ENDING HOMELESSNESS THROUGH THE DIGNITY OF WORK
HOMELESSNESS IS MINDBOGGLING

• 578,424 people experience homelessness on any given night in the United States

• 113,952 homeless individuals in California
  — 20% of all homeless in the U.S.

Photo courtesy of San Jose Mercury News
HOMELESSNESS AFFECTS EVERYONE

The Community, City Hall And Public Services

Police and CJS

Public Health and Hospitals

Environment

Taxpayer, Tourism And Small Business
$520 million was spent on homelessness in Santa Clara County last year.
REASONS SOMEONE BECOMES HOMELESS

MENTAL HEALTH

DIVORCE OR DEATH

DRUG OR ALCOHOL ABUSE

JOB LOSS

EVICTION

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND LIMITED EMPLOYMENT

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

COULD NOT PAY HEALTHCARE BILLS
WORST THING ABOUT BEING HOMELESS?

☐ The cold
☐ Feeling safe at night/lack of sleep
☐ Services are lacking
☐ Don’t know where I’ll get my next meal
☐ Not sure if I’ll have shelter tonight or don’t like shelters
☐ Can’t shower, have clean clothes or practice good hygiene
☐ Have to stand in a lot of lines
☐ Can’t keep my things safe and have to carry them around
☐ No privacy
☐ Can’t always use the bathroom when I need to
☑ Other (please explain): The way people look down on me
Palo Alto in 2005

- 350+ homeless
- Panhandling an all-time high
- One bedroom rent = $1,250
- Minimum wage > $9
- Businesses/community feel like victims and helpless
WHY OUR MODEL ORIGINATED

PANHANDLING

DEBRIS ON STREETS

LET’S KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE
WE ARE HELPING HOMELESS PEOPLE REBUILD THEIR LIVES THROUGH THE DIGNITY OF WORK.
OUR MODEL IN A NUTSHELL

• Homeless and low-income people volunteer with us and work collaboratively on beautification projects around the community

• In return, Team Members receive a basic needs stipend while receiving case management and employment services
The vibe in the room, with its cargo of ragged-ass, beaten-up, undefeated people, is ebullient—part church revival and part 12-step meeting, with a little hiring hall and job fair thrown in. As people get up and tell their stories, they’re interrupted by shouts of “Go, Kevin!” and “Yeah!”…Impossibly cheerful staffers relay practical information about jobs, housing, and classes.

—San Francisco Magazine
When a team member receives their yellow t-shirt, it's symbolic of a new beginning.
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PEER-TO-PEER MODEL
LADDER OF SUCCESS
Who would have thought the solution to ending homelessness would be to involve the people who ARE homeless?
583 HOUSED
12 PER MONTH AVG

ENDING HOMELESSNESS THROUGH THE DIGNITY OF WORK
506 Employed
16 Per Month Avg

We only count jobs kept for 90 days or more
2.8 million gallons of debris removed

1.5 million cigarette butts terracycled

8,000 used needles removed from city streets
Our Sunnyvale Team Members have collected over 100,000 cigarette butts from downtown Sunnyvale before they end up in the San Francisco Bay.
14% reduction in homelessness in Santa Clara County according to “Home Not Found: The Cost of Homelessness in Silicon Valley” report
ENDING HOMELESSNESS THROUGH THE DIGNITY OF WORK

CRIME - 50%

HOMELESSNESS - 54%

PANHANDLING - 75%

Palo Alto

2005-2013
As a result of participating with us

90% reported improved self-esteem, pride and or sense of self-worth
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TEAMS ACROSS THE BAY AREA

San Francisco 2016
San Jose 2011
Sunnyvale 2012
Palo Alto 2005
Founding City
Hayward 2016
San Rafael 2013
“I thought Downtown Streets Team would be a single or a double, but it is a homerun.”
   -Mayor Gary Phillips, San Rafael

“Of all the innovations that have come out of Palo Alto, I think we should be most proud of the Downtown Streets Team”
   -Councilman Greg Schmid, Palo Alto

“Downtown Streets Team is a best practice”
   -Supervisor Nate Miley, Alameda County

“…People just want a helping hand. That’s what Streets Team is doing”
   -Mayor Ed Reed, San Francisco

“A year and a half later, Downtown Streets Team has moved over fifty creek dwellers into permanent housing. Dozens more have begun working full-time. A star was born”
   -Mayor Sam Liccardo, San Jose

“You delivered on everything you said you would do”
   -Rich Goldstein, San Rafael BID Board Member
COMMUNITY BENEFITS

- Cleaner Streets/environment
- Cost effective solution
- Immediate results
- Addresses behavioral issues
- Highly Visible Action/Good PR
  - Attitude shift amongst residents
ENDING HOMELESSNESS THROUGH THE DIGNITY OF WORK

MICHAEL
ENDING HOMELESSNESS THROUGH THE DIGNITY OF WORK
“I just wanna play a part in ending homelessness because I know we can do it.

We got the manpower. We got the love.”

-michael
ENDING HOMELESSNESS THROUGH THE DIGNITY OF WORK
QUESTIONS