

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Skid Row Housing Trust Wins \$750,000 Grant to Help End Homelessness for the Most Vulnerable**

*Conrad N. Hilton Foundation announces award to support Skid Row Housing Trust's work to solve chronic homelessness in downtown LA*

**LOS ANGELES, CA (December 2, 2010)** – Efforts to solve chronic homelessness in Los Angeles received a big boost on Wednesday. The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation announced the commitment of \$13 million to support efforts to solve homelessness for the most vulnerable men and women on the streets as recommended in the United Way's and Chamber of Commerce's Home for Good plan. Included in the commitment is a \$750,000 grant to Skid Row Housing Trust to provide permanent supportive housing for 220 of the most vulnerable homeless men and women downtown over three years.

Skid Row Housing Trust will use the plan to prioritize the most vulnerable chronically homeless men and women on the streets and in shelters downtown, assist these men and women to quickly access permanent supportive housing, and to provide the ongoing supportive services to ensure that these individuals successfully end their homelessness for good. "We are thrilled to be partnering with the Hilton Foundation to begin this important work," says Skid Row housing Trust Executive Director, Mike Alvidrez. "Over the past 6 years we have learned the incredible importance of not only providing permanent supportive housing, but ensuring that the men and women with the gravest illnesses and impairments gain access to the homes we provide. Only in this way, can we make progress towards ending chronic homelessness in Los Angeles."

Skid Row Housing Trust will use the Hilton award to partner with the community-based organizations with the greatest capacity to engage and serve the most vulnerable men and women on the streets of downtown including Common Ground Institute, JWCH Institute, Lamp Community and New Image Shelter. The Trust will create a leasing preference for chronically homeless men and women identified as the most vulnerable by the project partners. The Trust will provide assistance to ensure that these individuals quickly qualify and gain access to permanent supportive housing operated by the Trust. These individuals will be provided intensive services to ensure that they succeed in permanent supportive housing.

Skid Row Housing Trust will use the award to bolster outreach and leasing assistance, integrated supportive services in the Trust's permanent supportive housing and to support the work of the project partners. The Hilton award will leverage existing commitments to the Trust's permanent supportive housing including support from the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles, the County of Los Angeles' Homeless Prevention Initiative, the County of Los Angeles' Mental Health Services Act, the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Kaiser Foundation, and previous support from the city, county, state and private investors to create supportive housing.

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The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation award was announced at the launch of the United Way of Greater Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce's Home for Good plan. The plan calls for an end to chronic and veteran homelessness in Los Angeles by 2016. Permanent supportive housing has been shown to be the most programmatically successful and cost effective solution to chronic homelessness. A recent study that examined public costs associated with serving 1,004 residents housed by the Trust, found a net public cost savings of \$14,280 per resident per year. Each individual in Los Angeles County living on the streets costs county taxpayers an average \$34,764 in public services per year while homeless. In contrast, the total cost to build and provide a home and integrated supportive services – including healthcare and counseling – through permanent supportive housing operated by the Trust costs \$20,484. Solving homelessness costs less than doing nothing.

Skid Row Housing Trust has a proven track record of solving homelessness for chronically homeless individuals. The Trust was the lead on the Skid Row Collaborative, a partnership of 11 public and private agencies that began in 2004 and continues today to provide permanent supportive housing for the most vulnerable men and women. The Trust was also a partner on the County's Project 50 program which housed 68 of the most vulnerable men and women on the streets of Skid Row.

"Skid Row Housing Trust is honored to have been selected as one of the grantee organizations to implement the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation's commitment to ending chronic homelessness in Los Angeles," says Chair of Skid Row Housing Trust Board of Directors, Marc Hayutin. "And we are proud to join with the Foundation and our other partners in our continuing efforts to serve the most vulnerable men and women on our streets."

**About [Skid Row Housing Trust](http://www.skidrow.org)**

Skid Row Housing Trust's philosophy is simple: Homes + Support = Success.

The Trust solves homelessness by developing, managing and maintaining permanent supportive housing. The Trust provides **HOMES** for the most vulnerable homeless men and women on the streets. The Trust ensures that our residents have access to the critical **SUPPORT** services to achieve stability, health, and dignity. And The Trust ensures **SUCCESS** by reducing homelessness through opportunity for our residents and better neighborhoods for our communities.

For more information, visit <http://www.skidrow.org>.

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