



www.DWCweb.org

July 16, 2009

Home at last

Lilia Villarreal
President, Los Angeles City Council
Sempra Employee Giving Network
101 Ash Street, HQ10E
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Lilia,

Thank you for your recent grant of \$4000 and your continued friendship to the Downtown Women's Center (DWC). The Board of Directors, the staff, and - most importantly - the Ladies we serve sincerely appreciate the partnership of the Sempra Employee Giving Network, and we will use these grant funds to support our meals program, which offers 57,000 meals, nutrition counseling, and health education to more than 2000 homeless women annually.

Women are the fastest growing segment of the local homeless population. In Los Angeles County today, more than 16,000 women are without a permanent home, sleeping on the streets, in encampments, or in night-to-night shelters, and nowhere is this problem more critical than on downtown Los Angeles' Skid Row. As housing prices have skyrocketed, living-wage jobs have not kept pace with population growth, and young women are leaving our foster care and education systems without the tools they need to achieve self-sufficiency, more and more women are coming downtown because they have no other place to go. For many, this is a chronic situation; on Skid Row, 60% of the homeless women have been without a home for more than one year and a shocking 25% have been homeless for at least *five* years. For the past three decades, DWC - the *only* local organization singularly dedicated to meeting the unique needs of homeless women - has worked tirelessly to increase options for chronically homeless women in downtown to access the resources they need to maintain their housing and their health. As the economy worsens, those in poverty are the hardest hit, and there is a vital need for continued services such as these provided by our nationally recognized model programs. We are pleased to be working with the Sempra Employee Giving Network to address the crisis of homelessness and hunger in Los Angeles.

We appreciate your support and interest in our endeavors and look forward updating you on our progress. Should you have any questions or wish to schedule a site visit, please do not hesitate to contact me or our Senior Director of Development & Finance, Molly Moen, at 213-680-0600. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Lisa Watson
Executive Director

*You received no goods or services, making your donation fully tax-deductible to the extent of the law.
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