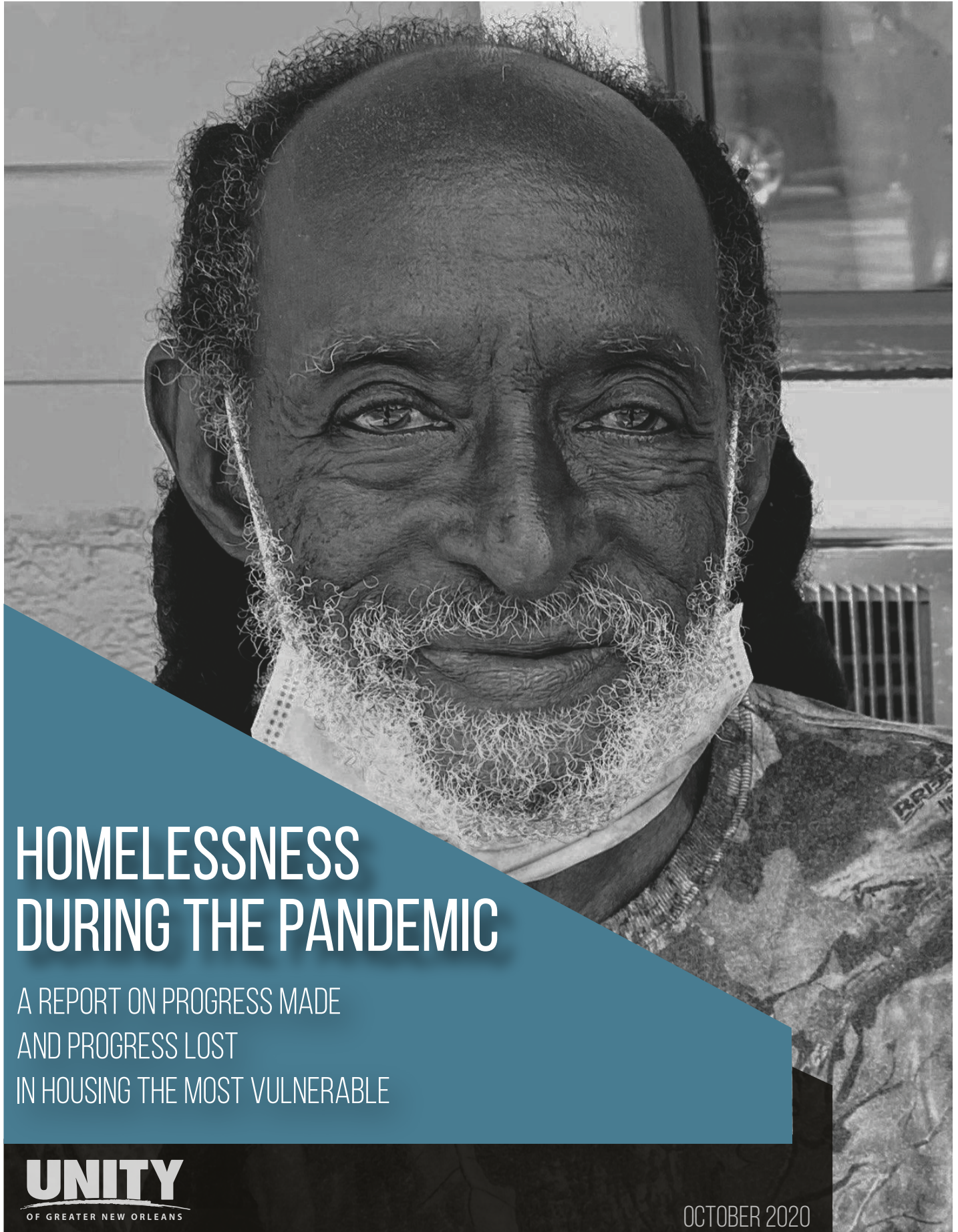


# A GATHERING STORM



## HOMELESSNESS DURING THE PANDEMIC

A REPORT ON PROGRESS MADE  
AND PROGRESS LOST  
IN HOUSING THE MOST VULNERABLE



## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends:

I hope you are well and coping as best you can with the challenging circumstances in which we find ourselves. My heart goes out to all of you who have suffered losses.

The COVID-19 pandemic has hit the nation hard. Right from the start, Louisiana had one of

the highest death rates, and as of this writing our state still has one of the highest per-capita rates of cases. Our Mayor and Governor acted quickly and decisively to protect our people, but the loss of life we have experienced nonetheless has been devastating. The Board and staff of UNITY and our member organizations have lost loved ones; many of our colleagues, clients, friends, and family have battled the virus.

Across the nation, millions have lost their livelihood. The economic impact has been particularly devastating to New Orleans, which relies heavily on tourism. Many people who have never before experienced homelessness have lost their jobs in the restaurant, hotel and retail industries; already many have nowhere to go but the street.

Since the day the first COVID-19 case was discovered in Louisiana, the UNITY coalition of organizations has worked tirelessly on the front lines to take care of vulnerable people.

Homeless people are at high risk of dying from coronavirus because of high rates of disability and crowded or unsanitary living conditions, so early on we advocated to move every person we could find off the street into hotel rooms to protect them from COVID-19. People at high risk are safest at home, but how do you stay home when you have no home?

Last spring, UNITY and our government partners moved 616 homeless people off the street into hotels, but we didn't stop there. We resolved from the start to end people's homelessness altogether

by finding apartments and providing the rent assistance and services that our clients need. Our vision is to somehow get through this pandemic with less homelessness, rather than more. That is why we are working so hard with all of our partners to find every possible resource to create a pathway out of homelessness for every person and to target assistance to those at highest risk.

