

ENDING HOMELESSNESS IN  
OMAHA AND COUNCIL BLUFFS:  
BRIDGING CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY EFFORTS  
THROUGH YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

2010 Young Professionals Summit

# Overview

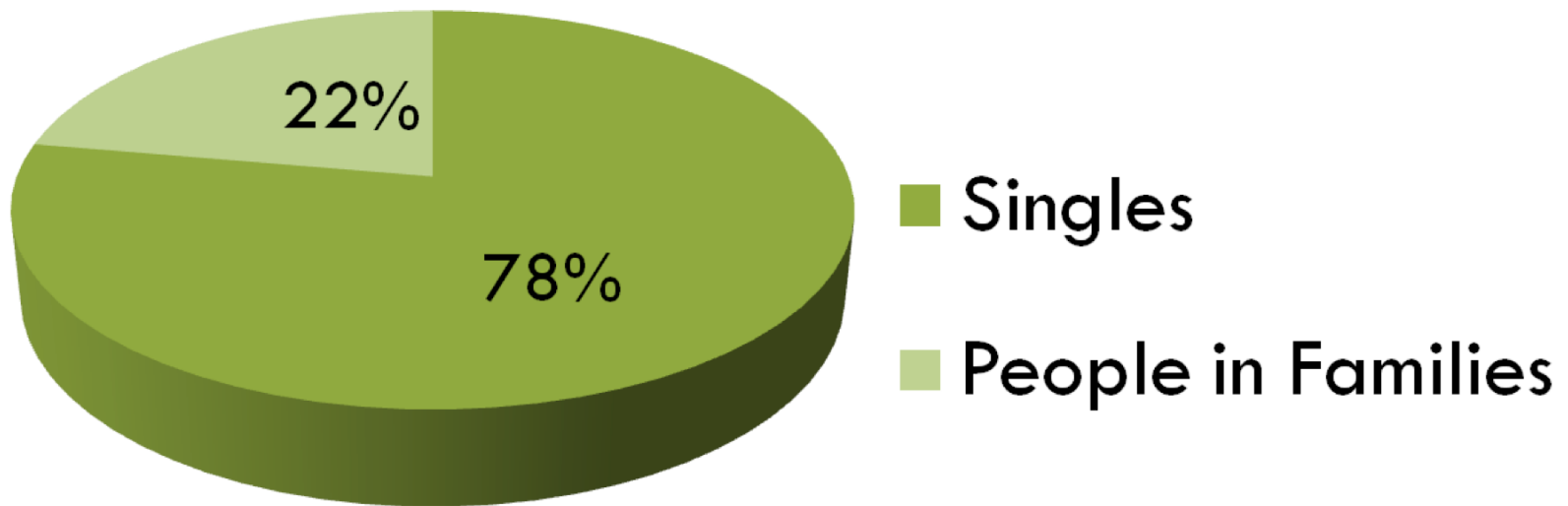
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□ Who is  **MACCH** ?  
Metro Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless

- Facts about homelessness in Metro Area
- Homes for All: Omaha and Council Bluffs' Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness
- Involvement of Young Professionals
- Engagement and steps to move forward

# Homelessness in Omaha/Council Bluffs

- In 2009, local agencies served over 6000 people, 1 in every 120 citizens.



# How Do People Become Homeless?

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- Loss of income/job
- Mental Health
- Medical issue
- Substance abuse
- Domestic Violence
- Other

# For-profit perspectives on Homelessness

## □ Ending homelessness vs Maintaining

Cost of one family's homelessness	\$30,000
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Rent for 2 bedroom apartment	\$1532
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## □ Homelessness is an economics issue.

People become homeless because they cannot pay for their housing.

# From Managing to Ending Homelessness

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- “The problem of homelessness, many say, is an unsolvable problem. Communities across the country have struggled with getting homeless people off the street by building shelters, transitional housing, and soup kitchens. Although these strategies help address the immediate needs of our nation’s homeless people by providing food and temporary shelter, they have not been successful in decreasing homelessness, leaving communities frustrated and hopeless.” – National Alliance to End Homelessness

# From Managing to Ending Homelessness

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- In 2000, the National Alliance to End Homelessness developed its Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness
- In 2003, the Bush administration declared “ending homelessness in the next decade a top objective” in its budget proposal
- Over 360 plans are completed or in development across the country

# From Managing to Ending Homelessness

- 2008 Homes for All: Omaha and Council Bluff's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness
- Seven Goals
  - Prevent homelessness
  - Increase access to services
  - Increase permanent supportive housing
  - Eliminate Cultural Bias and Prejudice
  - Increase options to end chronic homelessness
  - Generate data that can inform and track outcomes



# Progress...

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- 262 units of housing with support
- Approx. \$3 Million to rapidly re-house and prevent
- Collaborations with Region Six Behavioral Health
- Cultural Competency Assessment
- Homeless Management Information System nears 100% coverage

# YP Ending Homelessness

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- MACCH Board
  - ▣ Joanie Spitznagle, Board President
  - ▣ Jamie Grayson-Berglund, Board Vice President
- 5/11 MACCH Task Forces have young professionals as leaders
- At least 11 agencies have young professionals leading them or directing programs

# YP Ending Homelessness

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- YOU:

- VOICE's work on Equal Opportunity and Social Mobility
- Your Omaha 2020: Community Development and Inclusive Communities
- Building Bright Futures
- Empowerment Network
- Other poverty-related efforts

# YP in Other Communities

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- Young Professionals Groups adopt initiatives that contribute to ending homelessness:
  - ▣ Project Homeless Connect in Riverside, CA
  - ▣ Specific agencies: Covenant House in DC (supports homeless youth)
  - ▣ Community-wide efforts: Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance
- Join boards
- Start agencies: <http://www.backonmyfeet.org>

# YP Ending Homelessness

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- You don't need to work at a nonprofit or start an agency to end homelessness
- Split up into groups (Prevention, Chronic Homelessness, Housing, Cultural Competency)
  - ▣ What inspires you?
  - ▣ Generate common themes as a separate group
  - ▣ Share as a larger group
  - ▣ Results will be posted to Chamber website