



Dear Friends and Partners,

While our staff is hard at work preparing for our annual HUD grant process, finding new housing opportunities, and working with our partners to strengthen the homelessness response system, we've also taken time out to honor our outgoing leader, Ann Howard.



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Farewell our Fierce Leader. . We'll Miss You, Ann.

Though Ann finishes her time at ECHO at the end of this month, we know she'll always be an advocate for ending homelessness, whether it's as County Commissioner, or as a private citizen. We appreciate all she has done over the past eight years.

Austin City Council will recognize her contributions with a Proclamation on Thursday May 23rd. The [Proclamation](#) "Ann Howard Day" will be presented by Council Member Kathie Tovo. Music and proclamations begin at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall Chambers. We encourage all of our partners who have worked closely with Ann to come that day and join us as we honor her and her amazing work.

Stories of Success

While we know that there are still far too many people experiencing homelessness and this work is ongoing, we also find it important to stop and recognize our successes when we can.

[*A past client of ECHO wrote in to tell us how we helped her get back on her feet again:*](#)

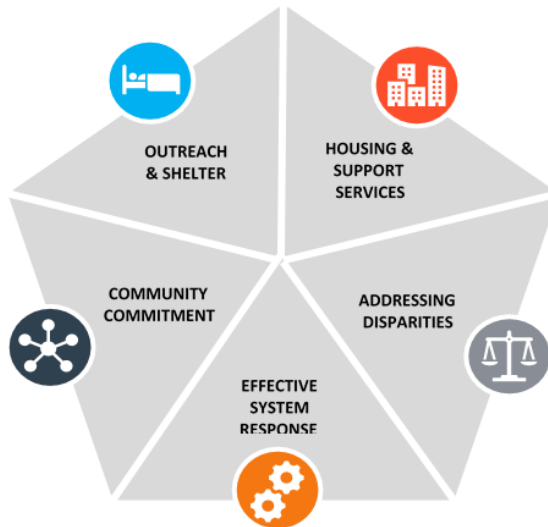
I was stranded in Austin in November 2016 and my kids were in Maryland with my Mom. I was on the streets and involved with a guy that got more abusive and ended up in jail. I started to go to the churches that offered meals more often. One day I encountered an officer with the Austin Police Department who said there's a program to send me home. I met with an ECHO employee at Trinity Center and she asked if I wanted to go that day. I opted for the next day

and my ride fell through so the ECHO employee had bought me a bunch of food and drinks and she picked me up and took me to the bus station. I made it back to Baltimore. I'll never forget the kindness and determination to get me home that I so appreciate, as do my kids and mom!

ECHO is glad to have a funding source to help people with things like bus tickets and assist in ending their homelessness.

Action Plan to End Homelessness

System Components to End Homelessness in Austin/Travis County



You may know that ECHO spearheaded the effort to create the Action Plan to End Homelessness that was endorsed by Austin City Council in April 2018. We've been tracking implementation, and now working to get our partner organizations to endorse the plan and sign on and commit to being Advocates for Action. If your organization can join in this effort, please email Andrea Brauer at andreabrauer@austinecho.org.

Leading in the Community and Beyond

Bree Williams, ECHO Director of Community Housing led a panel discussion at the [Southwest Affordable Housing Management Association Conference](#) to educate property owners and build momentum for the HUD multi-family homeless preference to give families experiencing homelessness a priority in accessing housing. Brad Prak, a local management company, stood side by side with ECHO to speak to the benefits of implementing a homeless preference. ECHO extends much gratitude to the [Technical Assistance Collaborative](#) for helping get this work off the ground in Austin!

ECHO was pleased to host the federal Government Accountability Office (GAO) in April as they studied providers and services to homeless

subpopulations. GAO staff were asked by Congresswoman Maxine Waters to undertake this study, and they chose Austin as the place to do their work. Thanks to Andrea Brauer, ECHO Director of Communications for coordinating their visit with Mayor Adler and many partner organizations working to end homelessness. We look forward to their report this summer.

Ann Howard, Tim Long, ECHO Director of Research and Evaluation and Preston Petty, ECHO Director of Coordinated Entry attended the CSH Summit in Indianapolis where the Pay for Success funding model was featured. Pay for Success is a public/private partnership that ties payment for service delivery to the achievement of measurable outcomes. Hanna Jamal, Director at Social Finance joined Ann in a panel presentation about the focus on housing for clients formerly involved in the criminal justice system. The Austin-Travis County Home Initiative (AT Home) is expected to launch in late Summer.

Resource for Job Seekers

Workforce Solutions Capital Area (WFSCA) invites service providers and job seekers to attend a unique skilled trades/manufacturing-related event on May 29th and 30th. The [Trade Up Texas Apprenticeship Showcase](#) will include presentations from employers and apprenticeship programs. **You can register for the showcase [here](#).**

An Update on the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program

ECHO is proud to partner with LifeWorks, the SAFE Alliance, and Caritas of Austin on a program that aims to end youth homelessness by 2020. This powerful partnership has moved **76 youth to permanent housing** since the program started in October 2018. We were delighted to see a **56 percent reduction in unsheltered homelessness among young adults through the 2019 Point in Time Count**. We will continue our work to ensure that the homelessness response system is strong and that every young person that faces homelessness receives appropriate intervention early.

ECHO News

We welcome **Katie Wilkinson** to the ECHO team as our new **Community Housing Program Specialist**. **Shawna Arneson** also joins the Coordinated Entry team as a **Coordinated Entry Intake Specialist**. We're so glad to have them on board!

Please share our newsletter with others who might want to get involved, and like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#). We'd also very much appreciate

your support with a [donation](#) to bolster our work.

Many thanks for your support!



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