We are grateful to all those who have made this critical effort possible, especially the hard-working staff of state, city, parish and federal government; generous donors and foundations for providing loans and seed money; FEMA, whom we are counting on to reimburse most of our hotel expenses; the hardworking people of UNITY and our member organizations; advocates; and everyone who supports the goal of eradicating human suffering and homelessness.

In a humane and equitable society, every person must have a safe and decent place to live. Thank you for believing in this vision.

Sincerely,

Martha J. Kegel

## HOMELESS DUE TO THE PANDEMIC



Read their story on Page 10

# REPORT SUMMARY

## 616 MOVED OFF STREET, BUT PANDEMIC FUELS NEW SURGE IN HOMELESSNESS

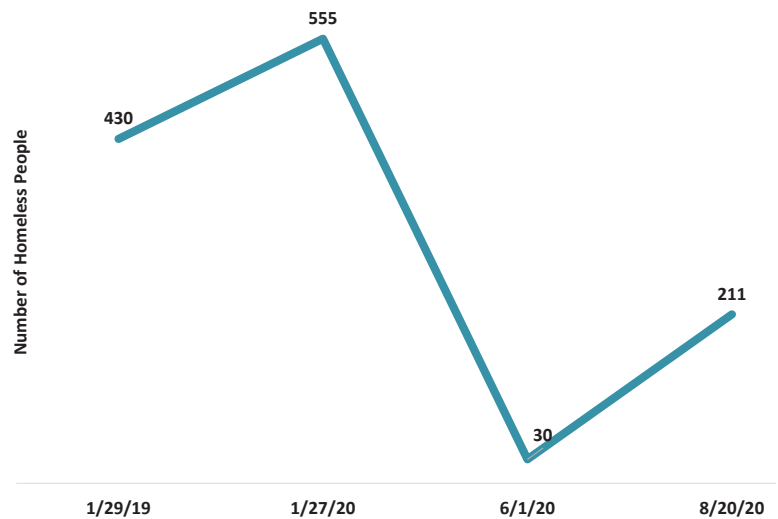
A massive effort in the spring of 2020 to move 616 homeless people into hotel rooms to protect them from COVID-19 resulted in the reducing of street homelessness in New Orleans and Jefferson Parish to only a few dozen people -- the lowest level in decades.

But the dramatic progress in reducing street homelessness resulting from this effort is dissipating. Even though nonprofit and government partners are hard at work placing the hotel occupants in permanent apartments, street homelessness is again on the rise, primarily due to other people losing jobs and housing as a result of the pandemic.

A late-summer count by the UNITY of Greater New Orleans Outreach Team and nonprofit partners found an estimated 211 people sleeping on the streets of New Orleans and Jefferson Parish, up from an estimated 30 people on June 1. A key culprit appears to be the pandemic, causing people who have never before been homeless to lose their jobs and turn to the streets because family and friends cannot take them in, street outreach workers say. The pandemic is compounding the problem of a constant churn of new homelessness caused by New Orleans' shortage of affordable rental housing.

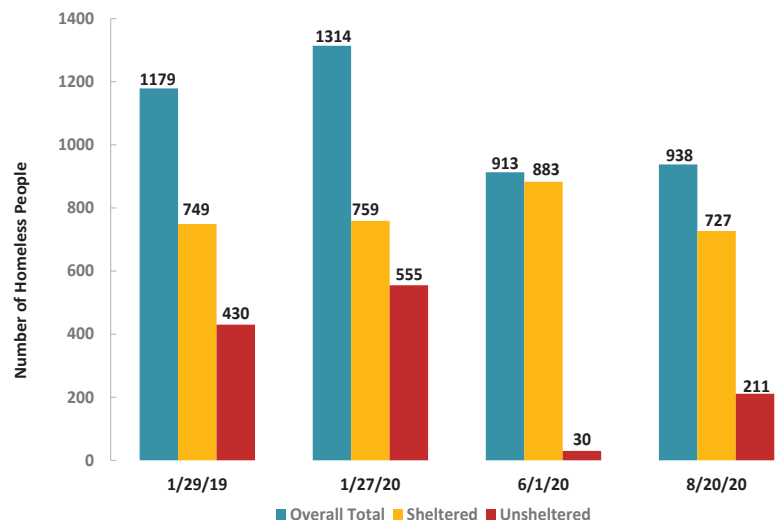
The level of homelessness has dramatically zigzagged in the past 20 months, between January 2019 and September 2020. After 12 consecutive years of decreases in homelessness, caused by the rebuilding of New Orleans' housing stock from the ravages of Hurricane Katrina and by the work of homeless service providers to move people off the street into apartments, homelessness suddenly shot up 11 percent between January 2019 and January 2020. Experts blame the rise on New Orleans' growing affordable housing shortage and a reduction in new federal housing resources for the homeless. The street population then plummeted when people were moved into hotels last spring, but began rising again last summer due to the economic fall-out of the pandemic.

**Zigzag in Unsheltered Homelessness  
In New Orleans & Jefferson Parish**



**The pandemic is compounding the problem of a constant churn of new homelessness caused by New Orleans' acute shortage of affordable rental housing.**

**Recent Trends in Overall Homelessness  
(Sheltered + Unsheltered)**



The sheltered count are people living in shelters, hotels paid for by government or nonprofits, and transitional housing. The unsheltered count are people living on the street, in abandoned buildings and cars.



