

Reunification

Background

Reunification is an important strategy used to prevent homelessness before it begins. Sometimes people get stranded in foreign cities and run out of ways to get home. Other times, people lose touch with family members and support systems which may lead to homelessness. Because of these and many other situations, people can easily become homeless. However, prevention is a simple practice. Reuniting a brother with his sister or a wife with her husband is sometimes the key to prevention.

How does it work?

Organizations like Travelers Aid of Metropolitan Atlanta help reunite people who have become stranded in a foreign city. They provide case management and transportation to all homeless individuals who wish to be reunited this way. Family members are contacted and support is verified prior to the reunification and follow-up is conducted at regular intervals.



A homeless couple

Success this far

- Providing financial support has averted homelessness for over 65 percent of families assisted.
- Reunification efforts have become a 'best practice' for ending homelessness. Communities across the country have emulated a similar model.
- Each year, RCOH has invested an average of \$1.2 million in prevention, which includes shelters, rent assistance and utility bills.
- The Gateway Center has partnered with Travelers Aid of Metropolitan Atlanta to find more reunification cases.
- Since the creation of RCOH in 2003, over 12,000 individuals have been reunited.



A homeless young man who has lost his support system

Next Steps

Continued funding is needed to provide case managers to identify and verify appropriate placements, as well as to provide transportation to these placements for individuals seeking reunification.

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