

Joseph Tardella Named New President of HAND



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Joseph Tardella, executive director of Southwest Counseling Solutions, has been elected as the new president of the Homeless Action Network of Detroit and will lead its efforts to end homelessness in the Detroit area.

HAND serves as the Continuum of Care for Detroit, Hamtramck, and Highland Park. It is a coalition of agencies and individuals in the nonprofit, public and private sectors committed to addressing and eliminating homelessness through housing programs, support services and advocacy efforts.

HAND is responsible for submitting annual applications to Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) that secure more than \$20 million for programs to help the homeless in the Detroit area.

“Joe’s great record and spirit of serving the ‘least of these’ is proven,” said Candace Morgan, outgoing president and now vice-president of HAND. “I look forward to gaining more ground for the people we serve, and growing as an organization with Joe as our leader.”

“I am honored to be elected by my fellow board members to serve as president of HAND,” said Tardella. “I firmly believe that housing is a basic human right and intend to increase our initiatives to meet the goals set forth in the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness that guides HAND.”

The plan was completed in October 2006. It focuses on resources, programs and services that have proven to successfully reduce and prevent homelessness.

Tardella identified several priorities that HAND will pursue as he begins his two-year tenure as president of the board:

- Develop greater administrative capacity for HAND so that it can more effectively realize its goals
- Diversify the board to incorporate more individuals not directly associated with provider organizations but whose expertise would be beneficial to HAND’s mission
- Create strategic partnerships with local government, the business community and safety-net organizations
- Cultivate greater media and public awareness of successful homeless-prevention programs

“Homelessness is not an intractable problem,” said Tardella. “With a more focused commitment, civic leadership, and increased resources, we can embark on a concerted effort to provide decent, safe and affordable housing for all members of our community.”