



# Lamp Community

## Build-A-Village Capital Campaign

Ending Chronic Homelessness & Transforming Lives



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Lamp Community's mission is to permanently end homelessness, improve health and build self-sufficiency among men and women living with severe mental illness. Now celebrating its 23rd year, Lamp Community has grown from a storefront drop-in center to a national leader in permanent supportive housing. With an operating budget of over \$5 million and over 90 full- and part-time staff, Lamp Community serves 1,200 individuals annually.

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## Lamp Community

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# Build-A-Village

*A capital campaign to help men and women with severe disabilities move from streets to homes.*

## The Issue

Los Angeles County is the nation's homeless capital, with some 74,000 people sleeping on sidewalks and in shelters on any given night. Approximately 5,000 homeless people live in Los Angeles' Skid Row, giving a 52-block area the highest concentration of homeless residents in the United States. Officials estimate that one-third of the homeless population is composed of mentally ill adults whose health deteriorates with every night spent on the street. Without a home, they have no place to recuperate from a crisis or to treat an injury, and health problems tend to get far worse before they get better. During our 23 years of service, Lamp Community has observed that homeless mentally ill persons fare much worse than homeless people who don't have mental illness.

### **For example, homeless mentally ill persons:**

- Remain homeless for significantly longer periods of time.
- Tend to be in poorer physical health.
- Experience higher levels of trauma, victimization and violence, including sexual assault.
- Are in poorer mental health than people with a psychiatric illness who are housed. The horrors and humiliation of life on the streets exacerbates psychiatric illnesses, especially acute episodes of depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder.
- Have a more difficult time obtaining even basic services such as food and shelter.
- Are twice as likely to be arrested and jailed.
- Are often not receiving benefits from programs for which they are eligible because of the complexity of the application process.

## The Solution

Permanent supportive housing (PSH), which combines affordable rental housing with on-site health/social services and other support, is the most effective way to end homelessness among the mentally ill. Lamp was one of the first to embrace this model in Los Angeles and has established itself as LA's leading provider of PSH for mentally ill adults. Lamp helps chronically homeless mentally ill adults find housing. The agency then provides tenants with a diverse array of health and social services that address the underlying causes of homelessness such as mental illness, addictive disorders, and unemployment. Studies show that PSH improves tenants' health, increases their use of primary care and outpatient services, and reduces utilization of hospitals, jails and emergency rooms. The federal government has endorsed PSH as the best solution to end chronic homelessness, but Los Angeles has been slow to adopt the strategy. Lamp is one of the few local agencies offering PSH to mentally ill adults, and to great effect – 85% of those housed with Lamp remain in housing long-term. Lamp's rich blend of services and support is the reason for this success.

Chronically homeless men and women with severe mental illness do not need an occasional food handout on the streets. They need immediate housing linked to on-site intensive services that help them to transform their lives and cope with debilitating chronic health conditions.

Lamp provides formerly homeless adults with a wide array of housing options and support services at housing complexes throughout the county. Additionally, Lamp provides the same services to street-dwelling homeless individuals and provides housing placements, outreach and engagement, and entitlements assistance.

## Build-A-Village

The focus of the Build-A-Village capital campaign is our 25,000 square foot former warehouse known as “The Village”. This flagship facility is located at 527 Crocker Street, Los Angeles (90013) in the heart of Skid Row. The building houses both public and private spaces and the public areas are in dire need of repair. The facility also has ample untapped interior space to accommodate expansion for current and future programmatic activities. A variety of programs/services for homeless and formerly homeless men and women living with severe mental illness are provided at “The Village”. These include supportive housing (without time limitations) for men and women with severe disabilities; a Wellness Center with clinical, recovery, and support services such as individual/group counseling, money management, advocacy and social services that are tailored to each person’s wishes and needs; a full-service kitchen feeding 350 homeless people daily; and the only public laundromat, showers and permanent toilets in the Skid Row area for street-dwelling homeless. More than 100 people utilize these public facilities each day to meet the most basic of human needs. “The Village” also serves as headquarters for the majority of Lamp Community’s management staff and several innovative programs.