# HOW WE BROUGHT DOWN

## Living in a House that's Not a Home



Shamus Rohn, former director of UNITY's Abandoned Buildings Outreach Team, searches buildings for homeless people in April 2009

The "high water" mark of homelessness in New Orleans and Jefferson Parish were the years immediately following Hurricane Katrina. When the federal levees collapsed in August 2005, most of the housing in New Orleans was severely damaged; 51,000 rental units were destroyed.<sup>1</sup> Homelessness skyrocketed. Prior to Katrina, 1,560 people were counted on the street and in temporary housing for the homeless during UNITY's Point in Time Count in January 2005. By January 2007, that number had increased more than seven times, with an estimated 11,619 people homeless.

The explosion of post-Katrina homelessness was the result of the devastation of the housing stock and the slow pace of recovery, which led to soaring rents for the few available apartments. In addition, the Katrina diaspora -- in which New Orleanians were evacuated after the hurricane by airplane and bus all over the nation -- meant that the extended family and neighborhood networks on which vulnerable people had once relied for support no longer existed. As a result, people who could not find an affordable apartment in New Orleans often did not have relatives or friends to turn to for a temporary place to stay.

Finally, the trauma of the Katrina experience and its aftermath led to widespread depression, anxiety, substance use disorders, and deteriorating physical health, yet the healthcare infrastructure was devastated and treatment was hard to come by.<sup>2</sup>

For eight years following Hurricane Katrina, the vast majority of homeless people in New Orleans were squatting in the city's abandoned buildings, most of them flooded when the levees broke. Based on U.S. Postal Service data, there were 55,291 abandoned residential addresses in New Orleans in 2010.

The problem of people squatting in abandoned buildings was so pervasive for many years that, after finding an abandoned garage in which eight elderly men were living, UNITY formed an Abandoned Building Outreach Team in late 2008, which continued its work until 2015. To find and re-house people living in these conditions, team members systematically searched abandoned buildings by day, looking for bedrolls in active use, and returned after dark to meet the occupants, who typically avoided their squats by day in order to escape detection by neighbors or police.



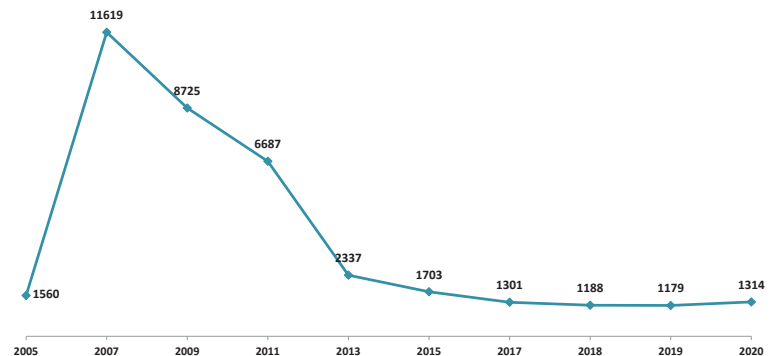
# HOMELESSNESS AFTER KATRINA...

The team found that 87 percent of abandoned building dwellers had at least one disabling condition, with 76 percent suffering mental illness and 58 percent a physical disability. Assisted by experts, UNITY also developed a methodology for conducting periodic random sample surveys of abandoned buildings to determine the number of squatters citywide.

As the city's housing recovery progressed and UNITY and its allies succeeded in getting housing resources targeted to the homeless, the number of people experiencing homelessness in New Orleans and Jefferson Parish sharply declined. During the 12-year period between 2007 and 2019, homelessness decreased by 90 percent, from a high of 11,619 people in January 2007 to only 1,179 people in January 2019.

An intense 2 1/2-year advocacy campaign spearheaded by UNITY, the National Alliance to End Homelessness, Louisiana Recovery Authority and other advocates resulted in a 2008 congressional appropriation of 3,025 Permanent Supportive Housing vouchers for people with disabilities across the 52 parishes impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, of which over 900 were targeted for homeless people with disabilities in New Orleans and Jefferson Parish. As UNITY secured federal grants increasing its supply of PSH -- long-term rental assistance tied to supportive services designed to help the most vulnerable people become and remain stably housed -- and utilized Rapid Re-Housing short-term rental assistance and services for other homeless people, the number of people experiencing homelessness kept dropping. The adoption by the UNITY coalition, the State and the City of the nationally proven "Housing First" strategy -- in which housing is provided simultaneous with supportive services, and targeted to those in greatest need -- was key to the reduction in homelessness.

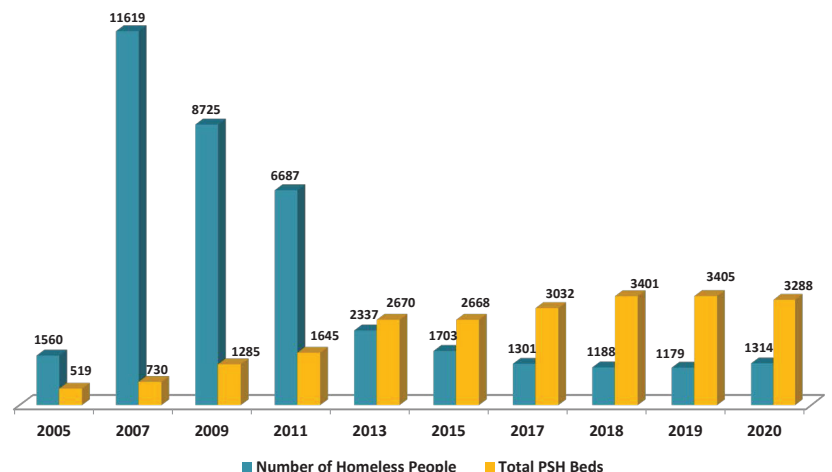
### Homelessness Since Katrina



According to UNITY's annual January Point-in-Time Counts, the number of people experiencing homelessness in New Orleans and Jefferson Parish is down 89 percent since the post-Katrina high in 2007. Point-in-Time Counts aim to comprehensively count and interview every homeless person during a single 24-hour period. The pre-Katrina count of January 2005, which was conducted prior to the creation of federal rules for the count, has been adjusted to remove persons who do not meet HUD's definition of literal homelessness, so as to allow for a more accurate comparison year to year.

