



OPEN THE DOOR

2015 - 2016
REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



A Message from Our Founder



Dear Friends of Mercy House,

2015-2016 was a record breaking year at Mercy House! As staff, Board of Directors, volunteers and clients worked together, we saw success, breakthrough, and an ability to overcome the odds. As we set our focus on housing the most vulnerable population in our community, the results were astonishing. For them and with your support, Mercy House opened the door to permanent housing by preventing or ending the homelessness of 1,422 men, women, and children! The goal had been set at 900 individuals, which was surpassed by introducing new projects and programs during this last year.

Not only did these individuals overcome their homelessness, but they were given the chance to create a new lifestyle and an opportunity to change their future.

New projects like Home Front Camp Anza to serve Veterans and the Guest House to serve the chronically homeless set a standard of dignity and hope in placing vulnerable homeless individuals and families into permanent housing. With housing accompanied by supportive services, our clients now have the opportunity to develop their own systems of self-sufficiency. Through our Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Re-Housing, and Affordable Housing programs, hundreds of men, women, and children now have a place to call home. This record breaking year brought success to not only Mercy House, but 1,422 individual lives.

With the continued support of those in our community, we make strides to end homelessness every day. It is because of your support, generosity, time, and concern that we are able to continue to serve the most vulnerable in our community. It is because of you that we will bring an end to homelessness.

Thank you for partnering with Mercy House as we continue to open the door to people in our community.

With sincere gratitude,

Father Jerome T. Karcher
Founder and Board Chair

*“WHEN YOU’RE HOMELESS, PEOPLE DISAPPEAR.
MERCY HOUSE WASN’T LIKE THAT. MERCY
HOUSE OPENED THE DOOR FOR ME.” - FRANK*



Our Results: 1,422

During our 2015-2016 fiscal year, Mercy House set a goal to prevent or end the homelessness of 900 individuals. Mercy House surpassed that goal by preventing or ending the homelessness of 1,422 men, women, and children in our community.



169

Homeless Prevention Program

Mercy House's Homeless Prevention Program served 169 unduplicated individuals.



128

Mercy House Shelters

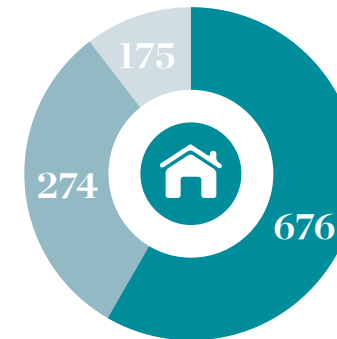
Mercy House's shelters placed 128 men, women, and children into permanent housing.

Permanent Housing Programs

Mercy House's ongoing permanent housing programs provided housing to 1125 unduplicated individuals this year including 676 people in Rapid Rehousing, 175 in Permanent Supportive Housing, and 274 in our Affordable Housing Programs.

- Rapid Rehousing 676
- Affordable Housing Programs 274
- Permanent Supportive Housing 175

TOTAL 1125



**OUR SUCCESS
BECAUSE OF
YOUR SUPPORT!**



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS



Guest House

Mercy House is proud to announce its newest affordable housing project with Community Development Partners, the Guest House.

This year, Mercy House has housed 40 individuals at the Guest House. As rehabilitation continues through the next year, the completed project will include 71 furnished studio and one-bedroom units serving chronically homeless individuals and small families. Site amenities include a community garden with central courtyard and barbeques, commercial kitchen and dining room, exercise and laundry facilities, and on-site property and case management staff.

Mercy House will serve as the primary service provider offering case management, life skills and adult education courses, health and wellness activities, and community building events. The Ecology Center will design the community garden and provide hands-on activities that teach practical, environmental solutions, and will offer other life-enriching services to those at the Guest House.

We are excited to see the Guest House become a beacon of hope for those who are chronically homeless in our community. Through the Guest House, we will open the door to housing for those in greatest need.