The design concept of Build-A-Village reorganizes the facility and aligns programs/services with who we are today. The re-designed energy efficient space maximizes natural light and provides for a flexible office flow that promotes interaction among staff and residents. A colorful redesigned exterior announces Lamp as a vibrant, important member of the community, while a newly landscaped patio/garden offers residents of “The Village” a peaceful retreat from the city. Other project highlights include:

- Increasing the number of laundromat washers by 40%, dryers by 100%, and public toilets by 200%.
- Adding 2 professional soundproof music studios and a multi-purpose community room.
- Reconfiguring existing offices and adding 15 more offices.
- Expanding office space for Lamp’s one-of-a-kind Money Management program, which gives homeless individuals a safe place to “bank” their public benefits.

It is important to note that this project will be completed within a relatively short time period (six months from the start of construction) and there will be minimal disruption in service delivery. While public spaces will be closed during the construction period, private spaces currently occupied by staff and the community residence will be relatively unaffected. Staff and residents will not be displaced.

## Budget

The total project budget is \$2,715,000, of which \$1,848,500 (nearly 70%) has been secured to begin the project.

Our generous project donors include the Ahmanson Foundation, Weingart Foundation, DreamWorks Pictures, Participant Media, Universal Pictures, The Castellani Family, and Lamp’s own Board of Directors. Once we have secured 85% of the total project cost, we will be able to break ground and turn this project into a reality. We anticipate construction to start on or before February 15, 2009.

## How You Can Help!

Your contribution to the Build-A-Village project is critical to ending chronic homelessness in Los Angeles. Your donation will help us to provide “keys” to new apartments in tandem with a multitude of support services for chronically homeless and formerly homeless individuals. These keys help restore self sufficiency and hope to a disabled and vulnerable population.

For more information on Lamp Community and our Build-A-Village capital campaign, please contact:

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Additional information can be found at  
[www.lampcommunity.org](http://www.lampcommunity.org)

# The Village

Your contribution to this campaign is critical to ending chronic homelessness in Los Angeles.