**As UNITY and its allies succeeded in getting housing resources targeted to the homeless, the number of people experiencing homelessness sharply declined, from a high of 11,619 people in 2007 to only 1,179 people in 2019.**

### Homelessness Decreases as Permanent Supportive Housing Increases



Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), defined as rent subsidies tied to supportive services for homeless people with disabilities, has played a major role in decreasing homelessness in our community and around the nation. The number of PSH subsidies has significantly increased since Hurricane Katrina, due to the UNITY collaborative's successful lobbying of Congress for Katrina vouchers and the securing of competitive federal grants. Between 2019 and 2020, however, the number of PSH units dropped due to the increasing difficulty of obtaining federal grants.

# ...BUT LAST YEAR HOMELESSNESS JUMPED

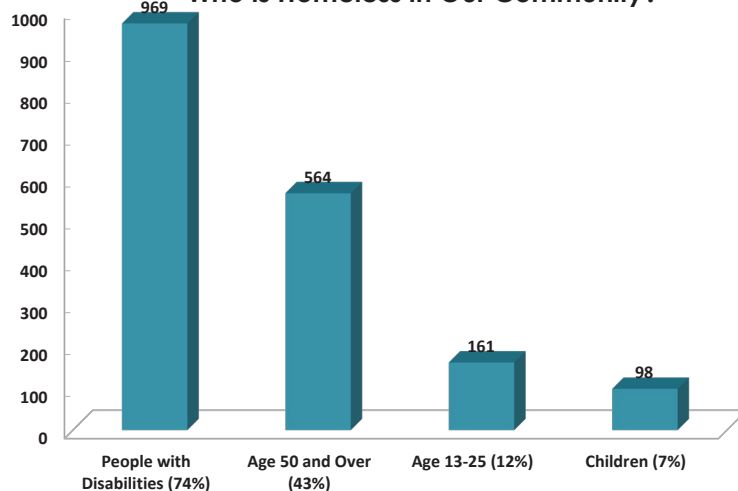


After more than a decade of sharp annual declines in local homelessness that were primarily driven by providing housing targeted to the homeless, progress suddenly stalled in 2019, and reversed by 2020. As UNITY had predicted would happen, the January 2020 Point in Time Count tallied the first jump in local homelessness in 13 years. The number of people experiencing homelessness increased from 1,179 in January 2019 to a total of 1,314 in January 2020 -- an 11 percent increase.

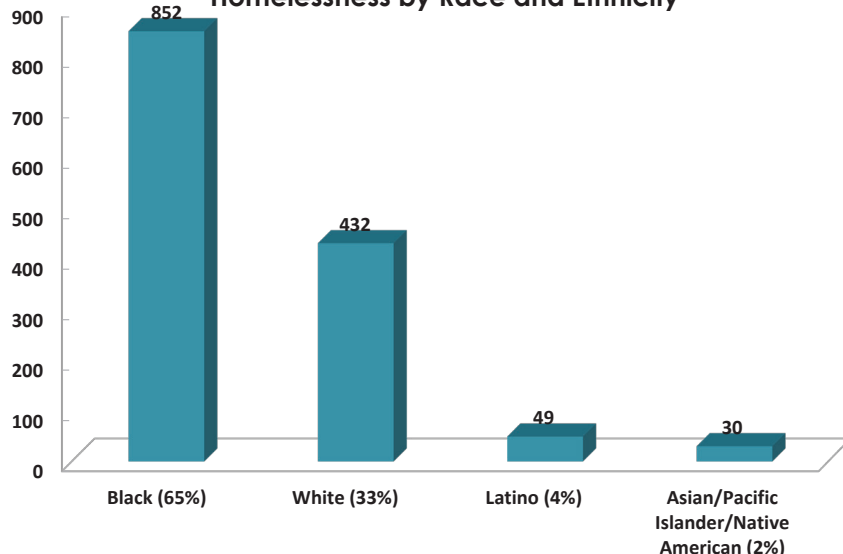
As the local affordable housing shortage escalated and new federal grants diminished in size, UNITY and its network of 60 agencies could no longer keep pace with the constant influx of newly homeless persons who were unable to afford rising rents. In 2018, service providers assisted 1,022 homeless people to move into permanent housing, while 2,188 people became newly homeless that same year, according to Homeless Management Information System data.

The rise in homelessness in New Orleans between 2019 and 2020 follows a national trend of rising homelessness. On a national level, homelessness decreased between 2010 to 2016, primarily due to improved targeting of housing and services to the homeless, but then began increasing as rental housing grew more unaffordable for the lowest-income people.

New Orleans-Jefferson Parish 2020 Homeless Point-In-Time Count  
**Who is Homeless in Our Community?**



New Orleans-Jefferson Parish 2020 Homeless Point-In-Time Count  
**Homelessness by Race and Ethnicity**





# AS HOUSING SHORTAGE GREW

In the United States, housing unaffordability has consistently been shown to be the key driver of a community's rate of homelessness.<sup>1</sup> A 2018 economic analysis sponsored by Zillow showed that in communities where people spend an average of 32 percent or more of their income on rent, homelessness rates sharply climb.

