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Year in Review 2016- The good folks at House the Homeless had another impactful year. At last year's Thermal Underwear Party, where we served and "winterized" over 500 people, we also conducted our 15th annual survey. This survey was focused on traumatic brain injuries, TBI. We then released a national report exposing that over 80% of the **disabled homeless** reported having multiple symptoms of TBI. You can read the survey at- <https://goo.gl/3Kcpm3>. This is national breaking news! On top of that, House the Homeless has forged a collaboration with Millennium Health Centers in California and Warrior Angels Foundation in Dallas to begin to treat ten homeless Veterans at Community First! Village in a first of its kind, national model. Now we just need to get it funded. (more information here- <https://goo.gl/aXd6Sa>)



As you know, people experiencing homelessness have been painted with a sweeping, negative brush as "bums, transients, derelicts, thieves, drug addicts," etc. In reality, most are simply people down on their luck, victims of the failed Federal Minimum Wage, the disabled, and/or people suffering from a traumatic brain injury.

House the Homeless wants to take control of that narrative. The Home Coming Statue, conceived by me and sculpted in miniature by Timothy P. Schmalz, one of the world's premiere bronze sculptors, can help us start a new and more accurate narrative, portraying who is really homeless in America. (more information here <https://goo.gl/Z5L3NB>) The Home Coming Statue tells the story of a homeless Veteran, his daughter representing over 1,000,000 homeless children and her dog (a surrogate for lost family.) Having only the warmth of a fire, they gladly share what little they have with an elderly African American woman who suffers from cataracts, depression, and poverty. Through a QR-code, visitors to the life-sized statues will be able to learn the "back story" of the characters and find out about one of Austin's solutions to the housing crisis for the disabled at Community First! Village. Once at that website, visitors will be able to contribute to Community First! Village. Wow!



To bring this incredible work of art that will change the face of homelessness to Austin, in a life-size form, Timothy has cast 200 miniatures in a limited edition run. Thanks to a generous matching gift of \$50,000 anyone making a gift of \$250 or more will receive a signed miniature set. Fifteen are already gone. Just write "statue" on any donation to separate it from your thermal underwear gift.

This year's keynote speaker, Pastor Griff Martin of the First Baptist Church, now proudly owns and displays a Home Coming set as does several of his congregation along with the downtown First United Methodist Church.

Check out www.HouseTheHomeless.org for Memorial details. It will be Sunday, November 13th at Sunrise at 6:57am, at South First Street and Riverside Drive at the Homeless Memorial on Lady Bird Lake.

Finally, we know that once again not everyone is going to be housed this winter. We are again holding our annual **Thermal Underwear Party** on December 30th. We expect to serve about 500 people. We will again have a party with a hot lunch, and lots of desserts. PJ Lyles and the South Austin Rockin' Gospel Project will rock the house, and of course, we will pass out **HUGSS**⁺ (hats, thermal underwear, gloves, socks, scarves, rain ponchos, and safety whistles). To volunteer look for a Volunteer Spot announcement on the HTH website or email your interest to me. Please use the enclosed envelope to give generously to this life saving event. ***Thank you one and all*** for supporting these life saving projects.

All the best in the New Year! Richard and Sylvia Troxell