MEET TOWNSPEOPLE

WE BELIEVE HOUSING IS HEALTH

TOWNSPEOPLE.ORG
TABLE OF CONTENTS

KEY POINTS

1. Who We Are
2. Community Need
3. Our Mission
4. What We Do
5. Our Impact
6. Current State
7. Opportunities for Involvement
8. Our Leadership
9. Contact Information
Since its founding in 1984, Townspeople has embodied the notion that housing is health. Formed by a group of compassionate San Diegans in response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, our organization provides access to affordable housing and supportive services for our community’s most vulnerable members including people living with HIV/AIDS and those experiencing homelessness.
COMMUNITY CHALLENGES

ACCESS & AFFORDABILITY

AFFORDABLE HOUSING
According to the 2021 Affordable Housing Needs Report for San Diego County, 132,298 low-income renter households in our region do not have access to an affordable home.

HOMELESSNESS
The Regional Task Force on Homelessness reports that in the last reporting year, more than 21,000 persons experiencing homelessness accessed assistance in San Diego.

HEALTHCARE
In 2021, nearly 200,000 San Diegans were eligible for affordable healthcare assistance through Covered California.
THE ACHE FOR HOME LIVES IN ALL OF US, THE SAFE PLACE WHERE WE CAN GO AS WE ARE AND NOT BE QUESTIONED.

Maya Angelou
Our mission is to finance, build, manage, and operate affordable housing and supportive services for people with special needs, providing them with equitable opportunities to achieve stability and self-sufficiency.
OUR VALUES

OPENNESS
We’re anchored on access, integrity, and transparency.

CONNECTEDNESS
We have a responsibility to support the region and our community.

JUSTICE
We pursue equity and excellence in all aspects of our work.
OUR STORY

THROUGH THE YEARS

1984
Formed in response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic

1994
Opened region's first permanent supportive housing for people living with HIV/AIDS

1995
Developed Wilson Avenue Apartments for persons with low-income and living with HIV/AIDS
OUR STORY
THROUGH THE YEARS

2007
Opened 51st Street Apartments for individuals experiencing homelessness and living with HIV/AIDS

2011
Opened the 34th Street Apartment complex for people with low-incomes and/or living with HIV/AIDS

2018
In collaboration with National CORE, developed the Vista del Puente community for veterans, households with low-incomes and special needs

And the work continues...
Since its founding, Townspeople has remained steadfast in its commitment to following the research, which shows the solution to homelessness is Housing First.
We believe housing is both a human right and the foundation for health and wellness.
WHAT WE DO
TOWNSPEOPLE IN ACTION

AFFORDABLE HOUSING
Townspeople owns and operates four affordable housing developments in San Diego, with a total of 118 units.

RENTAL ASSISTANCE
With support from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, annually we administer rental assistance to hundreds of households.

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES
On and off-site supportive service offerings for our tenants include crisis intervention, care coordination, resource referrals, youth engagement, and case management.

EMERGENCY HOUSING
In collaboration with local motels, we operate year-round, non-congregate emergency housing for individuals living with HIV / AIDS who are experiencing homelessness.
370 CLIENTS SERVED

94% HOUSING STABILITY

$2,011,346 FUNDS RAISED

7,009 MOTEL NIGHTS PROVIDED

OUR 2021 IMPACT

IN A NUTSHELL
WHAT OUR CLIENTS SAY

51ST STREET APARTMENTS
ANONYMOUS TENANT

"I feel like I just won the lottery. This seems too good to be true!"

EMERGENCY HOUSING
DARCIE, RESIDENT

"Your entire staff is passionate, caring, and very dedicated to helping others in our time of need."

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING
ANONYMOUS FORMER TENANT

“Thanks to Townspeople, I no longer have the fear of feeling that I can’t accomplish anything in life.”
Current State: Reflection, Planning, & Transformation

Where We Are

In 2021, Townspeople implemented important changes to maximize its impact. This included the hiring of a new Executive Director, Melissa Peterman, who brings extensive experience in homelessness solutions and organizational advancement.

Together with the Board of Directors, staff, and key stakeholders, Ms. Peterman will leverage her versatile expertise to help take the organization to new heights starting with the creation of a new multi-year strategic plan that actualizes Townspeople’s vision for a fully housed San Diego.
OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT

HELP BUILD THE WORLD YOU WANT TO LIVE IN

ADVOCACY
Building awareness is a key part of our work. Become an advocate and help generate support for evidence-based solutions to homelessness.

DONATE
Your contributions make a difference in our effort to end homelessness and the affordable housing crisis.

BOARD & COMMITTEES
Interested in shaping the future of Townspeople? Consider joining the team as a Board or Committee Member.

VOLUNTEER
Have a skill you want to flex for a good cause? Look no further! Townspeople welcomes volunteers with open arms.
Leveraging a strategic combination of personal attributes, expertise, and competencies our Board aims to ensure it has a diversity of perspectives, connections, and skills to carry out its governance functions.

Members of the Board serve three-year terms and are eligible for re-appointment at the completion of their term. Board meetings are held monthly on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 5:00 - 6:30 pm via Zoom. Active Board committees include:

- Board Strengthening
- Nominating
- Special Events
- Strategic Visioning

At the moment, we are recruiting a qualified individual who is interested in serving as Board Treasurer.
OUR LEADERSHIP

2022-23 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RICHARD VELASQUEZ
CHAIR

REBECCA LARSON, ESQ.
VICE CHAIR

ERICA SNYDER, MSW
SECRETARY

BRUCE CARRON
MEMBER-AT-LARGE

KALANI CREUTZBURG, CPA
MEMBER-AT-LARGE
CONTACT US

WE'D LOVE TO CONNECT

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