In New Orleans, 63 percent of renters pay more than 30 percent of their income on rent and utilities, while 37 percent are severely cost-burdened, paying more than 50 percent of housing costs.<sup>2</sup> African Americans represent nearly 80 percent of New Orleans' cost-burdened renters.<sup>3</sup> As of February 2020, there were more than 23,000 families on the waiting list for vouchers from the Housing Authority of New Orleans.<sup>4</sup>

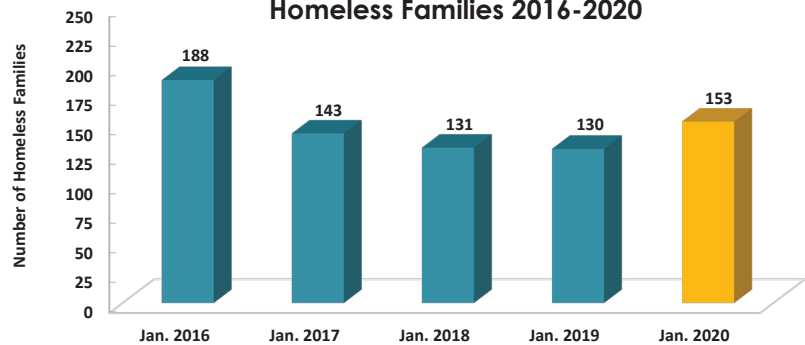
New Orleans rents have increased by 31 percent between 2004 and 2018, while the median income has actually declined in that period.<sup>5</sup> The 2018 median household income for residents of New Orleans was \$38,423, slightly less than the city's median income in 1999 and significantly less than the 2016 national median income of \$61,937. New Orleans maintains one of the highest income inequality levels in the nation as poverty continues to grow and living-wage jobs remain stagnant.<sup>6</sup>

In New Orleans, gentrification and the rise of the Short-Term Rental market have combined to decrease the supply of affordable rental housing. The number of new arrivals to New Orleans in 2018 was more than double the number in 2004.<sup>7</sup> According to an analysis done by Jane Place Neighborhood Sustainability Initiative, the neighborhoods with the highest concentrations of short-term rentals have seen significant increases in rent, ranging from a 28 percent increase for a 2-bedroom apartment in the Mid-City neighborhood to a 72 percent increase for a 3-bedroom unit in the Bywater neighborhood.<sup>8</sup>

## New Orleans rents have increased by 31 percent between 2004 and 2018

New Orleans-Jefferson Parish 2020 Homeless Point-In-Time Count

### Homeless Families 2016-2020

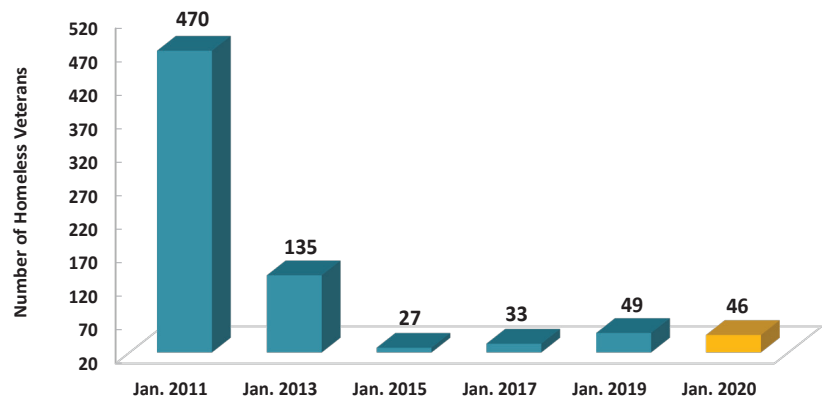


In January 2020, family homelessness was down 19 percent since 2016, but up 18 % since Jan. 2019. The recent increase was most likely due to New Orleans' scarcity of affordable housing, while the long-term decrease owes to the collaborative's intensive campaign to speed up the time it takes to place homeless families in housing. Since May 2017, we have placed homeless families in permanent apartments within only 21-41 days of their becoming homeless, whereas prior to that, the average length of time to house a homeless family was 117 days.

The primary technique used to quickly house families is Rapid Re-Housing rental assistance, with case management services provided in the home. We have also implemented the strategy of Problem-Solving services and one-time financial assistance to help families resolve housing crises without having to become homeless.

New Orleans-Jefferson Parish 2020 Homeless Point-In-Time Count

### Veteran Homelessness on the Streets and Shelter



- Literal homelessness (living on the street or in emergency shelter) among veterans has decreased by 90 percent since 2011.
- Since January 2015, upon completion of the Mayor's Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness, the UNITY collaborative, in partnership with the City, VA and providers VOA, Start Corp. and Hope Center, has maintained "functional zero" in veteran homelessness by housing every veteran found on the street or shelter within an average of 30 days or less, if they will accept housing.

# 616 PEOPLE MOVED OFF THE STREETS

In the largest effort ever to house the homeless in New Orleans and Jefferson Parish, 616 people have been moved off the streets into hotel rooms since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

The massive public-private initiative to move people off the street, urged by the UNITY coalition, the Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center, and True Colors United, and led by the Governor's Office, Louisiana Housing Corporation, City of New Orleans and Jefferson Parish, began as a way to provide homeless people with individual living units in order to protect them from COVID-19.

On March 16, medical personnel informed UNITY that a dozen homeless people had been in a local emergency room with symptoms of the coronavirus. A national study had found that homeless people are two to three times more likely to die of COVID-19 than the general population, largely because of high-risk medical conditions. "Having hundreds of vulnerable people living in close proximity in street encampments, without adequate food, water, and sanitation, and no personal protective equipment, risked mass tragedy in a pandemic," said UNITY director Martha Kegel.

Throughout March, April and May, a partnership of UNITY, the State, City, and Jefferson Parish moved hundreds of people off the streets into hotels. As a result, UNITY estimates that as of June 1, there were only about 30 people still living on the streets of New Orleans and Jefferson Parish.

