

The Coalition for the Homeless knows that permanent housing programs combined with supportive services is the answer to homelessness. The Way Home has housed more than 12,000 homeless individuals since 2012 with incredibly high rates of retention.

The Coalition for the Homeless agrees that encampments are NOT acceptable, suitable living environments for the safety and health of homeless individuals NOR for those living in the neighborhoods near them.

May Update

* The Coalition for the Homeless has hired 4 housing navigators who are dedicated to the Wheeler Encampment for the next four months. This team will be on site at Wheeler Monday through Friday working with those eligible for housing and helping navigate them through the move-in process.
* The Navigators are: Tonoa Bond, Roy Watts, Micah Southern, Christian Galatoire
* They are using a client tracker so we know that everyone at Wheeler has been identified and all those eligible for housing have been assigned one of these Navigators.
  + One story to share – last week, a long-time Wheeler encampment resident was finally housed in permanent supportive housing. I share this because he was one of the toughest cases we have had. He had lots of barriers and had been on the street for years. This success shows the level of commitment of The Way Home and its partners.
* The Coalition for the Homeless has convened an advocacy workgroup consisting of leaders from 20+ agencies involved in The Way Home. The first issue this workgroup is addressing is the Wheeler Encampment.
  + An informative flyer on the Wheeler Encampment is being produced.
  + Council visits are being scheduled.
* Thanks to Barbara McGuffey, the Coalition was invited to meet with District Attorney Kim Ogg and Assistant District Attorney, Mental Health Bureau Chief Denise Oncken. It was a positive meeting where we shared common concerns and began planning ways to more compassionately help those with serious mental illness in the homeless population.
* The Coalition for the Homeless is working with neighborhood volunteers from Museum Park and Mid-town on a public education campaign for two specific audiences:
  + The neighbors living near the Wheeler Encampment who will receive regular updates on the work of The Way Home.
  + Individuals and groups who think they are helping but whose charitable actions actually do more harm than good.