

## Need for Affordable Housing

Hawaii experiences the least affordable housing market in the United States with a relatively low wage base. In Hawaii, according to a 2011 National Low Income Housing Coalition report:

- Fair market rent of a two bedroom apartment is \$1,616;
- A family of four must earn \$31.08/hr to afford a two-bedroom apartment;
- The average renter earns \$13.65/hr;
- A minimum wage family would need to work 171 hours per week to afford a two-bedroom apartment;
- Monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments for an individual are \$674 / month.

Hawaii suffers a severe shortage of affordable housing. Hawaii's housing deficit is estimated to be over \$7.5 billion.

- Housing need: 30,000 units
- Cost per unit: \$250,000
- Housing Shortfall: \$7,500,000,000

The housing deficit has devastated low and middle-income families in Hawaii:

- Number of sheltered homeless increased 35% from 5,648 in 2006 to 7,649 in 2010;
- Number of unsheltered homeless increased 63%, from 4,884 in 2006 to 7,974 in 2010;
- Also 358,669 residents are considered at-risk or hidden homeless;
- Maui and Hawaii are amongst the hardest hit foreclosure markets.

## Diocesan Response

Following the footsteps of St. Damien and Blessed Mother Marianne, the Diocese of Honolulu's Strategic Road Map, *Witness to Jesus*, declared homelessness and affordable housing is one of the six primary areas of focus for 2008-2013. The issues of homelessness and affordable housing are large and complex. No single organization can address all challenges due to limited resources.

**Who We Serve:** This Affordable Housing initiative's projects are primarily for poor and/or homeless individuals and families. Strong preference is given to projects serving households who earn less than 30% of Area Median Income.

**Types of Services:** All projects are to increase/preserve the supply of affordable housing *and/or* increase access to jobs, food, shelter, work opportunities, or other attendant issues of homelessness.

**Ethics:** All projects are to align with Catholic social teaching. The primary themes of Catholic social teaching are: Life and dignity of the person; Option for the poor and vulnerable; Call to family, community, and participation; Rights and responsibilities; Dignity of work and the rights of workers; Global Solidarity and Care for God's creation.

## Role of Parishes

One of the core purposes of the Diocesan affordable housing initiative is to help Catholics put their faith into action. Affordable housing initiatives will be consistent with parish resources to be responsive to needs in the community.

Fundamental to the infrastructure for this parish engagement is the creation of a "Homeless Housing Ministry" at each parish. These parish teams will consist of at least 3-6 core members. Some of the primary activities of the team will be:

- Assets mapping of parish human, physical, and social assets;
- Development of affordable housing strategies for their community;
- Recruitment and coordination of parish volunteers;
- Education and advocacy related to homelessness and affordable housing.

Examples of expected parish-related outcomes include:

- Increased utilization of under-used or vacant parish facilities;
- Increased human resource capacity at the parish level;
- Recruitment of specialists to assist affordable housing goals, e.g. architects, attorneys, contractors, carpenters, developers, electricians, engineers, landlords, plumbers, realtors, tenants, etc;
- Construct, renovate, convert, and/or preserve 720 housing units by the end of 2013.

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# Homeless Affordable Housing Plan

**Witnessing to Jesus and Following the  
Footsteps of Saints Father Damien and  
Mother Marianne  
May 10, 2011  
(revised October 2012)**



We envision a world where all people reach their full potential, achieve self sufficiency, and live in a just and compassionate society.

**Presented by the  
Bishop's Coordinating Task Force on  
Homelessness and Affordable Housing**

Join us! Please contact your Parish Social Ministry Coordinator or visit:  
<http://www.officeforsocialministry.org/index.php/ways-to-give/>

# 720 Units Will Be Constructed, Renovated, Converted, and/or Preserved by the End of 2013

## 1. Housing Opportunities with Governmental Partners

**GOAL:** *The Diocese will partner with governmental entities at the local, state, and national level to increase and/or preserve affordable housing across all islands of Hawaii.*

**Objective 1:** Utilize volunteer labor to help the Hawaii Public Housing Authority renovate vacant public housing facilities.

**Objective 2:** Liaison with the City and County of Honolulu to ensure that its current affordable housing inventory remains affordable.

**Objective 3:** Work with multiple state and county entities to develop a community reintegration facility.

**Objective 4:** Recruit volunteers to assist *kupuna* to avoid foreclosure through strategic partnerships with parishes and senior housing specialists such as City and County of Honolulu Elderly Affairs Division.

### *Expected Affordable Housing Benefit*

**297 units** will be built, renovated, and/or preserved by the end of 2013.

## 2. Housing Opportunities with Private Sector Partners

**GOAL:** *The Diocese will partner with private landlords and development partners to increase and/or preserve affordable housing across all islands of Hawaii.*

**Objective 1:** Partner with parishes and non-profits to recruit property owners, landlords, and property managers to utilize existing housing units for low-income tenants.

**Objective 2:** Partner with private home owners willing to share a room as temporary housing for targeted at-risk populations, such as pregnant women in crisis.

### *Expected Affordable Housing Benefit*

**130 units** will be built and/or converted for low-income residents by the end of 2013.

## 3. Housing Opportunities with Non-Profit Partners

**GOAL:** *The Diocese will partner with social service and community organizing partners to increase affordable housing and prevent evictions across all islands of Hawaii.*

**Objective 1:** Recruit volunteers to build self-help housing with groups like Habitat for Humanity.

**Objective 2:** Assist homeowners to avoid foreclosure through strategic partnerships with housing specialists such as Hawaii Community Assets and FACE Hawaii.

**Objective 3:** Partner with parish veterans and non-profits such as US Vets and Catholic Charities to assist homeless veterans transition from homelessness to affordable housing.

**Objective 4:** Temporarily house homeless families with children at parishes and help them transition to affordable housing through Family Promise of Hawaii.

### *Expected Affordable Housing Benefit*

**243 units** will be built, secured, and/or foreclosures prevented for low-income residents by the end of 2013.

## 4. Housing Opportunities with Catholic Property Partners

**GOAL:** *The Diocese will partner with parish and religious congregation property partners to increase affordable housing and create alternative construction pilot programs across all islands of Hawaii.*

**Objective 1:** Use vacant and underutilized faith-based facilities to create group homes and other low-income housing opportunities.

**Objective 2:** Utilize parish and community volunteers to relocate, renovate, and operate low-income housing that was scheduled for demolition.

**Objective 3:** Collaborate with alternative construction and property partners to create pilot projects that provide creative housing models to reduce construction and operation costs in Hawaii.

### *Expected Affordable Housing Benefit*

**50 units** will be built and/or preserved for low-income residents by the end of 2013.