The commitment to the 616 clients doesn't stop with providing hotels. "The opportunity to get the homeless off the street into hotels is also the opportunity to end their homelessness altogether," said UNITY executive director Martha Kegel. "We will persist until we find permanent housing for every person. The pandemic allows us to see with 2020 vision that it never made sense to leave the most vulnerable people in our society out on the street. In a pandemic, each person's health is intimately tied to everyone else's health, and a humane community takes care of its most vulnerable people."

In a housing effort coordinated by UNITY, by mid-September 292 of the people who moved off the street into hotels had already been placed in permanent housing, and 158 others were currently being helped to find permanent housing. Depending on their needs, clients have been placed in apartments, usually with rent assistance and case management services; reunited with family; or in some cases assisted to return to their home communities. Some have been temporarily hospitalized or provided treatment facilities.

**We will persist until we find permanent housing for every person.**

The State and City are providing Rapid Re-Housing, rent assistance and case management services, and the Housing Authority of New Orleans is providing 225 vouchers -- resources appropriated by Congress in the CARES Act last March. Goodwill Industries, Ozanam Inn, DePaul USA and Priority Health Systems are the primary providers of case management services, including getting clients employment, disability and other benefits, physical and mental health care, and substance use services.

But more housing and services resources are needed. In a community with an acute shortage of affordable housing, there is a constant churn of new homelessness. And after the state and federal moratoriums on evictions were lifted in July and August, people with nowhere to go but the street became more visible. While the hotel initiative pushed down the number of people sleeping outside in New Orleans and Jefferson Parish to only about 30 as of June 1, the number on the streets swelled to 211 by late summer, according to early morning counts by the UNITY coalition.

UNITY is bracing for further increases in homelessness. A Columbia University study has predicted a 45 percent increase in homelessness as a result of the mass loss of jobs and housing



# IN LARGEST EFFORT TO HOUSE THE HOMELESS



UNITY Outreach Team Leader Clarence White and his client, Mr. James Anderson, at the hotel where UNITY brought Mr. Anderson to protect him from COVID-19. Mr. Anderson, age 68, who is also pictured on the cover of this report, suffers from severe diabetes. He feared he would die of COVID-19 while living on the street. UNITY is currently working on finding him an apartment.

due to the pandemic. While it is hoped that a recent order from the Centers for Disease Control will stave off mass evictions, many vulnerable people will not be able to meet the CDC's standard of proof required to prevent evictions, and it is not clear that all landlords or Louisiana Justices of the Peace will comply. Moreover, many low-income people are already at high risk of homelessness, living in very precarious conditions from which the CDC order cannot protect them. Many are sleeping on couches or floors in the homes of family and friends who may not be able to let them stay for long.

Leslie Bouie, co-chair of UNITY's Advocacy Committee, said, "An eviction ban without necessary financial and rent assistance does nothing to ensure unemployed people have money to pay for basic needs. It's also unfair to landlords who must pay mortgages and repairs, and simply delays the inevitable mass evictions for nonpayment of rent." UNITY urges that Congress appropriate sufficient funds for unemployment benefits and rent assistance to ensure that people can make it through the pandemic without becoming homeless.

## MOTHER AND CHILDREN HAVE

Tonedra Payne hasn't rested properly for a month and a half. That's when Tonedra and her children had to move, after her 73-year-old grandmother got sick with the coronavirus.

Doctors instructed Tonedra that she and the children should leave the house until her grandmother had tested negative for COVID-19. That's been hard for everyone: her grandmother has no one in the house to help her, while Tonedra and her three young boys were pushed into homelessness.

Tonedra had few options, because money is so tight: she was laid off during the pandemic from her job as a clerk at a local department store, which has only rehired a few of its employees so far. Tonedra has a sister, but eight relatives are already staying with her, making it too crowded for Tonedra and her family.

So, she decided to rough it. At least they'd be together. She packed up blankets and pillows and set up makeshift beds in her car, parked outside her grandma's house in Marrero. An elderly neighbor let them use her bathroom and often sat with Tonedra on the porch at night.

She talks with her grandmother every single day to check on her; it's heartbreaking to be apart, Tonedra said. "With this pandemic, I don't know what I'd do if I lost her."

Her spirits get low at times, she said. "Some days I just want to give up. Some days I just want to break down and cry. But I can't. My children motivate me to keep going."

On some nights, with everyone packed together, the car got hot. Since the car's a/c doesn't work, she would open up two doors on her car, wrap the kids in some blankets and put them to sleep, then sit up on the porch all night, watching, to make sure her children stayed safe while they slumbered. They've spent days at local parks, where Tonedra hopes that her children can run and play and let the worries of their homelessness leave their minds for awhile.

Still, the boys often cling to her right now, especially Jewelz, her youngest, who is only 3 years old and really misses his great-grandmother. The older boys, who are 7 and 8 years old, know their great-grandmother is sick and so they stay close to their mother too, because their future seems unclear. "I can't even take a bath by myself right now," Tonedra said, noting that in the emergency shelter they stay at now, the older boys have their own twin beds but prefer to sleep with her and their baby brother instead.

Because money is tight, Tonedra has focused on feeding her children first, which sometimes meant she didn't eat. The resulting hunger and sleep-deprivation have clearly taken a toll. "Right now, I want to go to sleep so bad, but I can't," she said, tears welling up in her eyes. "I mean, I'm trying. It's just hard when I'm doing it by myself. Sometimes I wonder: who can I depend on besides my grandma. The answer is: no one."





# NO HOME BECAUSE OF PANDEMIC

But recently, Tonedra realized that she wasn't all alone after all. She called UNITY of Greater New Orleans, which has been fielding a growing number of calls for help from people pitched into homelessness as a result of losing jobs and housing due to the pandemic. UNITY placed Tonedra and her children at member agency New Orleans Women and Children's Shelter.

