COMPREHENSIVE HOUSING CAMPUS

Kensington Campus is an unconventional development that creates a new paradigm in fast-tracking solutions to address the growing challenge of people experiencing homelessness. In addition to unique bridge and permanent housing components, the campus will feature state-of-the-art 24-hour wrap around services as well as an enterprise job creation and entrepreneurial facility. Kensington Campus is slated for completion by fall 2019, nearly 24 months from concept to finish.

CAMPUS BACKGROUND

On September 26, 2017, R. Rex Parris, the Mayor of Lancaster, issued a mandate to devise a new approach that addresses the full realities and needs of the homeless population. The old approach of warehousing people experiencing homelessness was at best a short-term Band-Aid. The Mayor challenged the team to create a permanent solution, with an ambition to create a progressive, cost effective solution that demonstrates to the rest of the State of California, the speed we can all solve problems when working together towards a common goal.
This comprehensive plan includes an unprecedented and innovative public/private partnership to seriously address the growing humanitarian crisis of homelessness. In partnership with the City of Lancaster, Community Development Commission of the County of Los Angeles, LAHSA, and The People Concern, InSite Development will construct and create the Campus which includes urgently needed permanent supportive housing units built from the ground up to incorporate a pioneering design and pragmatic dignified approach to serve the homeless population. Betterment, dignity, and purpose are the catalysts of life that we believe raises moral and inspires people to not just live, but prosper; a goal that many have forgotten.

“It is no secret the Antelope Valley has struggled to combat homelessness over the years – but as we break new ground, we lay the foundation for a permanent solution to this very problem,” said Mayor R. Rex Parris.

Our entire campus will be located on a 14-acre site located at Avenue I and 32nd Street West in Lancaster. It is designed intentionally, thoughtfully, and creatively to inspire, dignify and support a true transition from homelessness and unemployment to housed and employable with a newfound purpose. The project will include 102 one-bedroom units of supportive housing for homeless and chronically homeless individuals, bridge housing with 156 beds, 20,000 sq. ft. of wrap-around supportive services, and an enterprise job creation building.

**THE CAMPUS CONCEPT**

**Permanent Supportive Housing**

Our Campus will be separated into four innovatively designed townships. Each township will have 26 fully furnished permanent housing units, two-service provider’s office, community space, laundry facilities, bike racks, and a community garden. Limiting each township to 26 people allows for greater impact by the service providers to customize programs and resources for the individual needs of the residents for the greatest chance of success.
**Interim Bridge Housing Component**

The construction of 3 separate bridge housing structures will serve a total of 156 people of diversified homeless populations from the City of Lancaster. The buildings will be divided between males and females and will be located near the service provider space so that this clientele is in close proximity to the communal kitchen and additional immediate supportive services. Contrary to the typical arid building with rows of sterile cots, the design of our shelter takes into account warm architectural details to provide this clientele with the dignity to re-emerge.

**Supportive Services Space**

Each township is designed to be a short beautiful walk to the central piazza, which is the “hub” of the campus. Every aspect of this piazza is purposefully designed to create community around an outdoor amphitheater. Daily events such as gatherings, informational meetings, concerts, and movies will be held in the amphitheater.

There will be approximately 20,000 square feet of Non-Residential Supportive Services Space constructed including but not limited to:

° Communal Kitchen
° Mental Health Therapy Building
° Medical Clinic
° Animal Kennel and Pet Therapy
° Laundry and Bed Bug Eradication Facility

*Infrastructure to build additional shelter and housing for 300 people including homeless veterans on the adjacent parcel of land currently owned by the Veterans Administration is noted.*
We are excited to partner with the City of Lancaster, InSite Development, and the County of Los Angeles to help rebuild the lives of our vulnerable neighbors,” said John Maceri, CEO of The People Concern.

As the homeless population has exponentially grown over the last several years, people have stopped viewing this population as people and instead have objectified them. The process of recovery will begin from the moment a client arrives in our Campus through its design and programs. The vital and central components of the village will address the whole needs of each person. The clientele of the village will also have access to various intensive programs to help build a personalized and customized plan for each resident including: Adult Integrated Services, Transition Age Youth, Homeless Assistance Program, Housing, Employment Services and the Discovery Resource Centers. We will utilize a goal-oriented individualized approach to move people from being disconnected and isolated from society to leading lives with purpose, self-worth, and self-reliance in the community.

Additionally, there are many agencies and non-profits that share a “target market” for the services that will be offered at the village resulting in built-in incentives to co-locate. We will locate as many service oriented non-profit organizations as possible in the piazza. Partnerships will also be leveraged with local non-profits and faith based organizations to ensure that the best services are being offered. Enabling partnerships and finding common ground is the best way to ensure success and sustainability in responding to homelessness.

**SERVICE PROVIDERS**

The People Concern is one of Los Angeles County’s largest nonprofit social service agencies serving individuals experiencing homelessness. Since 1963, they have been dedicated to creating a community where everyone, regardless of the struggles they are overcoming, is housed, healthy and safe. They strive to end homelessness by providing care and support for those experiencing it, through outreach, housing, mental and medical health care, substance use services, domestic violence services, life skills & wellness programs, and income assistance. Their staff will provide intensive case management services to each tenant, which will include the development of a relationship for staff and tenant to work towards resolutions of any challenges or barriers that may prevent stability in housing.