

**MEMBERSHIP INVITATION – October 2, 2014 to September 30, 2015**

We cordially invite community partners to be a part of the effort **“to put an end to homelessness in Kern County through collaborative planning and action.”** Each individual and organization brings an added perspective to the collective effort! Paid membership in the Kern County Homeless Collaborative (KCHC) is an investment in this community. The annual membership dues of \$500 accounts for a critical portion of the Collaborative’s operating budget. **By participating through paid membership you are equipping and empowering a combined work of tremendous value, producing quantifiable outcomes – and changing lives *invaluably!***

Due to the shared dedication of many homelessness service providers our community is seeing a steady decline in individuals and families living on the streets and in places not intended to be inhabited by people. **Direct efforts of Collaborative members have resulted in a homelessness reduction of 37% in metro Bakersfield and 14% in Kern County overall – and even greater accomplishments are soon to come** (i.e. ending veteran homelessness in 2015 and housing those defined as “chronically homeless” by 2016)!

The benefits of being a dues paying member of KCHC includes opportunities not available to non-paying general partners:

- **Voting** participation in the decision making and business of the KCHC Steering Committee (the governing board);
- **Networking** and collective efforts of partnering with dozens of nonprofit, faith-based, business and government organizations, private individual, and people who were or are without homes;
- **Use of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)** data base (a \$629 retail value, and includes technical support) required of all agencies who receive Continuum of Care (CoC)\* or Emergency Shelter Grant homelessness funding;
- **Priority participation in event and resource opportunities** that may take place, such as the:
  - 2015 Homeless Census (including use of the final analysis data);
  - SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery) program including peer agency support;
  - Options to participate in monthly outreaches, resource fairs and the Kern County Veteran Stand Down and Kern County Women Veterans Stand Up; and
  - Focused projects providing housing and services for targeted populations i.e. chronically homeless, veterans and youth.
- **A collective voice** towards advocating for the homeless and educating local, state and federal stakeholders, philanthropic agencies and the public at large;
- **Assistance with your homelessness efforts** through the support of United Way’s Homelessness Project Manager (whose experience includes 30+ years of marketing and nonprofit expertise including public relations, crisis resolution, administration and grant writing experience);
- **Branding on the KCHC website [www.kernhomeless.org](http://www.kernhomeless.org):**
  - Agencies are featured including ongoing placement of agencies’ logos;
  - Membership contact, services information and resource links to your work;
  - Live links to your website and promotions for all who visit the website;
  - Referral documents and brochure links for your organization.
- **Social media promotions** through the KCHC social media mediums i.e. list serve e-blasts, Facebook, Twitter (and soon Instagram). Your agency will be promoted as a member of KCHC including services and success stories, flyers, brochures, new programs, events, celebrated milestones, achievements, etc.; and
- **Participation as Committee Chairs** and Co-Chairs. Committees capture your agency’s focus and provide individualized, smaller group discussions and decisions which drive the work of the Collaborative and the homeless effort county wide. The brainstorming and problem resolution environment is conducive to strengthening your organization’s work through the process.

- **Funding opportunities** - Paid membership is required **to be considered for any funding opportunities and the collective applications coordinated by KCHC**, including CoC\* US Housing and Urban Development funds which amount to \$2.5 to \$4 million each year. Large agencies with multiple, substantial working departments (i.e. government or nonprofit corporations) are encouraged to participate through memberships for each applicable department or program related to serving those who are at risk for homelessness.

**Now more than ever, support via membership dues is crucial.** Issues associated with homelessness are complicated and solutions require considerable time, energy and financial investment. Please consider membership and mail or deliver your check payable to United Way of Kern County and note "KCHC Membership Dues" to:

**KCHC  
c/o United Way of Kern County  
5405 Stockdale Hwy 200  
Bakersfield CA 93309**

If you have any questions or comments, I'm anxious to hear them! Please don't hesitate to contact me at 661 834 2734 or [Christine.L@UWKern.org](mailto:Christine.L@UWKern.org).

**Working together offers us all a tremendous network of real solutions for the daily challenges faced by our agencies, our staff and those we serve that are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless.**

*We truly make a difference when we are united!*



Christine Lollar,  
Homelessness Project Manager

**C/O United Way of Kern County 5405 Stockdale Highway 200 Bakersfield CA 93309  
661 834 2734 661 834 2952 fax Christine.L@UWKern.org**

[www.kernhomeless.org](http://www.kernhomeless.org) <http://www.facebook.com/kerncountyhomelesscollaborative>

*United Way of Kern County is the fiscal sponsor of the Kern County Homeless Collaborative. For more than 15 years the Kern County Homeless Collaborative (made up of a group of individuals, businesses, nonprofit agencies, government, and faith based entities) has benefitted from the leadership of fiscal sponsor United Way of Kern County. This sponsorship allows for a full time Homelessness Project Manager who works collectively with dozens of service provider agencies and hundreds of community volunteers, working together to provide housing and prevention services for individuals and families who are homeless or at risk for homelessness. United Way of Kern County also serves as the Collaborative Applicant and infrastructure for the Bakersfield / Kern CA-604 Continuum of Care (CoC) federal application to the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development.*