

**Houston Affiliate**

**2013 Accomplishments**

**Funders Together - Houston Membership Statistics:**

**27** Organizations

**42** Individual Members

**16** Private Foundations

**2** Corporations

**4** Faith Based Organizations

**1** United Way

**4** Government Agencies

**Funders Together - Houston Strategic Partners:**

One Voice Texas

Greater Houston Community Foundation

Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County

Corporation for Supportive Housing

**Mission:**

The purpose of Funders Together – Houston is to build a local network of funders who are committed to reducing homelessness through leadership, education and advocacy; strategic collaboration and grantmaking; and effective promotion and replication of best-practice models in Greater Houston.

**Vision:**

Funders Together - Houston will focus on aligning resources toward common goals that promote effective, strategic, and innovative grantmaking and targeting solutions for preventing and reducing homelessness in our community.

The Houston affiliate of Funders Together to End Homelessness organized intentionally as a public-private funders collaborative in order to align efforts, build on each other's strengths, leverage resources and work at a systems level.

Since the launch of Funders Together - Houston in September 2011, general membership meetings have been held quarterly, educational site visits organized and two work groups formed: Advocacy and the Public-Private Funders Collaborative.

**General membership meetings held:**

**January 24, 2013** - Greater Houston Community Foundation

Program: Mental Health Interventions - Targeting Vulnerable Populations - Part II

Guests: Anne Miskey, CEO, Funders Together - Boston

Barbara Dawson, Deputy Director, Mental Health Mental Retardation Authority (MHMRA), Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Programs

Kim Kornmeyer, LCSW, Assistant Director, MHMRA, Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Programs

Lt. Mike Lee, Support Operations, Houston Police Department

**April 25, 2013** - The Beacon Day Center

Program: Right-sizing Our Community Plan

Guests: Mandy Chapman Semple, Special Assistant to the Mayor on Homeless Initiatives

**August 1, 2013** - Greater Houston Community Foundation

Program: Youth and Young Adult Homelessness

Guests: Katherine Barillas PhD., Director, Child Welfare Policy, One Voice Texas

Deb Murphy, Youth Services Specialist, HATCH Youth

Ronda Robinson, CEO, Covenant House Texas

Joel Levine, Director of Administration, Harris County Protective Services for Children and Adults/Homeless Youth Network

Amanda Cloud, Grant Officer, The Simmons Foundation

**September 3, 2013 -** The Simmons Foundation

Program: Working at a Community Level

Guests: Heather Peeler, VP of Programs, Grantmakers for Effective Organizations

**October 31, 2013** - Greater Houston Community Foundation

Program: The Role of Philanthropy in System Change: Permanent Supportive Housing

Guests: Mandy Chapman Semple, Special Assistant to the Mayor on Homeless Initiatives

**Community Education - Site Visits:**

* Houston Center for Sobriety/Houston Police Department Mental Health Unit
* LifeWorks, Austin, Texas - Transitional housing for homeless youth and young adults
* The Beacon Homeless Day Shelter - Comprehensive homeless services
* New Hope Housing - Perry Street Complex - Permanent Supportive Housing
* Earl Hatcher Commons Housing Project - Permanent Supportive Housing
* Veterans Court Graduation Ceremony - Officiated by Judge Marc Carter

**Community Convening/Community Participation:**

**January 25, 2013 -** Homeless Youth Forum

Presentation by National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty

Sponsored by One Voice Texas and Funders Together Houston

**April 9, 2013** - Faith Community Luncheon

Program: How the Faith Community Can Help to End Chronic Homelessness

Hosted by: Heartspring Methodist Foundation, St. Luke's Episcopal Health Charities, St. Martin's Episcopal Church and Funders Together - Houston

**September 18, 2013** - Faith Community Luncheon

Program: Finishing the Job: Ending Chronic Homelessness in Houston

Hosted by: St. Martin's Episcopal Church co-hosted with Episcopal Health Charities and Funders Together - Houston

**October 16, 2013** - Federal Reserve Bank - Houston Branch

Breakfast Roundtable Program: Developing and Financing Permanent Supportive Housing to End Homelessness

Hosted by: Office of the Controller of the Currency, Federal Reserve Bank, U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, City of Houston and Funders Together - Houston

**October 17, 2013** - Community Networking Evening and Tour of Earl Hatcher Commons Housing Project

Hosted by: Non-Profit Housing Corporation, Harris County Community Services Department and Funders Together Houston

**Funders Together - Houston Representation:**

**National Alliance to End Homelessness and Funders Together Institute**,

Washington, D.C.

2013 Conference: Reframing for the Future

Funders Together - Houston Delegation: Celene Meyer, Jessica Preheim, Amanda Cloud, Kelly Opot, Meghna Goswami, Lillian Ortiz, Mandy Chapman Semple

**Grantmakers for Effective Organizations**, Washington, D.C.

2013 Conference: Supporting Movements: A grantmaker gathering on collaborative approaches for social change

Funders Together - Houston representatives: Katy Butterwick, Nancy Frees Fountain

**Houston Continuum of Care Governance Council**

Celene Meyer, St. Luke's Episcopal Health Charities, is representing Funders Together - Houston on the COC Governance Council, responsible for strategic planning and coordination of HUD's HEARTH Continuum of Care resources and other relevant area resources as well as coordination and evaluation of system homeless services.

**Funders Together - National**, Boston, Massachusetts

Funders Together - Houston member, Nancy Frees Fountain (the Frees Foundation), serves on the Board of Directors of Funders Together - National.

Funders Together - National, Membership Committee - Amanda Cloud (the Simmons Foundation) represents Funders Together - Houston.

**Public-Private Funders Collaborative Workgroup:**

Meetings have been held bi-monthly at the City of Houston Housing and Community Development Department, Harris County Community Services Department and the United Way of Greater Houston.

* Demonstration project for public-private funding collaboration: Earl Hatcher Commons Housing Project (189 units). Project in progress. 3815 Gulf Freeway, Houston, Texas. Funders Together - Houston is providing gap funding including: Employment Specialist salary, transportation vouchers, emergency food, project evaluation and furnishings.
* Goals identified for collaborative funding opportunities and for gap funding to maximize leverage opportunities.
* Commitment to support data driven decision-making and to use this information to educate boards and organizational leadership.
* Commitment to support growth of provider network and to sustain long term capacity building efforts.
* Priority will be given to creating common application and reporting processes.
* Evaluation Task Force charged with asset mapping of Funders Together members to promote strategic alignment of resources.

**Other Accomplishments:**

* Formed Steering Committee to provide governance structure for affiliate
* Houston Police Department's Homeless Outreach Team Video project. Story of Community Policing initiative as alternative to incarceration. Funded by Funders Together - Houston members.
* Funders Together - Houston newsletter published. Distributed quarterly. Jennifer Wagner, Editor.
* Funders Together - Houston values statement. Work in progress, under leadership of Cyd Gillette, St. Martin's Episcopal Church.
* Funders Together - Houston, monthly reports/blogs on Houston affiliate activities for Funders Together - National bulletin.
* Greater Houston Community Foundation, in collaboration with Funders Together Houston, launched the Community Impact Fund to End Homelessnes.