

- **87% Reduction in Homelessness:** *Street to Home* – an innovative approach to outreach – reduced homelessness in the 20 blocks surrounding Times Square by 87% over a two-year period.

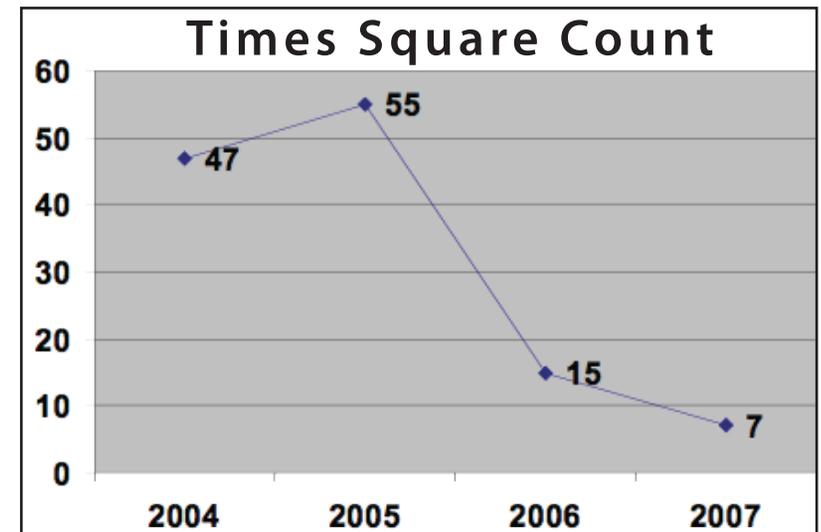
- **Now a Citywide Strategy:** Based on its success, the *Street to Home* strategy was adopted in 2007 by the City of New York to drive a two-thirds reduction in street homelessness by 2010. Using the *Street to Home* strategy, street homelessness has declined in New York City by 12% over the past year.

- **How *Street to Home* is Different:** *Street to Home* replaces traditional “outreach” services with housing placement assistance targeted at the most vulnerable homeless. *Street to Home* **identifies and prioritizes** the most vulnerable individuals on the street, **assesses and negotiates** housing options with those individuals, then **houses and retains** individuals in their homes.

> **Identify and Prioritize:** The Vulnerability Index is the tool we use to identify and prioritize for housing those living on the streets, according to the fragility of their health and length of homelessness. It is a practical application of research into the causes of death of street homeless conducted by Boston’s Healthcare for the Homeless, led by Dr. Jim O’Connell. The Boston research identified the specific health conditions that place homeless individuals at greatest risk. The Vulnerability Index is administered as a survey; it identifies the most vulnerable through a ranking system which calculates risk factors and the duration of homelessness.

> **Assess and Negotiate:** *Street to Home* incorporates the principles of Motivational Interviewing, which is based on the belief that motivation is a dynamic that exists between two individuals. Common myths about the homeless, e.g., they are “service resistant” or “not housing ready,” are debunked as *Street to Home* staff and clients work toward the shared goal of housing. Staff guide clients through the process of completing housing applications and required eligibility steps.

> **House and Retain:** Clients choose the housing situation they prefer among options secured by *Street to Home* staff. Staff regularly visits clients during the transition phase into their new homes, until they are firmly linked with ongoing community supports. Fully 90% of our clients maintain their housing over a four-year period.



• **Street to Home Replication:** Based on the success of the Times Square effort, many communities are adapting the *Street to Home* strategy. The Common Ground Institute has provided training and support in the following locations:

> **Washington D.C.**, where the Downtown BID (Business Improvement District) implemented the *Street to Home* model, in partnership with Pathways to Housing. They successfully placed 24 chronically homeless individuals into housing and reduced street homelessness in their district by 60%.

> **Santa Monica**, where the City and downtown BID sought our assistance in creating a housing priority list, using the Vulnerability Index. Based on the findings, the City Council pledged to secure housing for Santa Monica's 110 most vulnerable street homeless.

> **Los Angeles**, where County officials, not-for-profits, and City leaders identified and pledged to house the 50 most vulnerable street homeless on Skid Row. Within the first two months of the program's start, 20 were housed.

> **New Orleans**, where UNITY of Greater New Orleans used the Vulnerability Index to identify the most vulnerable individuals in a prominent encampment, and elicited significant support for housing resources.

> **Adelaide, South Australia** adopted the *Street to Home* strategy in 2005 and lowered street homelessness by 5% in South Australia, at a time when it was increasing by an average 19% in other Australian states and territories.



LEFT: Homeless people camp on the sidewalks of L.A.'s skid row

RIGHT: After living on the streets and in shelters, Street to Home helped Mr. Ford find a permanent home at our Prince George Residence in 2005.

Common Ground's mission is to end homelessness.

Common Ground is an international leader in the development of solutions to homelessness. Founded in 1990, Common Ground is a pioneer in the development of supportive housing and other research-based practices that end homelessness.

More than two million Americans experience homelessness each year, including our most vulnerable citizens: young people leaving foster care, wounded veterans, the mentally ill, persons with HIV/AIDS. Common Ground focuses on those who have been homeless the longest and who suffer from overwhelming physical, mental, and substance abuse challenges; we identify and prioritize the most vulnerable individuals on the street and link them directly to housing and assistance.