

## Reasons to Donate to Off The Streets (OTS)

For many of us when we are directly confronted with homelessness in our community we experience a variety of conflicting thoughts and emotions. Fear is one: we may not feel safe engaging a homeless person because we don't know if they are of sound mind and they may be dirty and disheveled. Compassion is another: we may feel compassion for the person who is down and out without any hope in their eyes. Uncertainty is another: we just don't know what the right thing to do is. By contributing to Off The Streets you can tangibly and meaningfully overcome these conflicting thoughts and emotions and help us get the homeless OFF THE STREETS today! Here's why your donation will make a meaningful and lasting impact:

- Off The Streets helps the homeless get off the streets and into permanent housing by providing financial counseling to determine eligibility, by paying the upfront security deposit for eligible individuals, and by providing household goods and furniture upon move in so that the people we help are moving into a home rather than an empty room.
- We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization registered with the IRS, which makes all your donations tax deductible. We do not accept any government money (federal, state, or local). We do not have any professional fundraisers. All donations are from individuals, houses of worship, or companies.
- Our approach is proven and very successful. Since 2009 over 250 homeless individuals have been placed by the combined efforts of OTS chapters in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and California.
- We are an all-volunteer **local** charity that helps the homeless get off the streets in the areas we are located: Danbury and Bridgeport, Connecticut; Lancaster, Pennsylvania; and Huntington Beach, California (including Orange County)
- We provide a hand-up not a hand-out. We help with the upfront costs for an individual to get into permanent housing. Many homeless people have an income source but remain homeless due to lack of an upfront security deposit. The security deposit gets paid directly to the landlord, and we do this quickly, often in a matter of days of the initial contact.
- This is a one-time service only; we don't have any repeats. As such, we conduct in depth financial counseling reviews with the people we help to maximize that person's chances for long term success -- the first time.
- Our approach requires the person we help to accept most of the responsibility for getting off the streets. They must be motivated. They must be willing to go through an in-depth financial review. They must find their own apartment. They must have income to pay rent on an ongoing basis. We guide them but they do the work.
- Our organization helps people who may not qualify for assistance from other charities or government aid because they are not in categories that other agencies specialize in, such as women with children and people with substance abuse problems. We help people who just need a hand up in getting over the last hurdle to being "on their own."
- The only overhead our organization has is mandatory insurance. We have no salaries, no rent, no office space or other expenses. All time and effort is provided by volunteers and all organizational needs are donated. Your tax deductible donations go for the purpose intended -- getting the homeless housed now.
- In summary, this is truly a good neighbor thing to do, for all stakeholders in the community. It helps the homeless individual get back on their feet, regain a sense of dignity, and to contribute back to society. It helps our neighborhoods by putting people where they belong -- in a home of their own. It helps our businesses and government by removing the high cost of homelessness. In fact, some studies say it's 5x more expensive to address the emergency service calls and other costs related to homelessness compared with actually housing them. Our approach and proven track record addresses this critical problem in a quick and tangible way.

## How to Donate

Go to [offthestreetsnow.com](http://offthestreetsnow.com) and under the "Locations" drop down menu select the chapter you wish to donate to: Danbury and Bridgeport, Connecticut; Lancaster, Pennsylvania; and Huntington Beach, California (including Orange County). Then go to the "Donate" tab and follow the instructions provided.