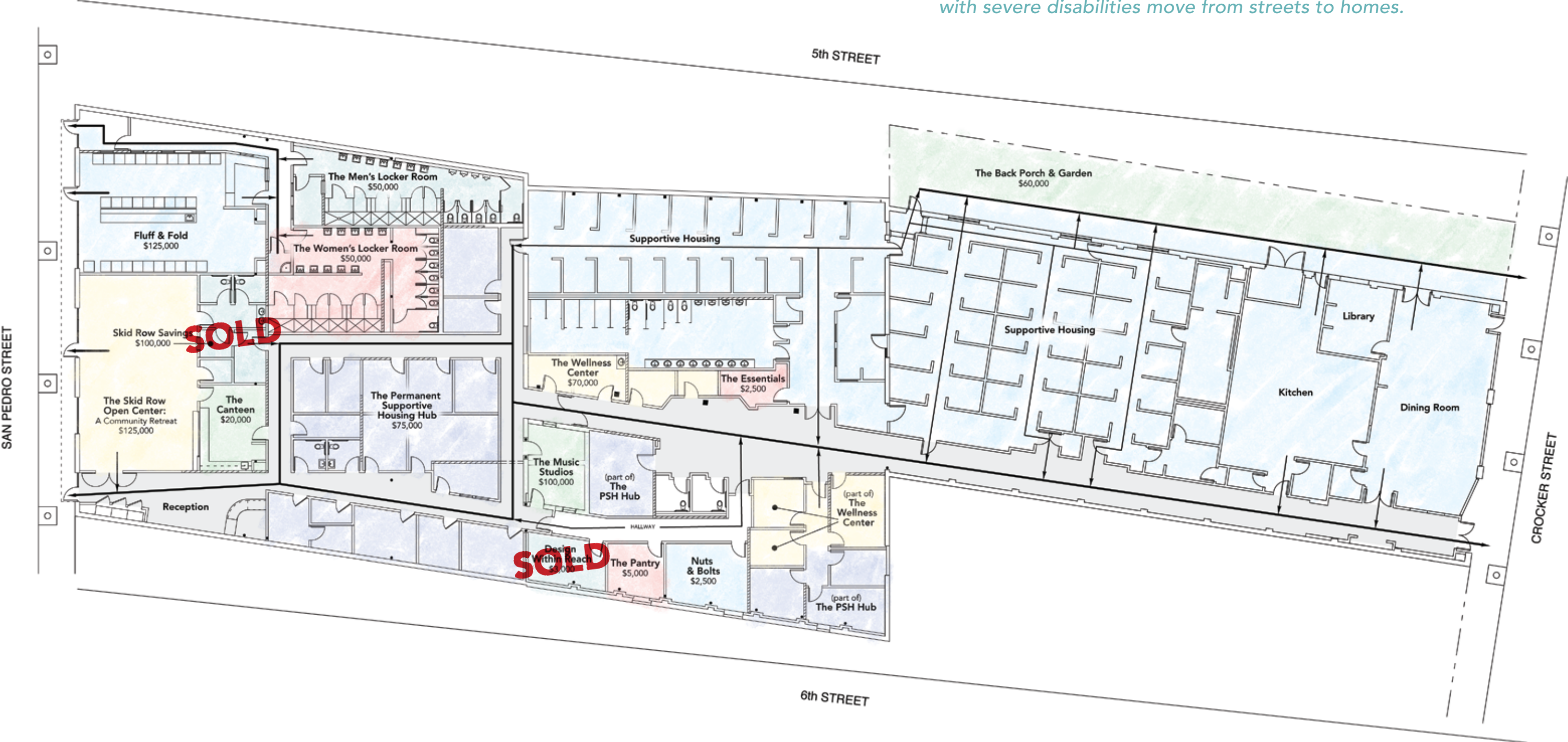
Join the Ahmanson Foundation, Weingart Foundation, DreamWorks Pictures, Participant Media, Universal Pictures, The Castellani Family, and Lamp Community’s Board of Directors to Build-A-Village.

FOR SALE	PRICE	DESCRIPTION
<b>THE SKID ROW OPEN CENTER</b> A Community Retreat	\$125,000	This spacious retreat and activity center with raised ceilings and skylights will be able to accommodate a large group of 80 or several smaller groups meeting simultaneously. Movie nights, an internet café, book clubs, karaoke, yoga, job fairs, tenant council meetings, recovery support groups, bingo, chess club, hair and nail salon, advocacy and community organizing, concerts, guest lecture series, creative writing and visual/performing art workshops and much more will take place here. And, let’s not forget about Lamp’s famous dance parties!
Naming Opportunity	\$200,000	This Center can be named after a company, group, family or individual for \$200,000. This includes funds for construction, furnishings and equipment as well as costs toward increased staffing and operating costs for one year.
<b>FLUFF &amp; FOLD</b>	\$125,000	This is Skid Row’s only Public Laundromat and is open 7 days a week. It will be renovated into a state-of-the-art energy efficient facility with twice the washer/dryer capacity. We will install all new commercial machines that will use solar/thermal power and expand hours of operation to include evenings. The Fluff & Fold is staffed by Lamp members, providing job opportunities for individuals living with a severe mental illness.
Naming Opportunity	\$200,000	Skid Row’s only Laundromat can be named after a company, group, family or individual for \$200,000. This includes funds for construction, furnishings and equipment as well as costs toward increased staffing and operating costs for one year.

