

# The Journey Home

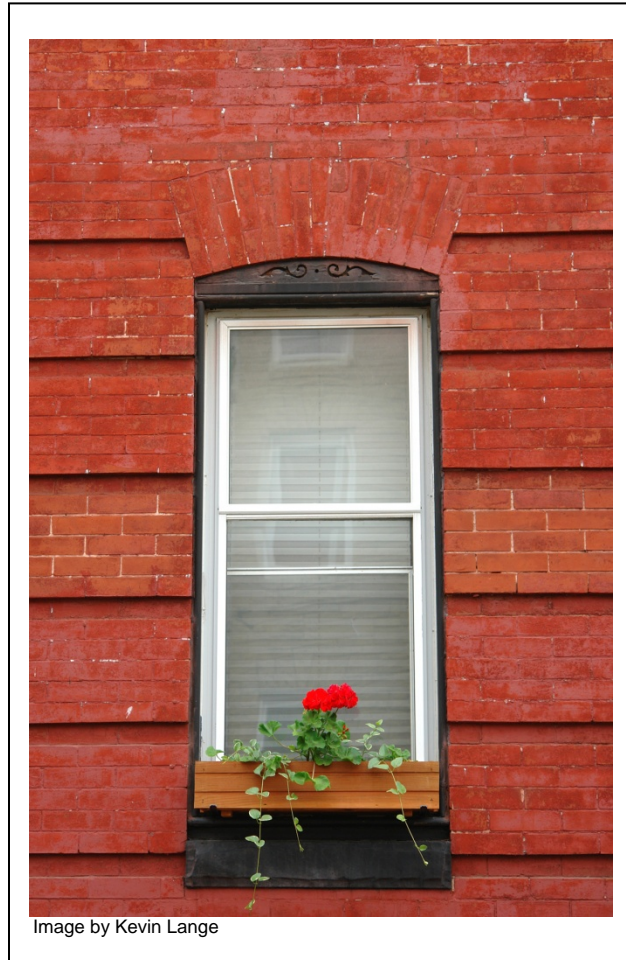


Image by Kevin Lange

## Baltimore City's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness

Two Year Outcome Summary  
March 2010



Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Mayor

# The Journey Home

The Journey Home: Baltimore City's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness was released on January 17<sup>th</sup> 2008. It focuses on four major goal areas that address the root causes of homelessness: affordable housing, comprehensive health care, sufficient incomes, and preventive and emergency services. With this plan, Baltimore is implementing specific actions to provide and maintain sufficient housing in order to re-house persons experiencing homelessness and to help them remain stably housed.

Over the past two years, we have achieved the following key accomplishments:

- ◆ More than 250 people have been stably housed in the Housing First model using a set-aside of Housing Choice Vouchers for people who are homeless, and an additional 110 people are being processed for a voucher. The Housing First Voucher Program has been very successful; these vouchers have higher utilization and retention rates than the general Housing Choice Vouchers.
- ◆ The City has maintained the highest number of emergency shelter beds in history with 1,006 emergency beds. During the winter months, we have been able to serve 430 men and women nightly at the 24 hour shelter at 210 Guilford Avenue and at an 80-bed satellite location.
- ◆ Construction is underway for an \$8 million, 24-hour Housing and Resource Center at 620 Fallsway. The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Center will provide housing and services to 275 homeless men and women, including 25 people who require convalescent care. The Center is expected to open in the fall of 2010.
- ◆ Baltimore City was awarded \$9.5 million in HUD stimulus funds for homeless prevention and rapid re-housing. An ad-hoc Resource Allocation Committee of the Leadership Advisory Group (LAG) rated and ranked the applications and made funding recommendations. The United Way of Central Maryland awarded 13 grants ranging from \$162,000 to \$1,349,407. HUD recognized Baltimore Homeless Services' innovative partnership with the United Way/LAG to allocate stimulus dollars as a national model.
- ◆ In an effort to reduce barriers to housing for all Baltimoreans, Baltimore Homeless Services, in partnership with the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice and the Housing Authority of Baltimore City, developed a pilot housing program for ex offenders. Through this program, 200 Housing Choice Vouchers have been set aside for individuals with recent felony convictions who would not otherwise be eligible housing under local Housing Choice Voucher regulations. In addition,

the Housing Authority is now accepting clients with recent misdemeanors who would not be otherwise eligible for the Housing Choice Voucher program.

- ◆ Health Care for the Homeless opened its new Baltimore clinic and State headquarters building at 431 Fallsview. The building is a 56,000 square foot LEED gold certified structure which opened on February 1, 2010. In addition to having nearly three times the capacity of the building it replaces, the new facility houses a community pharmacy, a pediatric clinic, Maryland's first dental clinic for children and adults experiencing homelessness, and HCH's new prison re-entry program.
- ◆ Restoration Gardens, a 43-unit permanent supportive housing project for homeless and unstably housed youth ages 18-24, started construction. Developed by AIRS /Empire Homes of Maryland and Homes for America, this project is a culmination of years of collaborative work by the Baltimore Homeless Youth Initiative, a coalition of more than fifteen organizations and governmental agencies formed to develop a continuum of housing and services for homeless youth.
- ◆ The Baltimore City Community Action Program recently underwent a strategic planning process and the six community-based centers are being reorganized to provide integrated human service resources and prevent homelessness. Included at each center are outreach services designed to reach the City's most vulnerable people and eviction prevention grants to prevent homelessness.