**Tonedra says,  
“Some days I  
just want to give  
up. Some days  
I just want to  
break down and  
cry. But I can’t.  
My children  
motivate me to  
keep going.”**

Within the next month, UNITY and NOWCS plan to find the family their own apartment, with help paying the rent and finding another job. Until then, the family has a safe, comfortable place to stay at the shelter.

This past weekend, Tonedra was finally able to sleep in — in a bed piled up with slumbering boys.



Tonedra Payne and her three children at a park near the shelter



# HOMELESS DURING A PANDEMIC

Street homelessness was nearly eliminated when UNITY and its partners moved nearly every person off the streets of New Orleans and Jefferson Parish into hotels in the Spring of 2020. However, a UNITY count in August found that 212 people had arrived on the streets over the summer, many

newly homeless as a direct result of the pandemic and the scarcity of affordable housing. The photos on these two pages depict some of the people whom UNITY Outreach Team members Joycelyn Scott and Clarence White recently met who are now living on the streets.





# HOMELESS DURING A PANDEMIC



## HOW YOU CAN HELP



Our community is facing an unprecedented crisis. Yet we also have a unique opportunity. With everyone's help, our goal is to get through this pandemic with less homelessness, not more.

New Orleans and Jefferson Parish have been hard-hit by COVID-19, with one of the nation's highest rates of cases and deaths and widespread unemployment. A Columbia University study predicts a 45 percent increase in homelessness nationwide as a result of the pandemic. Because of poor health, homeless people are nearly three times as likely to die of the coronavirus as the general population.

In the face of these challenges, we believe it is our moral obligation to secure and wisely deploy every resource we can possibly find, to end the scourge of homelessness for every human being.

Already, with the leadership of state and local government, we have moved 616 homeless people off the streets of New Orleans and Jefferson Parish into hotels to protect them from COVID-19. But we aren't stopping there. Nearly half of these clients already have been placed in permanent housing. With your help, we will permanently house all of them.

But the resources we have in hand are not enough. UNITY needs help defraying the tremendous costs we are incurring. And we have no funds to house the people who are newly becoming homeless every day. Just this summer, nearly 200 additional people have arrived on the streets.

Can you help the people in the greatest need? Here are the most important ways:

- 1 Call and write the U.S. Senate to urge them to appropriate \$11.5 billion nationwide in rent assistance and services for the homeless so that the pandemic does not escalate homelessness.

\* Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (202) 224-2541

\* Senator Bill Cassidy of Louisiana (202) 224-5824 or (225) 929-7711

\* Senator John Kennedy of Louisiana (202) 224-4623 or (985) 809-8153

- 2 Donate household goods or money. If you can, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to UNITY at [www.unitygno.org](http://www.unitygno.org) or mail to UNITY, 2475 Canal St., Suite 300, NOLA 70119. And please donate your gently used household goods to help a homeless family or individual get settled in an apartment. If you can, do a collection drive with your family, friends, congregation, school or social club. Bring items to the UNITY warehouse at 506 N. St. Patrick St., New Orleans, Mon-Thurs 9am-1pm and Saturdays 10am-2pm. For pick-up, contact (504) 483-9300 or email [homelesswarehouse@unitygno.org](mailto:homelesswarehouse@unitygno.org). Here are the items most needed:

\*Furniture

\*Kitchenware

\*Bed linens, pillows, and towels

\*Cleaning Supplies (New only, please)

\*Toiletries (New only, please)



## Footnotes

PAGES 4-5: i. Louisiana Recovery Authority. ii. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; Tulane University; Kaiser Family Foundation.

PAGE 6: i. John M. Quigley and Steven Raphael, "The Economics of Homelessness: The Evidence from North America," *European Journal of Housing Policy* (2001); Barrett A. Lee, Townsend Price-Spratlen & James W. Kanan, "Determinants of Homelessness in Metropolitan Areas," *Journal of Urban Affairs* (2003); Chris Glynn and Alexander Casey, "Priced Out: Homelessness Rises Faster Where Rent Exceeds a Third of Income," [www.zillow.com/research/homelessness-rent-affordability-22247/](http://www.zillow.com/research/homelessness-rent-affordability-22247/)

ii. "Semi Annual Data Report," Housing NOLA, 2020, <https://fluxconsole.com/files/item/87/74161/2020%20HousingNOLA%20Semi%20Annual%20Data%20Report.pdf>;

"Who Lives in New Orleans and Metro Parishes Now?," The Data Center, 16 July 2020, <https://www.datacenterresearch.org/data-resources/who-lives-in-new-orleans-now/>

iii. Alan Mallach, "Where Will People Live?: New Orleans' Growing Rental Housing Challenge," New Orleans Redevelopment Authority, March 2016, <https://www.nola.gov/nora/sources/nora-rental-housing-report/>.

iv. "Semi Annual Data Report," Housing NOLA, 2020. <https://fluxconsole.com/files/item/87/74161/2020%20HousingNOLA%20Semi%20Annual%20Data%20Report.pdf>

v. "Who Lives in New Orleans and Metro Parishes Now?," The Data Center, 16 July 2020, <https://www.datacenterresearch.org/data-resources/who-lives-in-new-orleans-now/>

vi. Alan Berube and Natalie Holmes, "City and Metropolitan Inequality on the Rise, Driven by Falling Incomes," *The Brookings Institution*, 14 January 2016, <https://www.brookings.edu/research/city-and-metropolitan-inequality-on-the-rise-driven-by-declining-incomes/>.

vii. "Who Lives in New Orleans and Metro Parishes Now?," The Data Center, 16 July 2020, <https://www.datacenterresearch.org/data-resources/who-lives-in-new-orleans-now/>

viii. Breonne DeDecker, Shane M. Griffin, and Lydia Y. Nichols, "Short Term Rentals, Long Term Impacts: The Corrosion of Housing Access and Affordability in New Orleans," *Jane Place Neighborhood Sustainability Initiative*, 28 March 2018, <https://storage.googleapis.com/wzukusers/user-27881231/documents/5abaffaa13a7f80sBW9H/Short%20Term%20Rentals%2C%20Long%20Term%20Impacts%203.28.18.pdf>.



