

OUR GOALS

Our goal is to provide homeless youth with housing solutions which allow them to recover from trauma, plan for their future, and thrive. With over 25 years of experience in serving homeless youth, we've made strategic decisions to focus on long-term solutions for our youth through permanent housing and economic & educational advancement. We offer a Continuum of Care that helps youth exit the streets and move into permanent housing as fast as possible. Our programs result in remarkable outcomes by helping each client build personal habits of self-sufficient living.

SHORT TERM HOUSING

Jovenes provides short-term housing solutions through emergency shelter and transitional housing. These rent-free programs provide youth with the time, space, and support they need to receive counseling and case management, develop an employment plan, and ultimately move into permanent housing. Our emergency shelter is located in Boyle Heights, and our Transitional Housing programs operate in Boyle Heights, Pico Rivera, and Bellflower.



PERMANENT HOUSING

We know that shelter alone won't end homelessness, so we've developed a wide variety of permanent housing options that meet the diverse needs of our youth. We define permanent housing as a situation where youth can sign a lease, pay an affordable rent, and have rights as a tenant. Throughout all our housing models, we surround youth with case management that helps them navigate the challenges they face.

RAPID REHOUSING

Rapid Rehousing is a strategy that helps youth move into market-rate apartments through a rental subsidy paid directly to their landlord. We cover their move-in costs, provide youth with furnishing, and help them get jobs. As youth's stability grows, so does their responsibility. Our rental subsidies gradually decrease as time goes by, allowing youth to gradually take on the full cost of their lease. Rapid rehousing works well for youth whose primary challenge is economic, rather than severe mental health or substance abuse issues. This strategy is primarily funded through Los Angeles County's voter approved sales tax called Measure H.



THE PROGRESS PLACE APARTMENTS

Unfortunately, many are pushed into homelessness due to traumatic events and mental health issues. These youth require Permanent Supportive Housing (a proven intervention designed for homeless people with mental disabilities), which Jovenes provides in our 14 unit complex called the Progress Place Apartments. Youth in Progress Place share an apartment with a roommate, receive mental health counseling through the Department of Mental Health, and pay 30% of their income in rent (capped at \$220 per month). Jovenes opened the Progress Place Apartments in 2012.



MY HOME-MI CASA

In 2012, Jovenes began partnering with Genesis LA (<http://genesisla.org/>) to purchase and rehab single family homes and duplexes in Boyle Heights and East LA. Through this 100% privately financed initiative, we are purchasing 6 houses in the communities of Boyle Heights and East Los Angeles and converting them into permanent affordable housing for homeless youth and families. Once housed, residents are surrounded with the support and financial resources that can ensure their personal success over the long-term. Youth are able to rent a room in these houses for \$500/month while continuing to build their savings, complete schooling, and remain employed. In keeping with our desire to empower our youth, a unique financial structure will allow residents to gain an equity interest in the property in which they live.



AFFORDABLE HOUSING THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Jovenes works with leading non-profit developers to create set-aside units dedicated to youth in affordable housing complexes. We partner with the East LA Community Corporation (www.elacc.org) and A Community of Friends (www.acof.org) to help homeless youth apply for affordable housing and then to provide supportive services to youth living in these apartments.



FAMILY RECONNECTION

Many youth become homeless due to negative relationships with their families. However, just because a relationship may be broken does not mean that it cannot be rebuilt. Our Family Reconnection program helps youth and families who are interested in reconciling go through a structured series of conversations and agreements to determine if a young person can safely move back into their home.

LEADERSHIP THROUGH COORDINATION

Los Angeles has realized that no one organization can end homelessness. That's why the Coordinated Entry System (CES) was created in 2016. CES is a way of creating regional approaches to identify, assess, and house homeless individuals, families and youth. Through CES, each of LA's eight Service Planning Areas, or SPAs, has a lead agency (called a Regional Coordinator) who is tasked with developing partnerships between service providers, referral systems, and housing solutions for three target populations: chronically homeless individuals, homeless families, and homeless transition age youth. Jovenes is the Regional Coordinator for Transition Age Youth in LA's Coordinated Entry System for SPA 7. SPA 7 covers all of Southeast LA County, from East LA to Long Beach and includes the cities such as Downey, Norwalk, Montebellos, Vernon, Pico Rivera, Bellflower, Whittier, Cerritos, and more. Our leadership role in these communities allows us to receive referrals from schools, churches, hospitals, police departments, and concerned neighbors and then place homeless youth into a housing situation that fits their needs.

