's work over the past few months and our current plans, specifically:

- Results from the recent **Los Angeles annual homeless count** and other data that are helping to shape PPTFH's perspective and thinking about homelessness.
- The **status of our now-complete restructuring**, including our **new PPTFH leaders and The People Concern** as our fiscal sponsor.
- A **November 13 community webinar** to launch the year 2024 under new leadership.

Los Angeles 2023 Annual Homeless Count

Like many others, we are dismayed by the results of the 2023 Los Angeles annual homeless count. For years, millions of dollars have been poured into a broad range of housing, programs, and strategies, and 22,540 individuals were placed in permanent supportive housing in 2022. However, the **2023 count showed a 12% increase in people experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles**. The largest increase was in Service Planning Areas (SPAs) 1 and 5. SPA 5 is our **Westside service area, which showed a significant increase of 2,065 unhooused people**. We know that each day more people fall into homelessness than we can move from the street. Other than wringing our hands in despair, **how can we go forward?**

The big picture of homeless counts across the nation gives some perspective to L.A.'s findings. Homelessness is up 26% in San Bernardino, 22% in San Diego, 12% in Riverside, 57% in Chicago, 18% in New York, and 20% in Portland. This tells us that severe homelessness is not unique to Los Angeles or necessarily an indictment of Los Angeles' city leaders or us. **Rather, homelessness is a growing, complicated, systemic problem with which communities across the nation are struggling.**

There are a few encouraging signs. One is that **President Biden has designated California as one of the states that will receive special federal funding** to help turn the tide and meaningfully reduce homelessness. Also, in Los Angeles **it now takes 45% less time to place people from street encampments into interim housing** than it did before Mayor Bass's "Inside Safe" program. And it appears that investing developer dollars into **master leasing of existing buildings is a cost-effective and faster way of creating permanent supportive housing** that is also financially sustainable. These are **positive signs that the overall homeless service system is beginning to open up and respond.**

What does this mean for PPTFH and Pacific Palisades? Now more than ever, **we need to stay on our mission. Our new structure will greatly enhance our ability to:**

- **Grow and strengthen the PPTFH Volunteer Response Team**, our partnership with The People Concern, and close collaboration with LAPD.
- **Remain flexible and responsive** to changes affecting homelessness in Pacific Palisades.
- **Continue to collaborate** with other communities responding to homelessness.
- **Be open** to participating in broad solutions. Homelessness is a community problem, and **communities need to participate in creating the solutions.**

Update: PPTFH Restructuring and New Leadership

We are pleased to have **secured the necessary approvals from the California Attorney General's Office and Secretary of State** to complete our restructuring. **The People Concern is now PPTFH's fiscal sponsor and by a Letter of Understanding** will continue to provide professional homeless outreach services to Pacific Palisades for as long as funding is available.

We are **delighted to announce that Carmen Kallberg and Cindi Young have enthusiastically agreed to serve as PPTFH's new co-leaders.** Carmen and Cindi are active members of PPTFH's Volunteer Response Team (VRT), dedicated to the wellbeing of Pacific Palisades, and committed to connecting homeless individuals to compassionate services and housing. Plan to attend our November 13 community webinar to learn more about Cindi and Carmen.

Sharon Kilbride will continue as PPTFH's liaison with the LAPD and LAPD beach detail. **Sharon Browning will continue to serve** on The People Concern/PPTFH Outreach Oversight Committee. **Carol Sanborn will continue leading fundraising,** with support from The People Concern.

We are actively recruiting and training new volunteers to serve on **PPTFH's VRT** and in communications, website content, data tracking, fundraising, volunteer coordination, and community engagement. **Please volunteer NOW by emailing us at info@pptfh.org.** Tell your friends about PPTFH and perhaps volunteer with a friend so that you can serve together. PPTFH can only continue its mission with volunteer support from the community.

Thank you to everyone who donated to our **"House" fundraising mailer showing that PPTFH and The People Concern now under one roof!** Your response has been wonderful and encouraging. **Donations are still needed.** If you haven't contributed, please consider doing so: at our website, www.pptfh.org, click on DONATE. We thank **The People Concern** for all of the fundraising support it is providing to help PPTFH. **We thank our steadfast Funding Partners,** who have continued their generous pledge commitments and whose faith in us has spearheaded our successful restructuring.

Throughout the past few months, **our VRT and Outreach Team from The People Concern have continued their work without missing a beat.** The addition of a clinical case manager to the team has led to **remarkable success. Some of our most challenging homeless individuals** are now in interim housing and active in programs preparing them to live in permanent housing. **Some with severe mental illness are indoors** and, for the first time, accepting medication to help them stabilize and remain coherent. **Some have housing vouchers after years of waiting** and are helping to find their own housing!

November 13 Community Webinar – Mark your calendars!

Please join us on November 13, 2023, 7:00 – 8:30PM for our online community webinar. In late September we will announce the meeting and **send a registration link.** At the meeting we will **hear from Carmen Kallberg and Cindi Young, PPTFH's new co-leaders.** **LAPD representatives** will discuss their ongoing role in the Palisades, and Sharon Kilbride will report on the VRT's street work. Our **featured speaker will be John Maceri, CEO of The People Concern.** We also hope to share some recent client success stories that community efforts have made possible.

Let us know if you have questions or would like more information. We value hearing from you and can be reached by email at info@pptfh.org.

Thank you for your support and caring during PPTFH's transition and in the days ahead.

Sharon Browning & Sharon Kilbride