Home Front Camp Anza

Home Front at Camp Anza held its grand opening on Saturday, May 21, 2016 and consists of 29 affordable homes geared toward low income households including veterans and their families in Riverside, California. Located on the former site of Camp Anza, a WWII Army training camp, the project also includes the rehabilitated historic Officers Club, which now serves as the community center for residents. Home Front at Camp Anza is a services-enriched community tailored to the needs of veterans and their families. Together with Wakeland Housing & Community Development, Mercy House has opened the door to veterans and their families in our community.

Patrick

"I felt like I wasn't even human sometimes."

Patrick, one of Mercy House's Permanent Supportive Housing Program clients, explained that being homeless was one of his most difficult experiences. For three years, Pat lived on the streets of Costa Mesa; he battled drug abuse and struggled to maintain relationships with his family. Living on the streets took a toll on Pat's mental health; he faced mental illness, even stating that the voices in his head told him that **"he was worthless."**



This year, Pat was connected with Mercy House and moved into a beautiful apartment in Anaheim. Pat quickly adjusted to life off the streets and began to make strides in his program goals. Pat's Housing Stability Specialist, Katie Enright shared, **"Pat is one of the most appreciative clients I have encountered. He has taken nothing for granted and always talks about how blessed he is because of this experience. He doesn't regret anything from his past because it has**

shaped who he has become. He is a very kind and sweet man who is utilizing permanent housing as much as he can. He has gained stability in not only his housing but in his heart and mind as well."

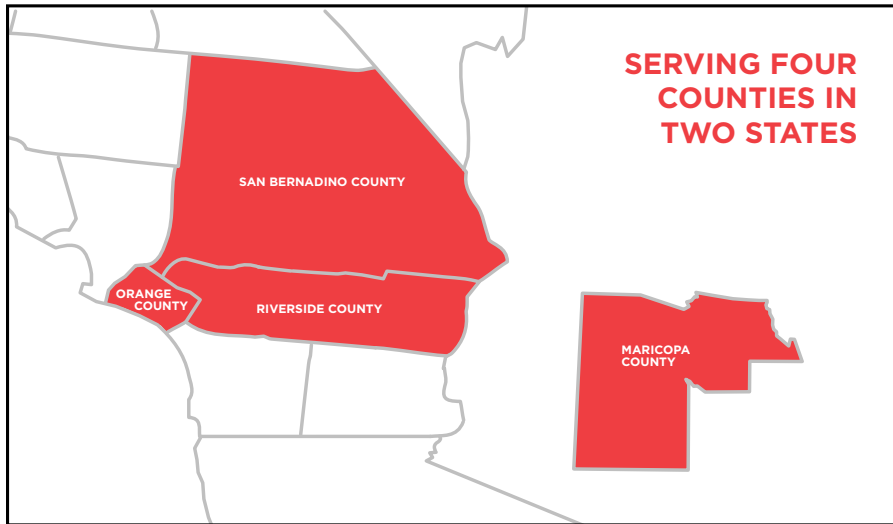
As Pat continued to move forward, he reconnected with his family. Today Pat regularly sees his daughter and niece; these relationships have brought a light to Pat and hope for his future.

"I feel like I joined the human race. Everything has completely changed." Pat said.

It is because of our supporters, donors, volunteers, Board of Directors, and hard-working staff that someone like Pat now has a place to call home. It is because of the generosity of our community that Mercy House was given the opportunity to open the door to Pat and clients just like him.

"I owe Mercy House a lot. I don't walk around in a grey cloud anymore. Now it's like sunshine," shared Pat.

Where We Serve



More than 91% of your donations will directly serve the homeless men, women, and children we serve.



Larry Haynes

Mercy House's first employee and only Executive Director has been a key leader in homeless services in our community for over 25 years. Larry was one of the first leaders to begin talking about creating a system to end homelessness, not simply manage it. Larry has expanded Mercy House's reach into San Bernardino County, Riverside County, and Phoenix, AZ, reaching thousands of lives annually.