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# Build-A-Village

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- The following items are not pictured on the map:
- Eco-mmunity . . . . . \$175,000
  - The Permanent Collection . . . . . \$60,000
  - Community Cup . . . . . \$55,000
  - Here Comes the Sun. . . . . \$50,000
  - The Village Crier . . . . . \$25,000



Curb Appeal \$15,000

FOR SALE	PRICE	DESCRIPTION
<b>THE LOCKER ROOMS</b>	\$100,000 for both or Men's \$50,000 Women's \$50,000	Our newly renovated Locker Room will feature all new sinks, showers, and toilets. The Locker Room is open 7 days a week and is the only facility of its kind in Skid Row that is open and accessible to all. It provides street-dwelling individuals with access to showers, toilets and changing rooms and improves public health and safety in the community. Capacity will increase by 100%, hours of operation will expand to include evenings, and individuals will have private changing areas. The Locker Room is staffed exclusively by individuals living with a mental illness who are housed/served by Lamp Community.
Naming Opportunity	\$200,000	The Locker Room can be named after a company, group, family or individual for \$200,000. This includes funds for construction, furnishings and equipment as well as costs toward increased staffing and operating costs for one year.
<b>ECO-MMUNITY</b>	\$175,000	Solar thermal panels will be installed so that we can make use of renewable energy from the sun to heat/cool the water we use in the Fluff & Fold and The Locker Rooms. With Eco-mmunity, your contribution will continue to have a great impact for years to come.
<b>SKID ROW SAVINGS</b> Larry Castellani & Family	\$100,000	Lamp offers personal banking services to hundreds of Skid Row residents, both housed and street-dwelling, who have chosen to deposit their government disability checks and other income with Lamp. Our personal bankers help individuals to maintain household budgets, pay bills, live on a limited income, and save. With additional office space and a new highly visible teller window located at The Open Center, we will expand this unique program.
<b>THE PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING HUB</b>	\$75,000	Permanent supportive housing (immediate, affordable housing with on-site clinical and support services) is the proven solution to ending chronic homelessness. This newly renovated space will concentrate Lamp's management staff under one roof for the first time. This will allow us to strengthen and increase permanent supportive housing (PSH), not only at Lamp but throughout Los Angeles. The PSH hub will feature a new lobby with an entrance on San Pedro Street, a community training and conference room, and 15 additional offices to accommodate staff in areas such as public policy, planning, program oversight and evaluation, finance, development, communications, and training/education.

**SOLD**

FOR SALE	PRICE	DESCRIPTION
<b>THE WELLNESS CENTER</b>	\$70,000	The Wellness Center, established in 2007, is dedicated to treatment and recovery for homeless individuals and new tenants living severe disabilities and addiction disorders. Its clinical team, consisting of psychiatrists, nurses, therapists, and advocates, will have newly renovated facilities to meet privately or in small groups with even more Skid Row residents as this service continues to grow. Wellness programs include mental and physical health care, medication management, counseling, harm reduction, recovery groups, nutrition, acupuncture, chiropractic care, and more.
Naming Opportunity	\$200,000	The Wellness Center can be named after a company, group, family or individual for \$200,000. This includes funds for construction, furnishings and equipment as well as costs toward increased staffing and operating costs for one year.
<b>THE PERMANENT COLLECTION</b>	\$60,000	Lamp will acquire, display and preserve approximately 70 pieces of artwork created by homeless and formerly homeless men and women living with a severe mental illness. For more than 10 years, Lamp's professional art studio in Skid Row has helped artists develop, exhibit, and sell their work. More recently, we opened an art gallery in downtown's gallery row. The Permanent Collection will allow us to maintain this significant body of work for exhibit at The Village as well as for future shows at galleries, museums, and non-traditional spaces.
<b>THE BACK PORCH &amp; GARDEN</b>	\$60,000	An outdoor patio and garden will give Village residents a welcome relief from the urban landscape. It will feature a natural stone surface, blue and white striped awning, trellis with flowering bougainvillea, wrought iron patio furniture, oversized picnic table, porch swing, garden benches, potted plants, chess tables, hammock, BBQ, brick wood-firing pizza oven, outdoor fountain and an herb, vegetable and wildflower garden.

