

# The Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation Zarrow Families Foundation

*Alleviating and Preventing Homelessness/  
Building Tulsa, Building Lives*

Tulsa, Oklahoma

## Challenge

In 2008, the looming closure of the Tulsa downtown YMCA's 168-person indigent housing program sparked a community conversation about homelessness, especially among veterans and the mentally ill.

## Innovation

The Zarrow Foundations supported Building Tulsa, Building Lives, a successful \$30 million community campaign with more than 30 funders and partners. The effort produced 10 supportive housing projects and amplified the message that the annual cost of shelter, at \$24,000 per person, was nearly three times more than the cost of supportive housing, at \$7,893.

## Overview

The Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation has strategically invested its own \$41 million in affordable and supportive housing to improve the lives of nearly 3,000 low-income, veteran, youth, mentally ill, and homeless people in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The Foundation's "Alleviating and Preventing Homelessness" initiative has supported partnerships with the Housing Authority of the City of Tulsa, housing and urban development programs, the Mayor's Office, the State of Oklahoma, and its nonprofit partner Mental Health Association of Oklahoma, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. These public-private partnerships include the Building Tulsa, Building Lives campaign, A Way Home for Tulsa continuum of care, Tulsa's Zero: 2016 campaign to end chronic homelessness, and the Mental Health Association of Oklahoma's sustainable supportive housing effort. More than 714 individuals have been housed. An additional \$8 million in Zarrow grants supported public-private partnerships in tracking community housing and homeless outcomes, annual case-management and rapid rehousing and eviction funds, improvements in housing and services for youth transitioning from foster care, and a 27-unit supportive housing unit for low-income women with children.

## PUBLIC-SECTOR PARTNERS

City of Tulsa and Mayor's Office, Housing Authority of the City of Tulsa, State of Oklahoma, Department of Human Services and Mental Health Association of Oklahoma, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

## OTHER PARTNERS

Over 20 foundations, nonprofit organizations, and other partners.

