

February 20, 2007



**A PARTNERSHIP OF THE CITY OF RALEIGH, WAKE COUNTY,
WAKE CONTINUUM OF CARE, & TRIANGLE UNITED WAY, with
Raleigh / Wake Citizens, Businesses & Community Organizations**

Mayor Charles Meeker
Members of the Raleigh City Council

Dear Mayor Meeker and Members of the Raleigh City Council:

On behalf of the Raleigh/Wake County 10-Year Action Plan to End and Prevent Homelessness' Leadership Council, Oversight Team, and many community volunteers, we would like to express our sincere appreciation for your support to help our community continue implementation of the Plan. We can celebrate many accomplishments and programs that began this past year and that will continue as priorities during the coming year:

- We are very excited that the effort to help Hurricane Katrina evacuees is continuing as local congregations are using the Support Circle model to support and house individuals and families locally who are homeless.
- We have received the national "Home For Every American Award" from the US Interagency Council on Homelessness for the Support Circle effort.
- We have been selected by *Capstrat*, a nationally recognized public relations agency, as their pro bono client for 2007; Capstrat will produce a community outreach and education piece on poverty and homelessness in Raleigh / Wake County.
- Wake County has appropriated \$56,000 to administer, train and recruit faith Support Circle participants and the City has appropriated \$100,000 to support match contributions of corporate and faith partners in the rental subsidy program.
- Wake County is hiring a liaison to work with the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce to match persons who are homeless and ready to work with job openings of Chamber members who will make special efforts to hire them.
- We have initiated the "Let's Get To Work" initiative that will help homeless persons with transportation to and from work and to meet day care needs.
- Many volunteers are participating with Action Teams and Strategy Groups, working on a variety of exciting opportunities. *A summary of 2007 Priority Actions is attached to this letter.*

We are specifically requesting that for this coming budget year:

1. That you continue appropriation of funds which will be matched by corporate and faith partners for the Support Circle Housing Subsidy Program. An appropriation of \$60,000 is the anticipated need for FY '07-'08. These funds will need to be rolled over after June 30, 2008, to continue funding one-year housing leases, and;
2. That you continue funding current support for the City of Raleigh representative to the 10-Year Plan Oversight Team, which also has partner representatives from Wake County, Triangle United Way and the Wake Continuum of Care.

Please join us in celebrating these efforts with a growing number of citizens who are recognizing that living in poverty and homelessness is an issue which we must address as a community that truly cares about the quality of life for all of our citizens. You can be assured that we will be working very hard during this coming year to ensure that these programs continue to be successful.

Sincerely,

Kevin Cain, John Rex Endowment
Leadership Council Co-Chair

Jeffrey Billingsley, Sun Trust Bank
Leadership Council Co-Chair

Cc: City Manager, County Manager, Leadership Council, Oversight Team

Please feel free to contact representatives of the plan Oversight Team if you have any questions:

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For more information see: www.raleighnc.gov/endinghomelessness

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2007 Action Team / Strategy Group Priority Initiatives

Housing and Support Services Action Team

2007 Activities:

- **Increase Supply of Permanent Affordable Housing**
 - Building Community Support & Involvement
 - Define Bricks and Mortar Project Initiatives
 - Evaluate & Propose Policy and Program Changes
- **Support Circles**
 - Recruit and Train Support Circles
 - Assemble & match eligible homeless individuals / families
 - Administer City & County Housing Subsidy
 - Develop RHA Housing Partnerships
- **“SOAR” (SSI / SSDI) Initiative**
 - Identify Partners
 - Initiate Training and Client Applications
- **Mental Illness & Substance Abuse Services**
 - Present at Statewide Conference
 - Expand training & Education Opportunities

Education and Employment Action Team

2007 Activities:

- **Job Readiness & Training**
 - “Job Ready Employment Initiative”
 - Employment Works Center
- **Funding Services that Support Employment**
 - “Let’s Get To Work” initiative
 - Increasing access to child care subsidies
 - Transportation Resources
 - Legal assistance to prevent evictions and foreclosures

Outreach & Engagement Action Team

2007 Activities (priority initiatives being refined Feb / Mar 2007)

- **Improve Communication among Outreach/Engagement Providers**
- **Increase Access to Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services for Those on the Street**
 - Support Veterans Stand Down being completed by Wake County Human Services
 - Sponsor other community events targeting homeless people (e.g. Project Homeless Connect).
 - Expand services provided by PATH or utilize a PATH approach
- **Complete Community Assessment of Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, and Respite Bed Capacity and Needs**
 - Support annual point-in-time count in cooperation with the Continuum of Care
- **Complete Assessment and Provide Recommendations for Developing 24/7 One-Stop Services**

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