FOR SALE	PRICE	DESCRIPTION
<b>COMMUNITY CUP</b>	\$55,000	What better way to engage with our neighbors than over a freshly brewed cup of coffee? This newly acquired mobile coffee cart will sell cappuccino, latte, espresso coffee, tea, and pastries. Using only the highest quality ingredients, this espresso cart will fill an unmet need by serving delicious beverages in a neighborhood with no nearby cafés. Community Cup will serve diverse clientele: staff at government agencies, service providers, local businesses, loft dwellers, homeless persons and low income residents. It will also offer job opportunities for individuals living with severe mental illness. An attorney, housing specialist or nurse will periodically accompany the barista offering free legal, housing/health information to homeless and low-income residents. The cost includes the mobile espresso cart and permitting as well as job training, salaries and supplies for one year.
<b>THE MUSIC STUDIOS</b>	\$50,000 each	Two music studios featuring high-tech equipment in acoustically engineered spaces will be available to emerging and professional musicians and singers for practice, private instruction, ensemble rehearsals and recording. Each soundproof studio will feature one wall of soundproof glass and will be large enough to accommodate a piano as well as other instruments and recording equipment. The cost for one studio includes design, construction, musical instruments and recording equipment. These will be the first professional music studios in Skid Row.
Buy both studios	\$100,000	Buy both music studios for \$100,000 to nurture talent and enrich even more people's lives.
<b>HERE COMES THE SUN</b>	\$50,000	Twenty skylights will be installed to maximize use of natural sunlight in both public and private spaces. These skylights also help to drastically reduce energy costs. Skylights can also be purchased individually at a cost of \$2,500 each.

FOR SALE	PRICE	DESCRIPTION
<b>THE VILLAGE CRIER</b> New Exterior Signs	\$25,000	Lamp will design and acquire new signs for The Village's two entrances (a public entrance for members, staff and visitors on San Pedro Street and a private entrance for residents on Crocker Street) and two businesses (Fluff & Fold and The Locker Room). We will also display a vintage-inspired neon sign on the rooftop. Your investment will help beautify the neighborhood and spread the word about Lamp Community.
<b>CURB APPEAL</b>	\$15,000	To further enhance our curb appeal, the Village will have a beautiful new façade. The new entrance on San Pedro Street with its newly designed exterior will be rebuilt with a colorful brick-tile and glass facade to convey to the community that it is important for the agency to be there, setting a new standard for Skid Row community-based agencies. Village residents will now have their own private entrance on Crocker Street.
<b>THE CANTEEN</b>	\$20,000	Our new kitchen will provide ample space for staff to prepare meals and snacks for groups meeting in the adjoining Open Center. It will also accommodate our Guest Chef series and serve as a break room for Village staff.
<b>THE PANTRY</b>	\$5,000	The Pantry will be expanded to stock even more food and paper products. We prepare nearly 18,000 healthy and delicious meals each month for our two community residences.
<b>DESIGN WITHIN REACH</b> In memory of Hubert Horan	\$3,000 <b>SOLD</b>	Our design warehouse will be a showroom filled with donated, quality furniture and appliances for new tenants to furnish their homes. It really is Design Within Reach as all items are free.
<b>THE ESSENTIALS</b>	\$2,500	This newly created space will store linens, blankets, pillows, towels, soap, shampoo, and other toiletry items for residents and tenants as well as for those using The Locker Room. We will also acquire all new linens and bath towels.
<b>NUTS &amp; BOLTS</b>	\$2,500	Our top-notch facilities/maintenance crew will have a large storage room to house materials, equipment, and tools to repair and upgrade our apartments and facilities. It will also serve as our carpentry workshop.



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## Artwork Credits

On the cover: *Build A Village* by Vytautas Pliura

Inside cover: photo by Rory White

Above: *Razor Man III* by Darlene Altemeier Dobbs;

*Hope of the Sunflower* by Darlene Altemeier Dobbs;

*Build A Village* by Vytautas Pliura