## Credits

**Report Design by Ian Ellis**

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**Story on Pages 10-11 by Katy Reckdahl**

**Photos by Susan Poag and Ian Ellis**

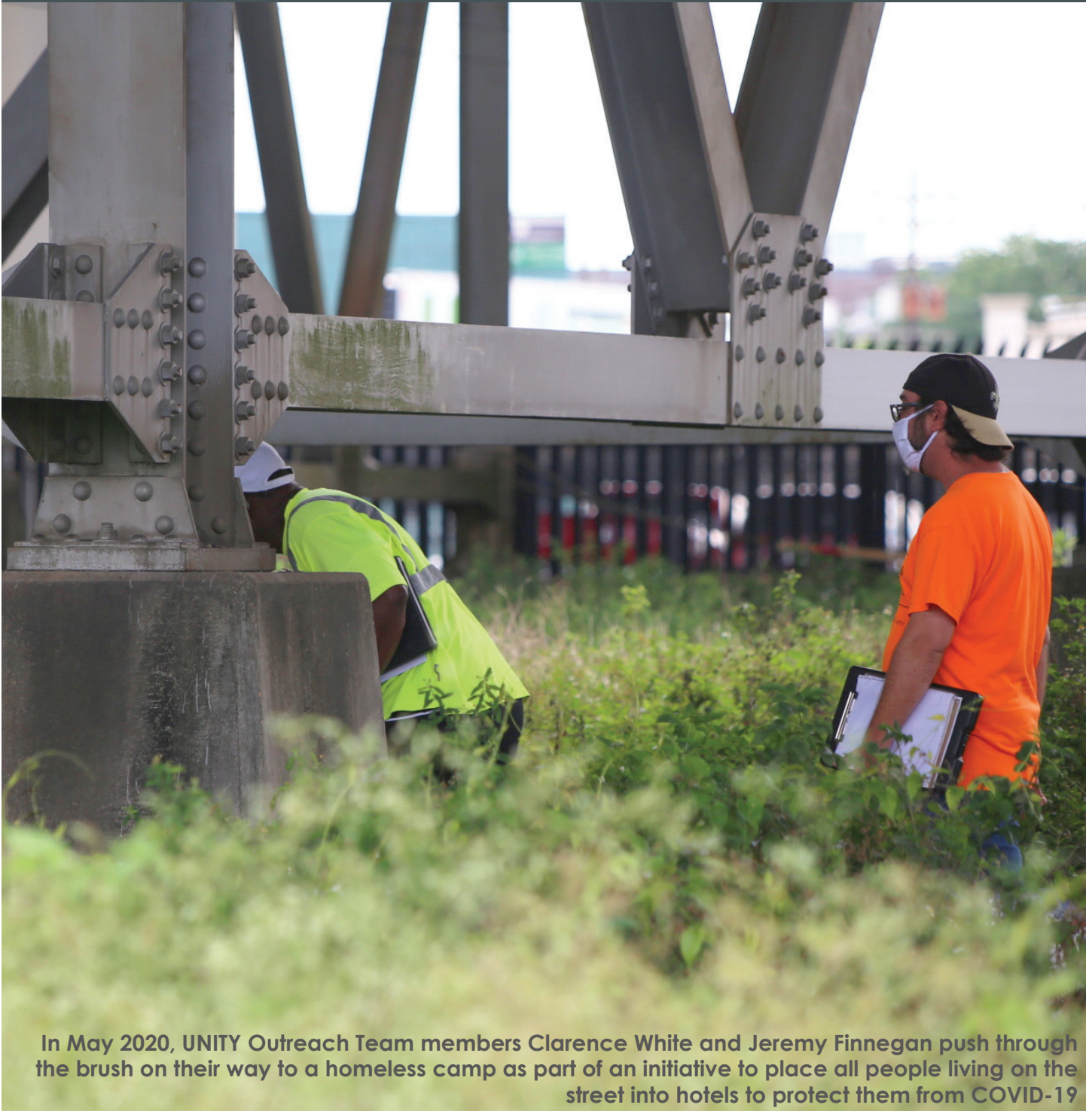
**Photo on Page 4 by Chris Granger/The Times-Picayune, April 6, 2009**

**Research by Della Wright and Bailey Igoe**

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UNITY of Greater New Orleans is a nonprofit organization leading a coalition of 60 nonprofit and governmental agencies providing housing and services to people experiencing and at risk of homelessness in New Orleans and Jefferson Parish. Our mission is to prevent, reduce and end homelessness. UNITY develops strategies to reduce homelessness, trains our member agencies in evidence-based practices, and, in partnership with our member agency VIALink, is charged by the federal government with the responsibility of collecting and disseminating the official data about homelessness for New Orleans and Jefferson Parish. The two primary sources of homeless data are the confidential Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), which collects data daily about every client, and the Point in Time Survey, a comprehensive effort every January to interview every person who can be found on the streets, in emergency shelter, and in transitional housing.



In May 2020, UNITY Outreach Team members Clarence White and Jeremy Finnegan push through the brush on their way to a homeless camp as part of an initiative to place all people living on the street into hotels to protect them from COVID-19

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