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NINETY-FIVE FORMERLY HOMELESS RESIDENTS MOVE FROM THE STREETS INTO NEW HOMES AS SKID ROW HOUSING TRUST'S NEW CARVER APARTMENTS OPENS

The Trust's permanent supportive housing model solves homelessness one resident at a time while saving Los Angeles County tax dollars and stimulating the local economy

LOS ANGELES, CA (December 21, 2009) – There will be 95 fewer people living on the streets of Los Angeles in January as Skid Row Housing Trust's latest building, the New Carver Apartments welcomes its first residents. The New Carver is the latest building developed and operated by the Trust to help solve the problem of chronic homelessness while saving taxpayer dollars through its permanent supportive housing model. The Trust's proven methodology provides stable homes and integrated support through on-site healthcare services and mental health counseling, freeing residents from the need to access care through more expensive, less efficient emergency rooms and incarceration. Designed by renowned architect Michael Maltzan, the New Carver Apartments is the Trust's 21st building developed during the past 20 years.

A recent study that examined public costs associated with serving 1,007 residents housed by the Trust, found a net public cost savings of \$14,280 per resident per year. Each individual living on the streets in Los Angeles County 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.

"We know that homes combined with integrated support is the answer to permanently ending homelessness by addressing its root causes of illness, addiction and poverty," said Skid Row Housing Trust Executive Director Mike Alvidrez. "Today 95 formerly homeless men and women are embarking on the hard work of healing themselves and restoring their lives, with moving into their own homes as a first crucial step."

Permanent supportive housing not only restores lives and saves taxpayer dollars, but the model also creates jobs and stimulates local economies, including jobs in contracting and construction – sectors particularly hit hard by the recent recession. The Trust estimates development of the New Carver Apartments generated more than \$9 million in local earnings and 146 new jobs through the building design and construction phases. Additionally, operating the New Carver has added 37 permanent new jobs to downtown Los Angeles.

Each of the Trust's 21 buildings operates using a self-sustaining economic model. Tenant rents, government rental subsidies and other revenue from commercial leases fully cover the costs for ongoing operations, including property management for the buildings. Fundraising, developer fees, property cash flow and foundation or government grants supplement resources to provide on-site supportive services, including healthcare and ongoing counseling.

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"Not only does our permanent supportive housing model work to solve homelessness and dramatically reduce recidivism, but it also makes excellent business and economic sense – a huge win for our residents and all taxpayers and citizens of Los Angeles," added Alvidrez.

The Trust is currently celebrating the 20th Anniversary of its mission to end chronic homelessness in Los Angeles. During the past 20 years, the Trust has created more than 1,400 permanent homes for homeless men and women.

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, please visit <http://www.skidrow.org>.

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